

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE #3838

**RECEIVED**

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 12:30 pm, Jun 17, 2020



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**SENSITIVE**

June 17, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*  
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*  
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*  
Assistant Staff Director  
Reports Analysis Division

BY: Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly *KDR BH*  
Reports Analysis Division  
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report  
(Nebraska) for the Administrative Fine Program

Attached is the name of a political committee and its treasurer who failed to timely file the 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report for the Nebraska Primary Election in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The 12 Day Pre-Primary Report was due on April 30, 2020 and the Primary Election was held on May 12, 2020.

The committee listed on the attached RTB Circulation Report failed to file the election sensitive report by the required due date. Election sensitive reports filed more than four days prior to the election are considered late, and reports not filed more than four days prior to the election are considered not filed. In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties for reports at 11 CFR § 111.43, the committee should be assessed the civil money penalty highlighted on the attached circulation report.

**Recommendation**

1. Find reason to believe that the political committee and its treasurer, in his official capacity, listed on the RTB Circulation Report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the RTB Circulation Report.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Federal Election Commission  
Reason to Believe Circulation Report  
2020 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 04/30/2020 AUTH (NE)

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
3838	C00675546	JANICEK FOR SENATE	CHRIS EDWARD JANICEK	SCOTT WINKLER	\$165,902	0	5/7/2020	7	\$17,562	\$296

## BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
 )  
 Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2020 )  
 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Nebraska) for )  
 the Administrative Fine Program: )  
 JANICEK FOR SENATE, and WINKLER, ) AF# 3838  
 SCOTT as treasurer; )

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on June 29, 2020, the Commission took the following actions on the Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Nebraska) for the Administrative Fine Program, as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated June 17, 2020, on the following committee:

AF#3838 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that JANICEK FOR SENATE, and WINKLER, SCOTT in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Trainor, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Federal Election Commission  
Certification for Administrative Fines  
June 29, 2020



Attest:

**Laura Sinram** Digitally signed by Laura Sinram  
Date: 2020.07.10 12:37:52 -04'00'

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Laura E. Sinram  
Acting Secretary and Clerk of the  
Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

AF

July 14, 2020

Scott Winkler, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Janicek for Senate  
405 N 40th Street  
Omaha, NE 68131

**Response Due Date**  
**08/10/2020**

AF#: 3838

Dear Mr. Winkler,

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a 12 Day Pre-Primary Report of Receipts and Disbursements in any calendar year during which there is a regularly scheduled election for which the candidate is seeking election, or nomination for election. This report, covering the period April 1, 2020 through April 22, 2020 shall be filed no later than April 30, 2020. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Records at the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") indicate that this report was filed on May 7, 2020, 7 days late.

The Act permits the FEC to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109g(a)(4). On June 29, 2020, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Janicek for Senate and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file timely this report on or before April 30, 2020. Based on the FEC's schedules of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$296. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 1. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. See <https://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml> 11 CFR § 111.34. Your payment of \$296 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by August 8, 2020, and is based on these factors:

Election Sensitivity of Report: Election Sensitive  
Level of Activity: \$17,562  
Number of Days Late: 7  
Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

**1. If You Choose to Challenge the RTB Finding and/or Civil Money Penalty**

If you should decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money

JANICEK FOR SENATE

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penalty, you must submit a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review. Your response must include the AF# (found at the top of page 1 under your committee's identification number) and be received within forty (40) days of the Commission's RTB finding, or August 8, 2020. 11 CFR § 111.35(a). Your written response must include the reason(s) why you are challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, and must include the factual basis supporting the reason(s) and supporting documentation. The FEC strongly encourages that documents be submitted in the form of affidavits or declarations. 11 CFR § 111.36(c).

Please note, on June 18, 2020, the Federal Election Commission began the initial phase (Phase I) of its return to normal operations. At this stage, the agency's offices will remain closed to visitors and most of its employees will continue to telework in an effort to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Commission is processing some documents submitted by mail, though processing will not occur on a daily basis until the agency resumes normal mail operations. Nevertheless, a challenge to an RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty must be received on time. Thus, all written responses and supporting documentation should be converted to PDF (Portable Document Format) and must be emailed to [administrativefines@fec.gov](mailto:administrativefines@fec.gov). The Commission encourages the use of electronic signatures on electronically submitted documents, but scanned copies of ink signatures will be accepted. Electronically submitted challenges will be deemed received on the date it is electronically received by staff.

