



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

October 17, 2024

Claudia Camarena and Claudia Camarena for Board of Supervisors, District 2, 2020

Via email: [REDACTED]

Warning Letter: Re: FPPC No. 2020-00371; Claudia Camarena and Claudia Camarena for Board of Supervisors, District 2, 2020

Dear Committee and Claudia Camarena:

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 self-reported violation that alleged that you and the committee, Claudia Camarena for Board of Supervisors, District 2, 2020 (the “Committee”), violated the Act’s advertisement disclosure provisions by failing to include the “Paid for by” disclosure followed by the Committee’s full name in a mass mailer used for the March 3, 2020 election.

The Enforcement Division has completed its investigation and found that you and the Committee failed to include the words “Paid for by” followed by the Committee’s name and address on the mailer. Additionally, the Enforcement Division determined that you and the Committee failed to timely file a statement of organization to report the formation of the Committee due on January 30, 2020, the pre-election campaign statement due on February 20, 2020, a 24-hour Contribution Report due on January 21, 2020, and two semiannual campaign statements due on July 31, 2020 and February 1, 2021.

Any advertisement paid for by a committee shall include the words “Paid for by” followed by the committee’s name.² A candidate or candidate controlled committee shall not send a mass mailing unless the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee are shown on the outside of each piece of mail and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail in no less than 6-point type that is in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible.³

The Act requires candidate-controlled recipient committees to file a statement of organization within 10 days of qualifying as a committee.⁴

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 84502, subd. (a)(2).

³ Section 84305, subd. (a)(1).

⁴ Section 84101.

The Act requires committees to file semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for the period ending June 30 and January 31 for the period ending December 31.⁵ Preelection campaign statements shall be filed no later than 40 days before the election for the period ending 45 days before the election and for the period ending 17 days before the election.⁶

A “late contribution” is 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.⁷ Each candidate or committee that makes or receives a late contribution, shall report the late contribution to each office with which the candidate or committee is required to file its next campaign statement.⁸ A late contribution shall be reported within 24 hours of the time it is made or received.⁹

You and the Committee violated the Act by failing to include the words “Paid for by” followed by the Committee’s name and address in the mailings distributed during your campaign. Additionally, you and the Committee violated the Act by failing timely file a statement of organization to report the formation of the Committee, which was due on January 30, 2020, the pre-election campaign statement covering the period of January 19, 2020 to February 15, 2020, which was due on February 20, 2020, a 24-hour Contribution Report that was due on January 21, 2020; and two semiannual statements covering the periods of February 16, 2020 to June 30, 2020 and July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, which were due on July 31, 2020 and February 1, 2021, respectively.

Despite these violations, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with a warning letter rather than a fine because these violations caused minimal public harm since the amount of activity for the campaign was very low, you were unsuccessful in the campaign, the Committee is now terminated, you self-reported the violations and cooperated with the Enforcement Division during the investigation, there is no evidence of intent to violate the Act, and neither you nor the Committee has a history of violating the Act.

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 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

⁵ Section 84200.

⁶ Sections 84200.5 and 84200.8.

⁷ Section 82036.

⁸ Section 84203, subd. (a).

⁹ Section 84203, subd. (b).

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.

Although we are closing our file on this matter, please be advised of the provisions in the Act regarding advertisement disclosure and campaign form filing requirements. If you need future guidance regarding these obligations, please visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov. You may also contact me at (279)237-5978, or via e-mail at cbernabe@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cinthya Bernabé

Cinthya Bernabé
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division