



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

October 9, 2026

Republican Party of Fresno County
Elizabeth Kolstad, Principal Officer
Via email: [REDACTED]

Warning Letter re FPPC No. 2026-00891; Republican Party of Fresno County and Elizabeth Kolstad

Dear Committee and Elizabeth Kolstad:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to an AdWatch complaint alleging that many roadside signs on Interstate 5 produced by the committee may not be in compliance with the Act’s advertisement disclosure font requirements as the disclosure does not appear to be 5% of the total height of the signs. The Enforcement Division found that the large roadside sign in question failed to include the required advertisement disclaimer as required by the Act and includes a formatting error.

The Act requires independent expenditure advertisements paid for by political party committees to include the words “ad paid for by” followed by the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Section 84101.² An advertisement supporting or opposing a candidate that is paid for by an independent expenditure shall include a statement that it was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.³ Each line of the disclosure shall in total constitute no less than 5 percent of the total height of the advertisement and shall appear in a color that has a reasonable degree of contrast with the background of the advertisement.⁴

The committee violated the Act by failing to include the required word “ad” before the disclosure and failing to meet the five percent requirement for the font of the advertisement disclosure on the large roadside sign. However, the level of public harm is low as the committee attempted to include an advertisement disclaimer on the sign, “Paid for by the Republican Party of Fresno County & Not Authorized by and Candidate or Candidate’s Committee,” 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 Section 84502(a)(2) and 84504.5.

³ Section 84506.5.

⁴ Section 84504.5(c)(1) and (2).

committee notified the Enforcement Division that they corrected several of their roadside sign advertisement disclaimers in response to the AdWatch complaint allegation, and the committee does not have any prior Enforcement history of this type. For these reasons, we are closing your case with this warning letter rather than a fine.

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 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 10 days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jaleena Evans at jevans@fppc.ca.gov or 279-237-3754.

Sincerely,

Jaleena Evans

Jaleena Evans, Attorney
Enforcement Division