

NEVADA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY



RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0801

CONDEMNING DISTRICT 5 SUPERVISOR HARDY BULLOCK'S REJECTION OF THE FPPC'S MEASURE V FINDINGS AND CALLING FOR HIS IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION

Adopted: September 2, 2026

WHEREAS, The Political Reform Act of 1974 was enacted by the People of California to protect the integrity of elections, promote transparency in political spending, inhibit improper political practices, and provide meaningful enforcement of California's political laws;

WHEREAS, California law establishes an essential boundary between legitimate governmental communication and taxpayer-funded political advocacy: public agencies may objectively inform citizens concerning governmental matters, but public resources may not be converted into campaign resources to influence an electoral outcome;

WHEREAS, The California Supreme Court recognized this fundamental principle in *Stanson v. Mott* (1976) 17 Cal.3d 206, and the FPPC's governing regulations apply the related "style, tenor, and timing" analysis to determine when publicly financed communications cross the line into campaign activity;

WHEREAS, Measure V, the "Wildfire Prevention, Emergency Services and Disaster Readiness Measure," appeared on the November 8, 2022 ballot and proposed a one-half-percent countywide sales-tax increase for ten years; Measure V failed with 48.41 percent support;

WHEREAS, Nevada County distributed **66,402 pieces of taxpayer-funded mail** concerning Measure V: 33,351 mailers on or about October 7, 2022, costing **\$17,708**, and 33,101 mailers on or about October 26, 2022, costing **\$16,906**, for a combined expenditure of **\$34,614 in public funds**;

WHEREAS, The County Board of Supervisors paid for both mailers with special appropriations from the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services;

WHEREAS, In the *Stipulation, Decision, and Order* in **FPPC Case No. 2023-00162**, Nevada County agreed that it violated the Political Reform Act by distributing two campaign-related mailings at public expense, failing to include required disclosure statements, failing to timely file a semiannual campaign statement, and failing to timely file two 24-Hour Independent Expenditure Reports - **seven violations in total**;

WHEREAS, The FPPC found that the first mailer "**unambiguously urged support of Measure V**", that its timing and affirmative statements crossed the line from informational content into advocacy, and that its lack of neutrality rendered the presentation "**unfair and fundamentally promotional**";

WHEREAS, The FPPC likewise found that the second mailer "**unambiguously urged support of Measure V**", and that the County's disclaimer stating it did not advocate a yes or no vote did not cure the otherwise impermissible advocacy;

WHEREAS, The FPPC concluded that the use of public funds for a prohibited campaign purpose carries a "**high degree of public harm**", and the County agreed that it "**violated the Act as described**" and that the stipulated account was a "**true and accurate summary of the facts in this matter**";

WHEREAS, On August 20, 2026, the Fair Political Practices Commission approved the Nevada County enforcement matter by a 4-0 vote and imposed a **\$31,500 administrative fine**;

WHEREAS, Five days later, on August 25, 2026, District 5 Supervisor **Hardy Bullock** used his Board announcements to deliver a prepared statement disputing the FPPC's conclusions, stating that he "respectfully" disagreed with the findings and closing that he "**respectfully and entirely**" disagreed with the Commission's findings;

WHEREAS, Supervisor Bullock characterized the County's Measure V activity as a "**good faith effort**" and said it was "**solely intended to convey the magnitude of the issue and the proposed solution**"; he further suggested that communications by other local agencies "**would likely be considered noncompliant if subjected to the same scrutiny**";

WHEREAS, Those statements are deeply troubling because Nevada County had already formally stipulated to the violations and accepted the stipulated factual account, while the Political Reform Act and the constitutional principles reflected in *Stanson* exist precisely to restrain governmental use of public resources to influence electoral outcomes;

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WHEREAS, The Nevada County Republican Party recognizes the right of every citizen and elected official to criticize laws and administrative agencies; however, disagreement with an enforcement decision does not erase admitted violations, and public officials entrusted with taxpayer resources have a heightened duty to respond to such violations with accountability, transparency, corrective action, and safeguards against recurrence;

WHEREAS, The restrictions on taxpayer-funded campaigning protect every voter, regardless of party or viewpoint, from being compelled to finance governmental election advocacy and from having to compete politically against the public treasury;

