



April 7, 2023

Sascha Vogt for School Board



Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2021-00633; Sascha Vogt for School Board 2020

Dear Sascha Vogt for School Board 2020:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to referrals from Sacramento County alleging that the committee Sascha Vogt for School Board 2020 (the “Committee”) failed to timely file semi-annual campaign statements. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that the Committee failed to timely file semi-annual campaign statements and 24-hour contributions reports, and failed to timely report certain activity on a campaign statement.

A central purpose of the Act is to ensure voters are fully informed and improper practices are inhibited by requiring candidates and committees to disclose all contributions received and expenditures made throughout a campaign on timely filed campaign statements and reports.² The Act requires candidate-controlled committees to file two pre-election campaign statements at specified times prior to the election in which the candidate will be on the ballot, as well as semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for the period ending June 30, and no later than January 31 for the period ending December 31.³ The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the candidate or treasurer terminates the committee. Controlling candidates and committee treasurers are jointly and severally liable for violations by the committee.⁴

The Committee violated the Act by failing to timely file the semi-annual campaign statements by the January 31, 2021 and July 31, 2021 deadlines; and failed to timely report \$1,924 in expenditures on the semiannual campaign statement for the period ending June 30, 2020. Additionally, we found that the Committee failed to timely file two 24-hour contribution reports. Based on the mitigating factors that the Committee has no prior Enforcement Division history, the Committee was responsive in filing outstanding campaign disclosure forms, Respondents had a low level of sophistication with the Act, the Committee reported almost all activity before the

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code.

² Section 81002, subd. (a); Section 84200, *et seq.*

³ Section 84200.5 and 84200.

⁴ Section 83116.5 and 91006.

election, we are closing this case with a warning letter. Please note that while the Enforcement Division is closing this case without a fine, your filing officer may assess late filing penalties.

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 Regulation 18360.1 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 ten (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 ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me at 916-327-2016 or cfelkins@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael Chance Felkins

Chance Felkins, Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

cc: *Shannon Medina-Fobbs, Election Supervisor-Campaign Services*
medinas@saccounty.gov