



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**SENSITIVE**

September 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

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

SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2020 12 Day Pre-Runoff Report  
(Georgia) 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-Runoff Report for the Georgia Primary Runoff Election in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The 12 Day Pre-Runoff Report was due on July 30, 2020 and the Primary Runoff Election was held on August 11, 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 her 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 12PR Election Sensitive 07/30/2020 AUTH (GA)

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
3916	C00741397	TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS	JOYCE GRIGGS	LAURIE THOMAS	\$134,579	0	8/5/2020	6	\$35,701	\$661

# BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
Reason To Believe Recommendation - 12 )  
Day Pre-Runoff Report (Georgia) for the )  
Administrative Fine Program: )  
TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR ) AF# 3916  
CONGRESS, and THOMAS, LAURIE 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 Reason To Believe Recommendation - 12 Day Pre-Runoff Report (Georgia) for the Administrative Fine Program, as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated September 23, 2020, on the following committee:

AF#3916 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS, and THOMAS, LAURIE in her 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 Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Trainor, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

Laura Sinram Digitally signed by Laura  
Sinram  
Date: 2021.02.04 17:31:34

Laura E. Sinram  
Acting Secretary and Clerk of the  
Commission



The seal of the Federal Election Commission is a circular watermark in the background of the page. It features a central shield with a eagle, surrounded by the text "FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION" and "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

AF

February 4, 2021

Laurie Thomas, in official capacity as Treasurer  
 Task Force Griggs for Congress  
 2875 Hwy 80  
 Savannah, GA 31405

C00741397  
 AF#: 3916

Dear Ms. Thomas,

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a 12 Day Pre-Runoff 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 July 1, 2020 through July 22, 2020 shall be filed no later than July 30, 2020. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Records at the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") indicate that this report was filed on August 5, 2020, 6 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 January 7, 2021, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Task Force Griggs for Congress 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 July 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 \$661. 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 \$661 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by February 16, 2021, and is based on these factors:

Election Sensitivity of Report: Election Sensitive  
 Level of Activity: \$35,701  
 Number of Days Late: 6  
 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**

## TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS

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If you should decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money 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 February 16, 2021. 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 daily 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). 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 software properly. 11 CFR § 111.35(d).

## TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS

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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 Task Force Griggs for Congress 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. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute

## TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS

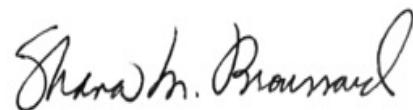
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acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money 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 Jacqueline Gausepohl 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.

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 amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$661 for the Pre-Runoff 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](https://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 Jacqueline Gausepohl in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press

TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS

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5) or (202) 694-1130.

COMMITTEE NAME: Task Force Griggs for Congress

FEC ID#: C00741397

AF#: 3916

PAYMENT DUE DATE: February 16, 2021

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$661

**From:** [Joyce Griggs](#)  
**To:** [FEC Administrative Fines](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Administrative Fine RTB Letter  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 10:50:47 PM

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RE: Task Force Griggs for Congress C00741397  
Abatement of administrative fines

We make the following declaration:

We are asking that the monetary penalties be waived for this committee for the following reasons:

1. The FEC office was called for assistance at least 6 times before we got help and had to get the file sent to us.
2. Most importantly the computer that was used crashed and we had to rebuild files.
3. We had an Apple computer but could not use that program and the one we could use the Window crashed.
4. We had filed all prior reports on time and had never been fined.
5. Please note that according to Form 3, line 13A the candidate loaned the Committee \$61,519 of her personal money as of July 17, 2020.
6. There were only about a dozen contributors during this time and the majority of the money as indicated in item 5 came from loans made to the committee by the candidate.
7. The committee is indebted to the Candidate for over \$70,000.00
8. The committee does not have money to pay the fine.
9. We are requesting that the monetary penalties be abated and or waived.
10. We made our best effort to file in a timely manner.
11. Respectfully submitted



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 7, 2021

**REVIEWING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (“OAR”)**

AF# 3916 – Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in her official capacity as Treasurer (C00741397)

**Summary of Recommendation**

Make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$661 civil money penalty.

**Reason-to-Believe Background**

The 2020 Pre-Runoff Report for the 2020 Georgia Primary Runoff Election was due on July 30, 2020. The Committee filed the report on August 5, 2020, 6 days late. The report is election sensitive and was filed prior to four days before the Georgia Primary Runoff Election held on August 11, 2020; therefore, the report is considered late. 11 C.F.R. §§ 111.43(d)(1) and (e)(2).

