



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

August 21, 2025

Joanne Ahola

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2025-00673; Joanne Ahola

Dear Joanne Ahola:

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 County of Sacramento Voter Registration & Elections Campaign Services Division regarding your failure to timely file Form 470 (Campaign Short Form) for your position as a Trustee for the Sacramento County Board of Education.

The Act requires elected officers who do not have an open committee and do not plan to raise or spend \$2,000 or more in a non-election calendar year to file a Form 470 covering the entire calendar year by July 31.²

You violated the Act because you failed to file Form 470 for the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 by the July 31 deadline of each respective year. However, since you are no longer in the position, you have since filed the missing campaign statements, and you have not had a prior violation of this section, the Enforcement Division has decided to close your case with this warning letter rather than a fine. Although the Enforcement Division is closing this case without seeking a penalty, your filing officer, the Sacramento County Voter Registration & Elections Campaign Services Division, may assess late filing penalties.

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,

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014 and all statutory references are to this code.

² Sections 84200 and 84206.

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. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cole Smith at (279) 237-3770 or at csmith@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Burton

Christopher B. Burton
Assistant Chief, Enforcement Division

CBB:cts