



California Fair Political Practices Commission

May 7, 1987

Elizabeth Whitaker
Secretary-Treasurer
San Fernando Valley Campaign Committee
254 Kenneth Road
Glendale, CA 91202

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. A-87-115

Dear Ms. Whitaker:

This is in response to your request for advice regarding the campaign disclosure provisions of the Political Reform Act.1

FACTS

The San Fernando Valley Campaign Committee was formed in 1985 to support non-incumbent city and county candidates in elections held in the San Fernando Valley. On September 22, 1986, the Committee made a \$300 contribution to Mark Lit, a candidate for the 38th Assembly District.

QUESTION

Is the Committee required to file reports as a "county" general purpose committee or as a "state" general purpose committee?

CONCLUSION

The Committee is a "county" general purpose committee for purposes of when and where to file its campaign disclosure reports.

ANALYSIS

The Act requires persons and combinations of persons who receive contributions totaling \$500 in a calendar year to file periodic reports disclosing money raised and spent in connection with elections. (Sections 82013(a), 84200-84217.) For the purpose of determining when and where the disclosure reports are required to be filed, the Act separates committees which are formed to support or oppose more than one candidate or ballot measure into three categories. These categories include:

1. "State" general purpose committees. A state general purpose committee is a committee to support or oppose candidates or measures voted on in a state election, or in more than one county. (Section 82027.5(b).)
2. "County" general purpose committees. A county general purpose committee is a committee to support or oppose candidates or measures voted on in only one county, or in more than one jurisdiction within one county. (Section 82027.5(c).)
3. "City" general purpose committees. A city general purpose committee is a committee to support or oppose candidates or measures voted on in only one city. (Section 82027.5(d).)

Based on the facts provided in your letter, it appears that the San Fernando Valley Campaign Committee should file reports as a "county" general purpose recipient committee and should file its disclosure reports only in the County of Los Angeles. An occasional contribution to a candidate for state office will not alter the committee's filing status. However, if the Committee begins to regularly make contributions to candidates for state office, or becomes involved to any significant degree in state elections, it should begin filing as a "state" general purpose committee.

Finally, you are correct that as a county general purpose committee, the \$529 contribution mentioned in the last paragraph of your letter would normally have been reported on the Committee's semi-annual statement which is due July 31, 1987, and would not have triggered additional reporting. However, because the Committee filed a report on March 2, 1987, disclosing the contribution, its semi-annual statement should now cover the period beginning the day after the closing date of the March 2 statement, through June 30, 1987.

I hope this information has been helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 322-5662 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Griffiths
General Counsel

Carla Wardlow

By: Carla Wardlow
Political Reform Consultant

DMG:CW:kmt
cc: Bob Steele, Chief
Political Reform Division
Office of the Secretary of State

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APR 13 3 43 PM '87

Elizabeth Whitaker
San Fernando Valley
Campaign Committee
254 Kenneth Rd.
Glendale, CA 91202

Tel. (818) 242 - 5482

I.D. Number 850190

April 10, 1987

Carol Wardlow
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Telephone conversation of 4/9/87: (1) Liability letter for \$10 received from Secretary of State's office and (2) final determination of our status as a county general purpose committee (3) whether a contribution to a city board of education candidate only has to appear on our semi-annual statement if we are judged to be a county general purpose committee.

Dear Carol Wardlow:

I am sending a copy of this letter to Bob Steele, Manager of the Political Reform Division of the Secretary of State's Office because I do not wish run afoul of the 30 day notice to pay a liability of \$10.00 dollars that could amount to \$858.50 if not paid. The clock started running on April 2 according to Mr. Steele's letter.

I understand from the phone conversation between you and my husband, Leo Whitaker, that you will be interceding on our behalf with the Political Reform Division to waive ALL liability since the status of our PAC to quote you falls in a "gray area" and we have been receiving contradictory instructions from your office. Please, please, please send us a return letter from either yourself or Mr. Steele that the \$10.00 liability has been waived. We don't want to fall between the cracks and end up owing \$858.50.

Now we would like to have a final determination from your office of our designation.

The San Fernando Valley Campaign was organized in 1985 to provide campaign donations to non incumbent candidates running in the San Fernando Valley which is entirely within the County of Los Angeles. We are a general purpose committee and concerned only with races in the San Fernando Valley. Our focus from the beginning was on city and county elections. We received our number #850190 and surpassed the \$500 dollar level on November 26, 1985. Our contributions have been directed to a slate mailer produced by the Democratic Party of the San Fernando which is mailed entirely within the San Fernando Valley.

We considered ourselves a County General Purpose Committee and filed our statements with the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters.

