



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

September 18, 2026

Hemet Unified School District
Dr. Christi Barrett, Superintendent
cbarrett@hemetusd.org

Advisory Letter re FPPC No. 2026-00617; Hemet Unified School District

Dear Hemet Unified School District:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (the “Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to a complaint regarding whether Hemet Unified School District (“Hemet USD”) sent prohibited mass mailings at public expense by sending mass mailings featuring an elected officer. The Enforcement Division completed its review of the case and will close its file on this matter without prosecution.

The Act prohibits sending a newsletter or other mass mailing at public expense.² Specifically, a mass mailing is prohibited if (1) the item is a tangible item; (2) the item either features an elected officer affiliated with the agency, or the item includes a reference to an elected officer affiliated with the agency and the item is prepared or sent in cooperation with the elected officer; (3) public moneys are paid to distribute the item, or to prepare the item, for more than \$50, with the intent of sending the item; and (4) more than 200 substantially similar items are sent in a calendar month.³

“Features an elected officer” means that “the item mailed includes the elected officer’s photograph or signature or singles out the elected officer by the manner of display of the elected officer’s name or office in the layout of the document, such as by headlines, captions, type size, typeface, or type color.”⁴

Our review found that the mass mailing sent by Hemet USD did include photographs of certain elected officer(s) during their attendance at school-related functions. However, these photographs were all group photographs and did not include individual captions. The individuals

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 89001.

³ Section 89002(a).

⁴ Section 89002(c)(1).

in the photographs were not individually identified and, without additional context, could not be identified.

Although we are closing our file, please be advised of the provisions in the Act related to mass mailings at public expense. If you need additional guidance, you may contact the Commission's Advice team by sending an email to advice@fppc.ca.gov. There is also information pertaining to such communications available on the Commission's website, www.fppc.ca.gov and <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/public-official-and-employee-rules/communications-sent-using-public-funds/prohibited-mass-mailings/>.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at kbonebrake@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kendall L. D. Bonebrake

Kendall L.D. Bonebrake
Chief, Enforcement Division