

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC RELEASES 11 COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission has made public its final action on 11 matters previously under review (MURs). This release contains only summary information. Closed files should be thoroughly read for details, including the FEC's legal analysis of the case. (Please see footnote at the end of this release.) Closed MUR files are available in the Public Records Office.

1. MUR 3716

- RESPONDENTS:**
- (a) Shelby for U.S. Senate Committee, Pamela B. Blackwell treasurer (AL)
 - (b) Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), Joe Reed, Chairman (AL)
 - (c) Alabama New South Coalition, S.L. Chesnut, Jr., Chairman (AL)
 - (d) Jefferson County Chapter of the Alabama New South Coalition, Benjamin Greene, Vice-President (AL)
 - (e) A-VOTE, Paul Hubert, treasurer (AL)
 - (f) Timbes and Yeager, Inc., William Yeager, President (AL)
 - (g) Jim Sullivan (AL)
- COMPLAINANTS:** Alabama Republican Party, J. Elbert Peters, Chairman (AL)
- SUBJECT:** Failure to register and report; failure to maintain separate bank accounts for federal activity; disclaimers; excessive contributions; failure to adequately report purpose of disbursements
- DISPOSITION:**
- (a) Reason to believe, but took no further action* [re: failure to adequately report purpose of disbursements]
Sent admonishment letter.
No reason to believe* [re: excessive contributions]
 - (b-d) Reason to believe, but took no further action* [re: failure to register and report; disclaimers; excessive contributions; failure to maintain separate bank accounts for federal activity]
Sent admonishment letters.
No reason to believe* [re: corporate contributions]
 - (e) Reason to believe, but took no further action* [re: excessive contributions]
Sent admonishment letter.
 - (f-g) No reason to believe* [re: any provision of the law]

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2. MUR 4053

RESPONDENTS: (a) Friends of Susan Bitter Smith, Karen Crotty, treasurer (AZ)
(b) Susan Bitter Smith (AZ)
COMPLAINANTS: Arizona State Democratic Committee, Steve Owens, Chairman (AZ)
SUBJECT: Use of contributor information for solicitation purposes
DISPOSITION: (a) Reason to believe, but took no further action*
(b) No reason to believe*

3. MUR 4178

RESPONDENTS: (a) Lynn Yeakel for Senate, Sidney D. Rosenblatt, treasurer (PA)
(b) Elisa Critchlow (PA)
(c) Eric Godshalk (PA)
(d) Babette Josephs (PA)
(e) Christopher Lutz (VT)
(f) Nancy Meyer (NY)
(g) Edgar Villchur (NY)
(h) PAC 250, Dean Vance, treasurer (PA)
(i) Indian American Political Affairs Committee - Pennsylvania Chapter (IAPAC) (PA)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (Audit)
SUBJECT: Excessive contributions; failure to maintain records of persons contributing in excess of \$50; failure to dispose of cash contributions over \$50; failure to properly itemize disbursements
DISPOSITION: (a) Conciliation Agreement: \$32,911.97 civil penalty*
(b-i) Reason to believe, but took no further action* [re: excessive contributions]
Sent admonishment letters.

4. MUR 4252/Pre-MUR 318

RESPONDENTS: Virginia Baxter and William Baxter (TN)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (news articles)
SUBJECT: Excessive contributions; contributions in the names of others; contributions by minors
DISPOSITION: Reason to believe, but took no further action*

5. MUR 4253/Pre-MUR 318

RESPONDENTS: Bonnie Croopnick and Steven Croopnick (MA)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (news articles)
SUBJECT: Excessive contributions; contributions in the names of others; contributions by minors
DISPOSITION: Reason to believe, but took no further action*

6. MUR 4254/Pre-MUR 318

RESPONDENTS: Birgit Hershey and Loren Hershey (VA)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (news articles)
SUBJECT: Excessive contributions; contributions in the names of others; contributions by minors
DISPOSITION: Reason to believe, but took no further action*
Sent admonishment letter.

7. MUR 4255/Pre-MUR 318

RESPONDENTS: Christopher P. Hitchcock and Martha F. Hitchcock (OH)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (news articles)
SUBJECT: Excessive contributions; contributions in the names of others; contributions by minors
DISPOSITION: Reason to believe, but took no further action*
Sent admonishment letter.

8. MUR 4264

RESPONDENTS: (a) Maine Republican Party, P. James Nicholson, treasurer (ME)
(b) Senator Bill Cohen (ME)
(c) Cohen for Senator Committee, Merton G. Henry, treasurer (ME)
COMPLAINANTS: Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Donald Foley, Executive Director (DC)
SUBJECT: Corporate contributions
DISPOSITION: (a) Reason to believe, but took no further action*
Sent admonishment letter.
(b-c) No reason to believe*

9. MUR 4303

RESPONDENTS: The International Bank of Commerce Committee for Improvement and Betterment of the Country, Jorge Haynes, treasurer (TX)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (RAD)
SUBJECT: Failure to file disclosure reports timely
DISPOSITION: Conciliation Agreement: \$2,800 civil penalty*

10. MUR 4309

RESPONDENTS: Alameda County Republican Central Committee, Robert L. Strawn, treasurer (CA)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (RAD)
SUBJECT: Failure to file disclosure reports timely
DISPOSITION: Reason to believe, but took no further action*
Sent admonishment letter.

11. MUR 4344

RESPONDENTS: D.C. Republican Committee Federal Campaign Committee, Roger Moffat, treasurer (DC)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (RAD)
SUBJECT: Failure to file disclosure report timely
DISPOSITION: Reason to believe, but took no further action*
Sent admonishment letter.

*There are four administrative stages to the FEC enforcement process:
1. Receipt of proper complaint
2. "Reason to believe" stage
3. "Probable cause" stage
4. Conciliation stage
It takes the votes of at least four of the six Commissioners to take any action. The FEC can close a case at any point after reviewing a complaint. If a violation is found and conciliation cannot be reached, then the FEC can institute a civil court action against a respondent.

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