



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

July 16, 2025

Nicholas Wrotniewski for Superintendent of Public Instruction 2026
Nicholas Wrotniewski, Candidate
Via email: vote4nick2026@gmail.com

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2025-00696; Nicholas Wrotniewski for Superintendent of Public Instruction 2026; Nicholas Wrotniewski

Dear Nicholas Wrotniewski,

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 your self-reported violation indicating that you and Nicholas Wrotniewski for Superintendent of Public Instruction 2026 (the “Committee”) violated the Act’s prohibition on accepting cash contributions of \$100 or more.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you and the Committee violated the Act’s prohibition on receiving cash contributions of \$100 or more. On May 19, 2025, you deposited a cash contribution of \$1,000 from your personal funds into your committee’s campaign bank account. On May 27, 2025, you realized this mistake, and you and the Committee immediately returned the contribution. You will report the contribution and the refund on the Form 460 covering the period of January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, which is due by July 31, 2025.

Under the Act, no contribution of \$100 or more shall be made or received in cash.² A cash contribution is not deemed received if it is not negotiated or deposited and is returned to the contributor before the closing date of the campaign statement on which the contribution would otherwise be reported. If a cash contribution, other than a late contribution, as defined in Section 82036, is negotiated or deposited, it is not deemed received if it is refunded within 72 hours of receipt.³

¹The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014, and all of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Section 84300(a).

³ *Ibid.*

Your actions violated the Act because you deposited a cash contribution of \$1,000 into the Committee's bank account, and while it has since been returned to the original donor, it was not refunded within 72 hours of receiving the contribution.

However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine because you and the Committee immediately refunded the contribution when you realized the mistake and then self-reported the violation to the Enforcement Division, and you have no 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 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 Shelby Pearce at spearce@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Burton

Christopher B. Burton
Assistant Chief of Enforcement
Fair Political Practices Commission

CBB: sp