WHEREAS, By publicly defending the underlying Measure V activity as a good-faith governmental effort, rejecting the FPPC's findings after the County formally admitted the violations, and challenging the enforcement principles that protect taxpayers from government-funded election advocacy, Supervisor Bullock has undermined public confidence in the County's commitment to the rule of law, stewardship of public resources, and integrity of elections; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada County Republican Party therefore finds that Supervisor Bullock's August 25 statements demonstrate an unacceptable failure of accountability and judgment inconsistent with the responsibilities entrusted to a member of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Nevada County Republican Party hereby formally and unequivocally condemns the August 25, 2026 statements of District 5 Supervisor Hardy Bullock defending Nevada County's conduct underlying the seven Political Reform Act violations adjudicated in FPPC Case No. 2023-00162;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution does **not** condemn Supervisor Bullock because he supported Measure V, holds a differing political opinion, or disagrees with an administrative agency. It condemns his decision, as a sitting County Supervisor, to publicly defend and rationalize conduct that Nevada County itself formally stipulated violated California law and to challenge the enforcement principles that prevent governmental entities from using taxpayer resources to influence elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Nevada County Republican Party unequivocally rejects any effort to weaken, circumvent, disregard, or rationalize away the Political Reform Act's protections against taxpayer-funded campaigning;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That public money belongs to the people. Government officials are its custodians, not its owners, and no elected official, administrator, department, or public agency possesses an inherent right to convert taxpayer resources into political campaign resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Nevada County Republican Party calls upon every member of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to affirm publicly that Nevada County will comply fully with the Political Reform Act, FPPC regulations, and applicable California law governing public expenditures and election-related communications, and that the conduct underlying the Measure V violations will not be repeated;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Nevada County Republican Party calls upon Nevada County to establish and maintain meaningful safeguards, training, legal-review procedures, and internal controls sufficient to prevent public funds, personnel, or governmental resources from again being unlawfully used for electoral advocacy; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That because Supervisor Hardy Bullock has chosen to defend conduct that Nevada County formally admitted violated the Political Reform Act, reject the conclusions of the independent state agency charged with enforcing that Act, and publicly rationalize taxpayer-funded political advocacy rather than accept the findings and insist that such violations never occur again, the Nevada County Republican Party has lost confidence in his judgment and his fitness to continue representing District 5.

THE NEVADA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY FORMALLY CALLS UPON THE HONORABLE HARDY BULLOCK TO RESIGN IMMEDIATELY FROM THE NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The voters of District 5 and the taxpayers of Nevada County are entitled to representation that respects the rule of law, protects the integrity of elections, safeguards public resources, and accepts accountability when government crosses the line.

*Nevada County's government belongs to its citizens. Its treasury belongs to its taxpayers.
Its elections belong to its voters. None may be commandeered by government itself for political advantage.*

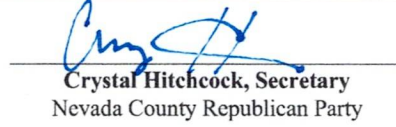
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ADOPTION AND CERTIFICATION

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Nevada County Republican Party on **September 2, 2026**, by the following vote:

AYES	NOES	ABSTENTIONS	ABSENT
<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>


John "Mac" Young, Chairman
Nevada County Republican Party


Crystal Hitchcock, Secretary
Nevada County Republican Party

OFFICIAL RECORD AND AUTHORITIES

Resolution No. 2026-0801

- **Fair Political Practices Commission - Stipulation, Decision, and Order, In the Matter of Nevada County, FPPC Case No. 2023-00162 (August 20, 2026).** Official findings include the two publicly funded Measure V mailers, \$34,614 total expenditure, seven Political Reform Act violations, and the County's stipulated admissions.
- **Fair Political Practices Commission - August 20, 2026 Commission Hearing Summary and Enforcement Decisions.** The Commission approved the Nevada County matter 4-0 and imposed a \$31,500 fine.
- **Political Reform Act of 1974, Government Code §§ 81000-91014; including §§ 81002, 81003, 84200(b), 84204, 84502, and 89001; and FPPC Regulations 18420.1 and 18901.1.** These authorities address enforcement, campaign reporting and disclosure, public-agency campaign-related communications, and prohibited campaign-related mass mailings at public expense.
- ***Stanson v. Mott* (1976) 17 Cal.3d 206; *Vargas v. City of Salinas* (2009) 46 Cal.4th 1.** California Supreme Court authorities underlying limits on governmental use of public funds for campaign activity and the style, tenor, and timing analysis.
- **Nevada County Board of Supervisors regular meeting, August 25, 2026 - Supervisor Hardy Bullock's prepared announcement concerning the FPPC Measure V findings.** The resolution quotes Bullock's public remarks concerning his disagreement with the FPPC findings and his characterization of the County's Measure V communications.

PUBLIC RECORD DISTRIBUTION

Upon adoption, this Resolution is intended for distribution to: the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and Clerk of the Board; Supervisor Hardy Bullock; appropriate news and media outlets; and other recipients as determined by the Nevada County Republican Party. A signed copy may be submitted as written public comment for inclusion in the Board's public record.