On January 7, 2021, the Commission found reason to believe (“RTB”) that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report and made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$661 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. A letter was mailed to the respondents’ address of record from the Reports Analysis Division (“RAD”) on February 4, 2021 to notify them of the Commission’s RTB finding and civil money penalty.

**Legal Requirements**

The Federal Election Campaign Act (“Act”) states that the treasurer of a principal campaign committee shall file a pre-election report no later than 12 days before any primary election in which the candidate seeks election. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(2)(A)(i) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(a)(2)(i). Reports electronically filed must be received and validated at or before 11:59 pm Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on the filing deadline to be timely filed. 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.19(c) and 104.5(e). The treasurer shall be personally responsible for the timely filing of reports. 11 C.F.R. § 104.14(d).

## Summary of Respondents' Challenge

On March 8, 2021, the Commission received the written response (“challenge”) from the Candidate requesting the Commission waive the penalty. She explains that the Committee used its best efforts to file, but the Committee’s computer with Microsoft Windows crashed. They were required to rebuild the data file and called the FEC “for assistance at least 6 times before [they] got help and had...the file sent to [them].”

The respondents also note that at the time of the reporting period, the majority of the Committee’s receipts came from the Candidate’s personal funds. The Committee is indebted to the Candidate for over \$70,000.00 and does not have the funds to pay the penalty.

## Analysis

The respondents contend they used best efforts to timely file the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report but were unable due to the Committee’s computer crashing and having to rebuild its FECFile data file. Commission records confirm the respondents have contacted the Commission for assistance with FECFile and its data file on numerous occasions. However, the calls referred to in the challenge occurred in October 2020, well after the Committee filed the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report on August 5, 2020.

The Committee did not contact RAD regarding the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report until August 4, 2020, at which point the Treasurer indicated that she was aware the report was already late.<sup>1</sup> The RAD Analyst provided assistance with FECFile, and the Committee ultimately filed the report the next day. The RAD Analyst did explain that the Committee would need to eventually rebuild its data file to capture the previous reports but advised the Treasurer to first file the late report. Ultimately, Commission records indicate that the rebuilding of the data file did not contribute to the late filing of this report. Further, Commission records support that Commission staff provided the Committee with timely and adequate assistance.

The Reviewing Officer recognizes the campaign was largely funded by loans from the Candidate’s personal funds, and the Committee has minimal cash on hand to repay the Candidate or pay a penalty. However, in accordance with 11 C.F.R. § 111.35, 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) demonstrated use of best efforts to file in a timely manner when prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond the respondents’ control. Treasurer/staff inexperience and committee computer/software failures are specifically included at 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(d) as examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond the respondents’ control. Therefore, the “best efforts” defense does not succeed, and the Reviewing

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<sup>1</sup> The respondents did not contend they were unaware of the filing requirements. Commission records indicate the Commission appropriately notified and reminded the Committee of its reporting requirements prior to the deadline. See Attachments 2, 3 and 4. On July 31, 2020, the day following the filing deadline, the Commission’s Electronic Filing Office sent a late notification email to griggs4congress@gmail.com, thegriggsgroupllc@yahoo.com, and info@griggsforcongress.com because the report had not yet been filed. On the same day, RAD sent the non-filer notification to griggs4congress@gmail.com and info@griggsforcongress.com.

Officer recommends that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a).

At the time of the RTB finding, the Commission used the level of activity disclosed on the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report (\$35,701) to calculate the penalty. 11 C.F.R § 111.43(d)(3). On November 2, 2020, the Committee filed the Amended 2020 Pre-Runoff Report which discloses a lower level of activity (\$25,824). Using the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R § 111.43(b), the penalty is \$661 and unchanged.

The Reviewing Officer recommends that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$661 civil money penalty.

