

# State of California



## Fair Political Practices Commission

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Technical Assistance ••• Administration ••• Executive/Legal ••• Enforcement ••• Conflict of Interest  
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April 15, 1980

Rex E. Layton  
City Clerk  
City of Los Angeles  
Room 305, City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

A-80-149

Re: Opinion Request  
No. 80-002

Dear Mr. Layton:

Thank you for your letter of March 12, 1980, requesting an opinion regarding whether a committee which is required to file an abbreviated statement in connection with an election is also required to file a semi-annual statement for the six-month period during which the election has been held. As you note in your letter, the Information Manual published by the Commission indicates that both filings must be made. Because your letter does not raise a novel question of interpretation regarding the Political Reform Act, no formal opinion will be issued.

Government Code Sections 84200 et seq.<sup>1/</sup> describe the obligations to file statements. Your question requires harmonizing the reporting requirements contained in Sections 84204.1 and 84206. To begin with, it is plain that the two sections require two different kinds of reporting; thus Section 84204.1 provides for reporting in connection with an election while Section 84206 provides for periodic reporting of overall political activity, irrespective of particular election activity. Because in theory the two kinds of reporting serve different ends, your question goes to whether the Act permits one kind to substitute for another.

By its nature, an "abbreviated statement" does not provide a complete record of campaign activity; accordingly, to permit Section 84206 to be satisfied by the filing of

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<sup>1/</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all references are to the Government Code.

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such incomplete statements would negate the purpose of having semi-annual statements in the first place. The Commission has rejected such a reading which, with regard to a broad spectrum of political activity, would effectively nullify a major purpose of the Act. While one could read the last clause of Section 84206 to apply to abbreviated statements, and so exempt those who file abbreviated statements, to do so would be to sacrifice too much of the statutory scheme. The Commission's interpretation harmonizes both sections of the Act. It also bears mentioning that the last paragraph of Section 84204.1, which requires the information contained in abbreviated statements to be repeated in subsequent statements, indicates that abbreviated statements are not to substitute for others required under the Act.

I hope this satisfactorily answers your question. If you wish to appeal the denial of your request for an opinion, you may do so pursuant to 2 Cal. Adm. Code Section 18321. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Tom Sobel, Chief of the Legal Division.

Sincerely,



Ted Prim  
Executive Director

TP:TS:plh