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three grounds: (1) a factual error in the RTB finding; (2) miscalculation of the calculated civil money penalty by the FEC; or (3) your demonstrated use of best efforts to file in a timely manner when prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond your control. 11 CFR § 111.35(b). In order for a challenge to be considered on the basis of best efforts, you must have filed the required report no later than 24 hours after the end of these reasonably unforeseen circumstances. *Id.* Examples of circumstances that will be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) a failure of Commission computers or Commission-provided software despite your seeking technical assistance from Commission personnel and resources; (2) a widespread disruption of information transmissions over the Internet that is not caused by a failure of the Commission's or your computer systems or Internet service provider; and (3) severe weather or other disaster-related incident. 11 CFR § 111.35(c). Examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) negligence; (2) delays caused by vendors or contractors; (3) treasurer and staff illness, inexperience or unavailability; (4) committee computer, software, or Internet service provider failures; (5) failure to know filing dates; and (6) failure to use filing

JANICEK FOR SENATE

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software properly. 11 CFR § 111.35(d).

The "failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver" of your right to present such argument in a petition to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

If you intend to be represented by counsel, please advise the Office of Administrative Review. You should provide, in writing, the name, address and telephone number of your counsel and authorize counsel to receive notifications and communications relating to this challenge and imposition of the calculated civil money penalty.

## **2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Submit a Challenge**

If you do not pay the calculated civil money penalty and do not submit a written response, the FEC will assume that the preceding factual allegations are true and make a final determination that Janicek for Senate and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty.

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA"), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq. The FEC may take any and all appropriate action authorized and required by the DCA, as amended, including transfer to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. 11 CFR § 111.51(a)(2).

## **3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty**

If you should decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

## **NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS**

### **4. Partial Payments**

If you make a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination.

### **5. Settlement Offers**

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected.

JANICEK FOR SENATE

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Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the FEC in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2). Unless you notify the FEC in writing that you wish the matter to be made public, it will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) until it is placed on the public record at the conclusion of this matter in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.42.

As noted earlier, you may obtain additional information on the FEC's administrative fine program, including the final regulations, on the FEC's website at <https://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1158) or (202) 694-1158.

Sincerely,



James E. "Trey" Trainor III  
Chair

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$296 for the Pre-Primary Report.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online collections. Visit [www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml](http://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml) to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form. Please use the details below to complete the required fields. For additional payment options, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis

JANICEK FOR SENATE

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Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

COMMITTEE NAME: Janicek for Senate

FEC ID#: C00675546

AF#: 3838

PAYMENT DUE DATE: August 8, 2020

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$296

**RECEIVED**

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 8:31 am, Nov 24, 2020



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**SENSITIVE**

November 23, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*  
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*  
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*  
Assistant Staff Director  
Reports Analysis Division

BY: Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly *KDR BH*  
Reports Analysis Division  
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Administrative Fine Program – Final Determination Recommendation for the 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Nebraska)

Attached is a list identifying a political committee and its treasurer against which the Commission has found reason to believe (RTB) and assessed a proposed civil money penalty calculated at RTB for failure to file or failure to timely file the 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report. The committee has not paid the civil money penalty requested at RTB and has been given at least forty (40) days from the date of the Commission's RTB finding to remit payment.

In accordance with 11 CFR § 111.40, the Commission shall send a final determination notice to the respondent that has not paid the civil money penalty.

- Janicek for Senate (AF 3838) filed an Amended Statement of Organization after the RTB finding designating Mark Thomas Nielsen as Treasurer.

**RAD Recommendation**

- (1) Make a final determination that the political committee and its treasurer, in his official capacity, listed on the attached report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated.
- (2) Send the appropriate letter.

Federal Election Commission  
FD Circulation Report Fine Not Paid  
2020 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 04/30/2020 AUTH (NE)

AF#	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Committee ID	Treasurer	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	PV	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Days Since RTB	FD Penalty
3838	JANICEK FOR SENATE	CHRIS EDWARD JANICEK	C00675546	MARK THOMAS NIELSEN	05/07/2020	7	\$17,562	0	06/29/2020	\$296	147	\$296

## BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
 )  
 Administrative Fine Program - Final )  
 Determination Recommendation for the )  
 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report )  
 (Nebraska): )  
 JANICEK FOR SENATE, and NIELSEN, ) AF# 3838  
 MARK THOMAS as treasurer; )

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on January 07, 2021, the Commission took the following actions on the Administrative Fine Program - Final Determination Recommendation for the 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Nebraska), as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated November 23, 2020, on the following committee:

AF#3838 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) make a final determination that JANICEK FOR SENATE, and NIELSEN, MARK THOMAS in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Trainor, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.



