



APPROVED JULY 26, 2023

**MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING
OF THE
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023¹**

PRESENT:

Dara Lindenbaum, Chair, presiding

Sean J. Cooksey, Vice Chairman

Shana M. Broussard, Commissioner

Allen Dickerson, Commissioner

James E. "Trey" Trainor III, Commissioner

Ellen L. Weintraub, Commissioner

Alec Palmer, Staff Director

Lisa Stevenson, Acting General Counsel

Laura E. Sinram, Secretary and Clerk

Vicktoria J. Allen, Acting Deputy Secretary²

Zainab Smith, Program Management Analyst³

¹ This meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting with virtual and in-person participants.

² Acting Deputy Secretary Vicktoria Allen was the recording secretary for the meeting.

³ Program Management Analyst Zainab Smith moderated the meeting.

Chair Dara Lindenbaum called the Federal Election Commission to order in an open meeting at 10:32 A.M. on Thursday, January 12, 2023 with a quorum present.

Chair Lindenbaum thanked the Commissioners and FEC staff for welcoming her to the Commission as its Vice Chair and now Chair. She expressed the feeling of coming full-circle after starting as an intern to former FEC Commissioner Cynthia Bauerly. She stated that she looked forward to a productive and collaborative year.

Chair Lindenbaum then stated that the Commission approved a public notice seeking comments on the Commission's audit process. The notice was published in the Federal Register on Monday, January 9, 2023. The Commission will hold a public hearing on February 14, 2023. Chair Lindenbaum then provided additional remarks on the upcoming process. The Request for Comment on the Auditing of Political Committees that do not Receive Public Funds is available on the Commission's website.

Chair Lindenbaum recognized Vice Chairman Cooksey who

MOVED to suspend the rules on the timely submission of agenda documents in order that the Commission may consider the late submission of Agenda Document No. 23-03-A.

The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.

I. AUDIT DIVISION RECOMMENDATION MEMORANDUM ON THE JIM RISCH FOR U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE (A21-06)

Agenda Document No. 23-01-A

(Commissioner Dickerson is recused)

This matter was resolved on tally.

II. AUDIT DIVISION RECOMMENDATION MEMORANDUM ON SHIELA JACKSON LEE FOR CONGRESS (A21-05)

Agenda Document No. 23-02-A

(Commissioner Lindenbaum is recused)

This matter was held over to a future meeting.

III. DRAFT ADVISORY OPINION 2022-25

**Senator Mike Crapo/Mike Crapo for U.S. Senate by
Jessica Furst Johnson, Esq. and Caleb Acker, Esq.**

**Agenda Document No. 23-03-A (DRAFT A)
(Submitted Late)**

Chair Lindenbaum recognized Ms. Jessica Furst Johnson and Mr. Caleb Acker who appeared on behalf of the requestors. Chair Lindenbaum then recognized Ms. Cheryl Hemsley of the General Counsel's Office who presented

the matter. The request asks whether the committee may use campaign funds to pay for various residential security installations and upgrades to Senator Crapo's two homes—one in Idaho and one in Washington, D.C. The requested security measures were recommended to the Senator by the U.S. Capitol Police after surveying both homes. The draft concludes, consistent with several previous advisory opinions, that the committee may use campaign funds to pay for the costs for the installations and upgrades as ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the Senator's duties as an officeholder.

Ms. Johnson and Mr. Robert Knop of the General Counsel's Office participated in the discussion that followed.

Chair Lindenbaum recognized Vice Chairman Cooksey who

MOVED to approve Agenda Document 23-03-A.

The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Lindenbaum, Trainor, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.

IV. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dara Lindenbaum', written over a horizontal line.

Dara Lindenbaum

Chair of the Commission

Attest:

Laura E. Sinram

Secretary and Clerk of the Commission