



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

April 10, 2024

Susan Ralphs



s.ralphs@gormanschool.com

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2021-00863, Susan Ralphs

Dear Susan Ralphs,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to an anonymous complaint alleging that you failed to timely file a candidate campaign statement (Form 470) in connection with the June 30, 2021, Gorman School District Election, in Los Angeles County. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the matter and found that you failed to timely file a Form 470 by the applicable deadline.

The Act requires candidate-controlled committee to file two pre-election campaign statements prior to the election in which the candidate is listed on the ballot.² For the period ending 45 days before the election, the statement shall be filed no later than 40 days before the election.³ The Act also allows a candidate who receives and spends less than \$2,000 to file a Form 470 by the first pre-election campaign statement deadline.⁴

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to timely file a Form 470 by the August 2, 2021 deadline. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine because you had minimal activity, you do not have a prior Enforcement history for this type of violation, and you have since resigned from your Board Member position at Gorman School District. Although the Enforcement Division is closing this case without seeking a penalty, you are still required to file the outstanding Form 470. Please contact your filing officer at emoscoso@rrcc.lacounty.gov for further information about your required filings.

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 Section 84200.5.

³ Section 84200.8, subd. (a).

⁴ Section 84206 and 84200.8; Regulation 18406.

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 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.

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.

Please feel free to contact me at 279-237-3766 or cfelkins@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Felkins

Michael C. Felkins, Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division