On Sept. 22, 1986 we made a \$300 contribution to the assembly campaign of Mark Lit who was running in the 38th Assembly District which lies entirely in the San Fernando Valley inside Los Angeles County. We continued to file our statement with the Los Angeles Registrar of Voters

In January 1987 while inquiring about procedures for reporting a contribution to a Los Angeles city board of education candidate mention was made that our PAC had made a contribution to a local state assembly race. We were told that this removed us from the status of a county general purpose committee and we were now a state general purpose.

We thereupon filed all back statements with Sacramento, and San Francisco. please see enclosed correspondence.

Then on March 2 in a telephone conversation with your office we were informed that we fell in "a gray area" and that we were really a county general purpose committee after all.

Now we have this liability judgement from the Political Reform Division for \$10 dollars and if that is not paid within 30 days we owe \$858.50

Please so we get this finally straightened out we request a final determination of our designation.

Next we have made a total of \$529.33 contribution to a school board candidate as of February 9, 1987 and nothing further. We sent Form 420 to the Los Angeles Registrar Recorder on 3/2/87 and here is where I am confused aren't we really only required to report that on our semi-annual statement if we are a county general purpose committee. (Please clear this point up because I am confused about it.)

Your kind assistance and explanations are most appreciated. Thank you.

Yours truly



Elizabeth Whitaker
Secretary - Treasurer
San Fernando Valley Campaign
Committee.

c.c. Bob Steele, Manager Political Reform Division
Secretary of State

SFV CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

9732 VIA SIENA

BURBANK, CA 91504



254 Kenneth Rd.
Glendale, CA 91202

Tel. (818) 242-5482

March 3, 1987

I.D. Number 850190

Office of the Secretary of State
Political Reform Division
P.O. Box 1467
Sacramento, CA 95807

Re: Err on part of FPPC as to where statements for this General Purpose Committee should be filed.

Dear Sirs:

I was informed by phone yesterday from the Sacramento office of the FPPC that it had erred in advising us that we had become a State General Purpose Committee and that we had to file statements in Sacramento and San Francisco as well as with the Registrar Recorder in Los Angeles. (Please see enclosed copy of our correspondence 1/23/87)

I am now assured we are considered a County General Purpose Committee and we are only required to send an original of Form 420 and a copy to the Registrar Recorder in Los Angeles. We have done this.

Trusting that this matter is now finally straightened out, it is my hope we are now in compliance.

Your truly,

Elizabeth Whitaker
Secretary-Treasurer
San Fernando Valley
Campaign Committee

c.c. Registrar of Voters, City and County of San Francisco, Campaign Statements

254 Kenneth Rd.
Glendale, CA 91202

Tel. (818) 242-5482

Jan. 23, 1987

I.D. Number 850190

Office of the Secretary of State
Political Reform Division
P.O. Box 1467
Sacramento, CA 95807

Re: Confusion over where statements should be filed plus Semi-Annual
Report

Dear Sirs:

We are a County General Purpose Committee (or that is at least what we presumed) and are not controlled.

We initially filed with your office got our number and figured that since we were making contributions to a slate mailer of the Democratic Party of the SFV that was mailed withⁱⁿ Los Angeles county that the only place we had to send our campaign statements was to the Registrar-Recorder of Los Angeles County. However on September 21 1986 we made a \$300 dollar contribution to an unsuccessful State Assembly candidate, Mark Lit, whose district the 38th A.D. is entirely in Los Angeles County. Here is where we got confused -- we assumed because the assembly district didn't extend beyond L.A. county that we could follow the same procedure as above. Today I learned differently so to come into compliance I am sending you the semi-annual campaign statements plus two photocopies of back statements (1st Pre-election statement & 2nd Pre-election statement) to both your office (one that is signed, plus copy and two sets of back copies to the Registrar of Voters, City and County of San Francisco.

I deeply regret this misunderstanding. My intention was always to be in compliance. This error was discovered while seeking information on how to contribute to a local school board race by our small PAC.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Whitaker".

Elizabeth Whitaker
Secretary-Treasurer
San Fernando Valley
Campaign Committee



California Fair Political Practices Commission

April 16, 1987

Elizabeth Whitaker
San Fernando Valley
Campaign Committee
254 Kenneth Road
Glendale, CA 91202

Re: 87-115

Dear Ms. Whitaker:

Your letter requesting advice under the Political Reform Act was received on April 13, 1987 by the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you have any questions about your advice request, you may contact me directly at (916) 322-5662.

We try to answer all advice requests promptly. Therefore, unless your request poses particularly complex legal questions, or more information is needed, you should expect a response within 21 working days if your request seeks formal written advice. If your request is for informal assistance, we will answer it as quickly as we can. (See Commission Regulation 18329 (2 Cal. Adm. Code Sec. 18329).) You also should be aware that your letter and our response are public records which may be disclosed to the public upon receipt of a proper request for disclosure.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Pritchard".

Jeanne Pritchard
Chief
Technical Assistance and Analysis
Division

JP:plh