



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3050 • Sacramento, CA 95811

April 17, 2024

Ryan Ralphs

[REDACTED]

Via email: [REDACTED]

Warning Letter re: FPPC No. 2021-00862; Ryan Ralphs

Dear Ryan Ralphs,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to a referral from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk alleging that you failed to timely file an Officeholder Campaign Statement Short Form (“Form 470”) for your position as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Gorman Joint School District. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the matter and found that you failed to timely file a Form 470 for the reporting period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, by the applicable deadline.

The Act requires officeholders who receive contributions and make expenditures of less than \$2,000 in a calendar year to file a Form 470 covering the entire calendar year with the local elections office by July 31.²

You violated the Act because you failed to timely file a Form 470 by the August 2, 2021 deadline. However, you have no prior Enforcement history, the officeholder filing was not in connection with an election, the non-filing was of minimal public harm, and you timely filed your Form 470 for calendar years 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with the Enforcement Division Policy Directives formally adopted by the Commission on January 26, 2023, which requires the Enforcement Division to take all appropriate actions within their discretion to decrease the Division’s annual carryover caseload, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with this warning letter.³ Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.⁴ This resolution may not be used as a comparable case for other enforcement matters.⁵

This letter serves as a written warning. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on newly discovered information

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18104 through 18998 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Sections 84200 and 84206.

³ <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/AgendaDocuments/General%20Items/2023/january/15.0-Enforcement-directives.pdf>

⁴ Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.3.

⁵ See Regulation 18361.5, subd. (e)(3).

or future conduct. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

Although the Enforcement Division is closing this case without seeking a penalty, you are still required to file all outstanding campaign finance reports and pay any late filing fees assessed by your filing officer. Please contact your filing officer, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk at aolevera@rrcc.lacounty.gov for further information about your required filings. Any future non-filings may result in monetary penalties and this warning letter may be considered in any future enforcement actions.

A warning letter is an Enforcement Division case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. The Commission has adopted Regulation 18360.1 to authorize the Enforcement Division to issue warning letters to conclude cases in specified circumstances. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Commission. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the Enforcement Division will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the Commission's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at cfelkins@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-3766.

Sincerely,

Michael Chance Felkins

Michael Chance Felkins
Commission Counsel
Fair Political Practices Commission

cc: LA County filing officer