



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

September 14, 2026

Gates for Attorney General 2026
Michael Gates
Via email: gates4AG@gmail.com

Warning Letter re FPPC Case No. 2026-00809; Gates for Attorney General 2026 and Michael Gates

Dear Respondents:

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 “Michael Gates for Attorney General paid for and is distributing a completely AI generated video advertisement that does not contain the AI disclaimer required by Government Code section 84514.” The Enforcement Division found that your video advertisement posted on X² failed to include the required advertisement disclaimers as required by the Act.

Section 84504.3 of the Act requires that electronic media advertisements shall include “ad paid for by” followed by the name of the Committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization. Section 84514 of the Act requires that if a committee creates, originally publishes, or originally distributes a qualified political advertisement, the qualified political advertisement must include, in a clear and conspicuous manner, the following disclosure: “Ad generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence.” Any image, audio, video, or other media is “generated or substantially altered by artificial intelligence” if the visual is materially altered by artificial intelligence such that the alteration would cause a reasonable person to have a fundamentally different understanding of the altered media when comparing it to an unaltered version.³ “Qualified political advertisement” means an advertisement that contains any image, audio, or video that is generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence.⁴

You violated the Act by failing to include the required disclaimer: “ad paid for by Gates for Attorney General 2026. Ad generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence.” However, you attempted to include an advertisement disclaimer on your video posted on X,

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 <https://x.com/MichaelGatesESQ/status/2071420185089822842>

³ Section 84514(d)(2)(A)(ii).

⁴ Section 84514(d)(3).

similar to those required. Additionally, you have updated the disclaimer to comply with the Act's disclaimer requirements, and you have no 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