



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

October 17, 2025

Lisel Blash
Stephanie Hellman
Marin Democrats United - Yes on 50, No on Recall of Mayor Lisel Blash and Vice Mayor
Stephanie Hellman
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**Warning Letter re: FPPC Case No. 2025-01087; Marin Democrats United - Yes on 50, No
on Recall of Mayor Lisel Blash and Vice Mayor Stephanie Hellman; Lisel Blash; Stephanie
Hellman**

Gentlepersons:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ As you are aware, the Enforcement Division received a sworn complaint alleging Marin Democrats United - Yes on 50, No on Recall of Mayor Lisel Blash and Vice Mayor Stephanie Hellman (the “Committee”) failed to include the proper advertisement disclosures in yard signs paid for and distributed by the Committee in connection with the upcoming November 4, 2025 Special Election.

The Act requires any advertisement paid for by a committee to include the words “Ad paid for by” followed by the committee’s name as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization.² Additionally, the disclosure area on yard signs shall be in Arial equivalent type font with a total height of at least five percent of the height of the advertisement and printed on a solid background with sufficient contrast that is easily readable by the average viewer.³

You violated the Act by failing to include “Ad paid for by” in yard signs distributed by the Committee. The disclosure area was also smaller than the required five percent of the ad’s height. Despite this, the signs clearly identified the Committee as the source, resulting in minimal public harm. The Committee promptly corrected the signs after Enforcement contact; did so well before the election; and you have no history of prior, similar violations. For these reasons, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with a warning letter instead of a fine.

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.

³ Section 84504.2, subd. (b).

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.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Neal P. Bucknell

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cc: Sean Fitzgerald (sworn complainant)

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