



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

June 9, 2025

The Jesse Hong for San Marino School Board 2020 Campaign, Jesse Y. Hong, and Judy Tsai (Treasurer).

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Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2021-00943; The Jesse Hong for San Marino School Board 2020 Campaign, Jesse Y. Hong, and Judy Tsai.

Dear Committee, Jesse Y. Hong, and Judy Tsai:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ As you are aware, in response to the Enforcement Division’s pre-election outreach program, we were made aware by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s office, that you violated the Act by failing to timely file a pre-election campaign statement in connection with the November 3, 2020 General Election.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you failed to timely file the pre-election campaign statement for the reporting period of January 1, 2020 to September 19, 2020, by the September 24, 2020 deadline; a 24-Hour Contribution Report (Form 497) for a \$5,000 loan made by Jesse Y. Hong (“Hong”) during the reporting period ending on October 17, 2020; and the semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period ending on October 18, 2020 to December 31, 2020, by the February 1, 2021 deadline. Additionally, you failed to timely report \$2,238.53 in expenditures on Schedule E,

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.

Hong's employer's information, the name of the business, and the loan date after receiving two \$5,000 loans from Hong, on the pre-election campaign statements for the reporting periods ending on September 20, 2020 and October 17, 2020.

The Act requires candidates, committees, and treasurers to file campaign statements at specific times disclosing information regarding contributions received and expenditures made by the committees.² If the filing due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or official state holiday, then the filing due date for such a statement or report shall be extended to the next regular business day.³ Controlled committees shall file two pre-election campaign statements prior to the applicable election.⁴ Additionally, controlled committees shall file semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for the period ending June 30, and no later than January 31 for the period ending December 31.⁵ Hong, The Jesse Hong for San Marino School Board 2020 Campaign ("the Committee"), and Judy Tsai ("Tsai") violated the Act by failing to timely file a pre-election campaign statement and a semi-annual campaign statement as discussed above.

The Act requires controlled committees that receive a contribution, including a loan, that totals in the aggregate \$1,000 or more during the 90-day period preceding the date of the election, or on the date of the election, to file a 24-hour Contribution Report within 24-hours after receiving such contribution.⁶ Hong, the Committee, and Tsai violated the Act by failing to timely file a 24-Hour Contribution Report as discussed above.

The Act requires committees to timely disclose particular information on campaign statements and reports.⁷ When an expenditure of \$100 or more is made, the Act's disclosure provision requires each applicable campaign statement to disclose the person's full name, street address, amount of each expenditure, and a brief description of the consideration for which the expenditure was made.⁸ Furthermore, when a contribution of \$100 or more is received, the Act's disclosure provision requires each campaign statement to contain the contributor's full name and street address; his or her occupation, and the name of his or her employer, or if self-employed, the name of his or her business; the date and amount of each contribution; and the cumulative amount of contributions received.⁹ Hong, the Committee, and Tsai violated the Act by failing to timely report certain expenditures and loan information, as discussed above.

² See Section 84200, et seq.

³ Section 81005, subd. (a).

⁴ Sections 84200.5 and 84200.8.

⁵ Section 84200, subd. (a).

⁶ Sections 82036, subd. (a) and 84203.

⁷ See Section 84211.

⁸ Section 84211, subd. (g).

⁹ Section 84211, subd. (f).

Despite these violations, however, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than impose a fine. The violations resulted in minimal public harm because the amount of activity the Committee had during the election was relatively low, the Committee existed for a short time and has been terminated, the Committee does not appear to have a professional treasurer, none of the Respondents have a history of violating the Act, the pre-election campaign statements were filed prior to the relevant election, the semi-annual campaign statement disclosed no activity, the \$5,000 loans by Hong were disclosed on campaign statement filed prior to the relevant election, Hong's employer information was reported in the campaign statement for the reporting period of December 31, 2020, and the \$2,238.33 in expenditures that were omitted in Schedule E were reported in the summary page of this campaign statement.

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 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 the filing of campaign statements. If you need future guidance regarding candidate 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