Attest:

**Laura  
 Sinram**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Laura E. Sinram  
 Acting Secretary and Clerk of the  
 Commission

Digitally signed by Laura  
 Sinram  
 Date: 2021.02.03  
 21:48:06 -05'00'



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

AF

February 17, 2021

Mark Thomas Nielsen, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Janicek for Senate  
405 N 40th Street  
Omaha, NE 68131

C00675546  
AF#: 3838

Dear Mr. Nielsen,

On June 29, 2020, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Janicek for Senate and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for filing late or failing to file the 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report. By letter dated July 14, 2020, the Commission notified you of the RTB finding and the civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage to be \$296 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43. Within forty (40) days of the FEC's RTB finding, you, as treasurer, were required to either transmit payment of the calculated civil money penalty or submit a written response challenging either the RTB finding or the calculated civil money penalty.

The FEC did not receive payment of the calculated civil money penalty or a written response within the time permitted. The FEC made a final determination on January 7, 2021 that Janicek for Senate and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assessed a civil money penalty in the amount of \$296 in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.43. The civil money penalty is based on these factors:

Election Sensitivity of Report: Election Sensitive  
Level of Activity: \$17,562  
Number of Days Late: 7  
Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

**1. If You Choose to Appeal the Final Determination and/or Civil Money Penalty**

If you choose to appeal the final determination, you should submit a written petition, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter, to the U.S. District Court for the district in which the committee or you reside, or transact business, requesting that the final determination be modified or set aside. See 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(C)(iii). Your failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be

JANICEK FOR SENATE

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deemed a waiver of the respondents' right to present such argument in a petition to the district court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

## **2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Appeal**

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA") as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 ("DCIA"), 31 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq. If you do not pay this debt within thirty (30) days (or file a written petition to a federal district court - see below), the Commission will transfer the debt to the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") for collection. Within five (5) days of the transfer to Treasury, Treasury will contact you to request payment. Treasury currently charges a fee of 30% of the civil money penalty amount for its collection services. If the age of the debt is greater than or equal to two years old, Treasury will charge a fee of 32% of the civil money penalty amount for its collection services. The fee will be added to the amount of the civil money penalty that you owe. Should Treasury's attempts fail, Treasury will refer the debt to a private collection agency ("PCA"). If the debt remains unpaid, Treasury may recommend that the Commission refer the matter to the Department of Justice for litigation.

Actions which may be taken to enforce recovery of a delinquent debt by Treasury may also include: (1) offset of any payments, which the debtor is due, including tax refunds and salary; (2) referral of the debt to agency counsel for litigation; (3) reporting of the debt to a credit bureau; (4) administrative wage garnishment; and (5) reporting of the debt, if discharged, to the IRS as potential taxable income. In addition, under the provisions of DCIA and other statutes applicable to the FEC, the debtor may be subject to the assessment of other statutory interest, penalties, and administrative costs.

In accordance with the DCIA, at your request, the agency will offer you the opportunity to inspect and copy records relating to the debt, the opportunity for a review of the debt, and the opportunity to enter into a written repayment agreement.

## **3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty**

If you should decide to pay the civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. You should make payment within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

## **NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS**

### **4. Partial Payments**

If you make a payment in an amount less than the civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the

JANICEK FOR SENATE

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Commission assessed upon making a final determination.

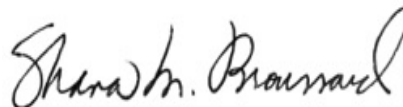
### **5. Settlement Offers**

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including a payment in an amount less than the civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assessed upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

The confidentiality provisions at 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. Pursuant to 11 CFR §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within thirty (30) days from the date of this notification.

If you have any questions regarding the payment of the civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly at Federal Election Commission, 1050 First St., NE, Washington, DC 20002, or our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt, press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

On behalf of the Commission,



Shana M. Broussard  
Chair

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the civil money penalty is \$296 for the 2020 12 Day Pre-Primary Report. The payment is due within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online collections. Visit [www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml](http://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml) to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form. Please use the details below to complete the required fields. For additional payment options, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis

JANICEK FOR SENATE

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Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

COMMITTEE NAME: Janicek for Senate

FEC ID#: C00675546

AF#: 3838

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$296

THIS IS THE END OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE #3838