MEDIA CONTACT

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NEVADA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY



RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0801

A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING DISTRICT 5 SUPERVISOR HARDY BULLOCK'S REJECTION OF THE FPFC'S MEASURE V FINDINGS AND CALLING FOR HIS IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION

Adopted: September 2, 2026

WHEREAS, the Political Reform Act of 1974 was enacted by the People of California to protect the integrity of elections, promote transparency in political spending, prevent improper political practices, and provide meaningful enforcement of California's political laws; and

WHEREAS, California law establishes an essential boundary between legitimate governmental communication and taxpayer-funded political advocacy: public agencies may objectively inform citizens concerning governmental matters, but public resources may not be converted into campaign resources to influence an electoral outcome; and

WHEREAS, the California Supreme Court recognized this principle in *Stanson v. Mott* (1976) 17 Cal.3d 206, holding that the use of the public treasury to finance an election campaign presents a serious threat to the integrity of the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, Measure V, the "Wildfire Prevention, Emergency Services and Disaster Readiness Measure," appeared on the November 8, 2022 ballot and proposed a one-half percent countywide sales-tax increase for a period of ten years; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County distributed 66,402 pieces of taxpayer-funded mail concerning Measure V, consisting of 33,351 mailers distributed on or about October 7, 2022, at a cost of \$17,708, and 33,101 additional mailers distributed on or about October 26, 2022, at a cost of \$16,906, for a combined expenditure of \$34,614 in public funds; and

WHEREAS, those expenditures were paid through special appropriations from the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services; and

WHEREAS, following an investigation, the Enforcement Division of the California Fair Political Practices Commission determined that Nevada County's communications crossed the legal boundary separating permissible governmental information from electoral advocacy; and

WHEREAS, in the Stipulation, Decision and Order in FPFC Case No. 2023-00162, Nevada County formally agreed that it committed seven violations of the Political Reform Act: two counts of sending prohibited campaign-related mass mailings at public expense (Gov. Code § 89001; Reg. 18901.1), two counts of failing to include required advertising disclosures on campaign advertisements (Gov. Code § 84502), one count of failing to timely file a semiannual campaign statement reporting \$34,614 in independent expenditures (Gov. Code § 84200(b)), and two counts of failing to timely file required 24-Hour Independent Expenditure Reports (Gov. Code § 84204); and

WHEREAS, the FPFC determined that Nevada County's first taxpayer-funded mailer "unambiguously urged support of Measure V" and that the communication crossed the line from permissible informational activity into campaign advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the FPFC further determined that the County emphasized the purported benefits of Measure V while obscuring its one-half-percent sales-tax increase, rendering the communication "unfair and fundamentally promotional"; and

WHEREAS, the FPFC reached substantially the same conclusion regarding the second mailer, determining that its language, presentation, and emphasis constituted advocacy likely to persuade voters rather than objectively inform them; and

WHEREAS, the County's printed disclaimer stating that it did not advocate a "yes" or "no" vote did not cure the otherwise impermissible advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the FPFC expressly found that the use of public funds for a prohibited campaign purpose carries a "high degree of public harm" and concluded that Nevada County used \$34,614 in public funds to support passage of Measure V and thereby influence the election; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County did not merely pay a penalty while maintaining its innocence. In entering the stipulated settlement, Nevada County agreed that it "violated the Act as described" and that the stipulated account constituted a "true and accurate summary of the facts in this matter"; and

WHEREAS, after consultation with legal counsel, Nevada County knowingly and voluntarily waived its rights to an administrative hearing, confrontation and cross-examination of witnesses, adjudication before an administrative law judge, and judicial review, and agreed to the imposition of a \$31,500 administrative penalty; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2026, the Fair Political Practices Commission (Enforcement Matter No. 21/292; Stipulated Settlement in Case No. 2023-00162) unanimously approved the settlement and its seven counts, imposing a penalty of \$4,500 for each violation, totaling \$31,500 — ninety percent of the maximum \$35,000 penalty available; and

WHEREAS, five days later, on August 25, 2026, District 5 Supervisor Hardy Bullock delivered a prepared statement during a public meeting of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors in which he declared that he "respectfully and entirely" disagreed with the FPFC's findings; and

WHEREAS, those statements demonstrate an unacceptable failure of accountability and judgment inconsistent with the responsibilities entrusted to a member of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The, the Nevada County Republican Party hereby formally and unequivocally condemns the August 25, 2026 statements of District 5 Supervisor Hardy Bullock defending Nevada County's conduct underlying the seven Political Reform Act violations adjudicated in FPFC Case No. 2023-00162.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Nevada County Republican Party formally calls upon the Honorable Hardy Bullock to resign immediately from the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,

That this Resolution shall be entered into the official records of the Nevada County Republican Party, transmitted to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, released to the news media, and made part of the public record.

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

We, the undersigned officers of the Nevada County Republican Party, do hereby certify that foregoing Resolution No. 2026-0801 was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Executive Board held on September 2, 2026, at which a quorum was present, by the following vote:

AYES: 15 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1 ABSENT: 5

John "Mac" Young, Chairman
Nevada County Republican Party

Crystal Hitchcock, Secretary
Nevada County Republican Party

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★ FOR PUBLIC RECORD & MEDIA INQUIRIES ★