



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

1102 Q Street • Suite 3050 • Sacramento, CA 95811

March 19, 2026

Ojai Valley Democratic Club

Jeffrey Starkweather; Cynthia Weirick; Judy Nelson; Sean McDermott; Kathryn Donwen;
Victoria Clarke

Via email: infoovdc@gmail.com

Warning Letter re FPPC No. 2021-00096; Ojai Valley Democratic Club, Jeffrey Starkweather, Cynthia Weirick, Judy Nelson, Sean McDermott, Kathryn Donwen, and Victoria Clarke

Dear Ojai Valley Democratic Club:

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 Ventura County alleging that Ojai Valley Democratic Club (the “Committee”) failed to timely file several campaign statements in violation of the Act’s campaign filing provisions. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that the committee failed to timely file ten semi-annual campaign statements and one pre-election campaign statement by the specified deadlines.

The Act requires general-purpose committees to file two pre-election campaign statements at specified times prior to the election, as well as 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 31.² The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the principal officer or treasurer terminates the committee. The principal officer and committee treasurers are jointly and severally liable for violations by the committee.³

The committee violated the Act because you failed to file ten semi-annual campaign statements and one pre-election campaign statement by the specified deadlines. However, we are closing this matter with this warning letter because late filing was of minimal public harm, the belatedly reported activity was unrelated to the election that triggered filing requirements, the

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 Sections 84200.5 and 84200.

³ Sections 83116.5 and 91006.

respondent filed the missing statement in response to Enforcement contact, and there was minimal activity during the reporting period.

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 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.

If you need forms or a manual, or guidance regarding your obligations, please call the Commission's Toll-Free Advice Line at 1-866-275-3772 or visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov. Please feel free to contact me at 279-237-5913 or jrivera@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rivera

Jonathan Rivera,
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

cc: Ventura County Filing Officer