



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

September 24, 2024

Wei Wei, individually and on behalf of American Association of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Political Action

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Philip Yang

[REDACTED]

Helen Q. Y. Huang Ma

[REDACTED]

Amy Matecki

[REDACTED]

Fajin Li

[REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2020-00004; Wei Wei, American Association of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Political Action, Philip Yang, Amy Matecki, Helen Q. Y. Huang Ma, and Fajin Li

Dear Respondents:

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 a referral from the Franchise Tax Board’s (“FTB”) Political Reform Audit Program resulting from two audits of American Association of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Political Action (ID# 970546) (the “Committee”), for the audit periods of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016 and January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020.

The FTB’s 2015-2016 audit found that the Committee violated the Act by failing to maintain certain contributor records, failing to itemize certain contributions received, and by failing to timely file certain campaign statements and reports. At this time, these violations are outside the Act’s five-year statute of limitations. Thus, we are closing these allegations without further action.

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.

The FTB's 2019-2020 audit found, and the Enforcement Division confirmed, that the Committee violated the Act by failing to timely file three pre-election campaign statements, electronically and in paper format, for the reporting periods ending February 15, 2020, September 19, 2020, and October 17, 2020; and by failing to timely file 24-hour contribution reports for two late contributions made totaling \$4,000, by the February 10, 2020 and August 13, 2020 due dates.

The Act requires state general purpose committees to timely file pre-election campaign statements if, during the pre-election reporting periods, it makes contributions totaling \$500 or more to support a candidate appearing on the ballot at the next election.² Also, each committee that makes a late contribution³ must report the late contribution within 24 hours of the time it is made.⁴ Committee treasurers are jointly and severally liable for violations by the committee.⁵

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to timely file three pre-election campaign statements and 24-hour contribution reports for two late contributions made, as discussed above. However, for the following reasons, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter: the pre-election statements disclosed a low amount of activity; the Committee raised and spent a low amount for the elections; the statements and reports were filed prior to receiving contact from the Enforcement Division; the 24-hour contributions reports were filed prior to the relevant elections; the recipients of the late contributions timely disclosed the late contributions on pre-election campaign statements and 24-hour contribution reports; and the Committee does not have a history of violating the Act within the last five years.

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 Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.2 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

² Section 84200.5, subd. (a)(3).

³ "Late contribution" includes a contribution that totals in the aggregate \$1,000 or more and is made to or received by a candidate or controlled committee during the 90-day period preceding the date of the election, or on the date of the election, at which the candidate is to be voted on. (Section 82036.)

⁴ Section 84203.

⁵ Sections 83116.5 and 91006.

avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within 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 10 days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (279) 237-5910 or JRinehart@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jenna Rinehart

Jenna C. Rinehart
Senior Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

cc: Franchise Tax Board Kelly.Heckman@ftb.ca.gov; Ramandeep.Kaur@ftb.ca.gov;
Danielle.moscato@ftb.ca.gov