



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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July 1, 2008

Susan Orman
Monterey County Elections
Candidate Services
1370 B South Main Street
Salinas, CA 93901

**Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. A-08-110**

Dear Ms. Orman:

This letter is in response to your request regarding the campaign provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹

QUESTION

May the committees involved in an August 26, 2008, mail ballot election combine the semi-annual statement with the first pre-election statement due on July 17, 2008?

CONCLUSION

In connection with the August 26, 2008, mail ballot election, committees may use a filing schedule that combines the semi-annual campaign statement with the first pre-election statement. The combined statement will be due on July 17, 2008, covering the period January 1, 2008, through July 12, 2008.

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

ANALYSIS

During an election, candidates and committees involved in the election are required to file two pre-election campaign statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made in connection with that election. These pre-election campaign statements are generally filed 40 days before the election and again 12 days before the election. (Section 84200.8.) Semi-annual statements are filed January 31 and July 31, respectively. (Section 84200.)

There is a mechanism in the Act that permits the combining of statements when an overlapping reporting period occurs or the filing of the semi-annual statement would be an additional, unnecessary filing to the two pre-election statements. (Section 84205.) In this case, if the semi-annual and first pre-election statements are not combined, the semi-annual statement, covering the period through June 30, 2008, will be filed on July 31, 2008, which is after the first pre-election statement is due. Therefore, committees involved in the August 26, 2008, mail ballot election may combine the two filings. A campaign statement filing schedule that outlines the due dates for filing statements in connection with the election is enclosed for your convenience.

If you have any other questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (916) 322-5660.

Sincerely,

Scott Hallabrin
General Counsel



By: Tara L. Stock
Political Reform Consultant
Technical Assistance Division

Enclosure
TS:jgl