## **OAR Recommendations**

1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 3916 involving Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in her official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination;
2. Make a final determination in AF# 3916 that Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in her official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$661 civil money penalty; and
3. Send the appropriate letter.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1 –

Attachment 2 –

Attachment 3 –

Attachment 4 – Declaration from RAD

Attachment 5 – Declaration from OAR

## DECLARATION OF KRISTIN D. ROSER

1. I am the Chief of the Compliance Branch for the Reports Analysis Division of the Federal Election Commission (“Commission”). In my capacity as Chief of the Compliance Branch, I oversee the initial processing of the Administrative Fine Program. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge and, if called upon as a witness, could and would testify competently to the following matters.
2. It is the practice of the Reports Analysis Division to document all calls to or from committees regarding a letter they receive or any questions relating to the FECFile software or administrative fine regulations, including due dates of reports and filing requirements.
3. I hereby certify that documents identified herein are true and accurate copies of the following sent by the Commission to Task Force Griggs for Congress:
  - A) Non-Filer Letter, dated July 31, 2020, referencing the 2020 12 Day Pre-Runoff Report (Georgia) (sent via electronic mail to: griggs4congress@gmail.com and info@griggsforcongress.com);
  - B) Reason-to-Believe Letter, dated February 4, 2021, referencing the 2020 12 Day Pre-Runoff Report (Georgia) (sent via electronic mail to: griggs4congress@gmail.com and info@griggsforcongress.com).
4. I hereby certify that I have searched the Commission’s public records and find that Task Force Griggs for Congress filed a 2020 12 Day Pre-Runoff Report with the Commission on August 5, 2020.
5. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that all relevant telecoms for the matter have been provided. This declaration was executed on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

*Kristin D. Roser*

Kristin D. Roser  
Chief, Compliance Branch  
Reports Analysis Division  
Federal Election Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-7

July 31, 2020

THOMAS, LAURIE, TREASURER  
TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS  
2875 HWY 80  
SAVANNAH, GA 31405

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00741397

REFERENCE: PRE-PRIMARY RUNOFF REPORT (7/1/2020 - 7/22/2020)

Dear Treasurer:

It has come to the attention of the Federal Election Commission that you may have failed to file the above referenced report of receipts and disbursements as required by the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended. 52 U.S.C. §30104(a)

You will be allowed until 5:00 pm est on the fourth (4th) business day from the date of this notice to file this report to avoid publication. If you have already filed the report by express, certified or registered mail or are planning to file it within four (4) business days from the date of this notice, please notify us immediately of the certified, registered or express tracking number and the date that the report was sent.

If you are a paper filer, the report must be filed with the Federal Election Commission, 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. 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. Reports sent by registered mail, overnight delivery, or certified mail, are considered filed with the FEC as of the date of the postmark. Reports submitted by first-class mail will be considered filed when actually received by Commission staff, subject to delays resulting from the agency's limited mail processing. The Commission will not be able to receive or process reports filed by courier service during Phase I. The FEC does not have statutory authority to extend filing deadlines, but it may choose not to pursue administrative fines against filers prevented from filing by reasonably unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.

Please note that electronic filers must submit their reports electronically, as per 11 CFR §104.18. A copy of the report must also be filed with the Secretary of State or equivalent State officer unless the state is exempt from the federal requirement to receive and

## TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS

Page 2 of 2

maintain paper copies. You can verify the Commission's receipt of any documents submitted by your committee on the FEC website at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).

In addition, the failure to timely file this report may result in civil money penalties, an audit or other legal enforcement action. The civil money penalty calculation for late reports does not include a grace period and begins on the day following the due date for the report.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Christopher Ritchie in the Reports Analysis Division on our toll-free number (800)424-9530. The analyst's direct number is (202)694-1146.

Sincerely,



Deborah Chacona  
Assistant Staff Director  
Reports Analysis Division

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**DECLARATION OF RHIANNON MAGRUDER**

- 1) I am the Reviewing Officer in the Office of Administrative Review for the Federal Election Commission (“Commission”). In my capacity as Reviewing Officer, I conduct research with respect to all challenges submitted in accordance with the Administrative Fine program.
- 2) A principal campaign committee shall file a pre-election report no later than 12 days before any primary election in which the candidate seeks election. Reports filed electronically must be received and validated at or before 11:59 pm, Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on July 30, 2020 for the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report for the Georgia Primary Runoff Election to be timely filed.
- 3) I hereby certify that I have searched the Commission’s public records and that the documents identified herein are the true and accurate copies of:
  - a) Cover page, Summary Page, and Detailed Summary Pages of the Amended 2020 Pre-Runoff Report filed by Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in her official capacity as Treasurer. The report was electronically filed on November 2, 2020.
- 4) Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

*Rhiannon Magruder*  
Rhiannon Magruder  
Reviewing Officer  
Office of Administrative Review  
Federal Election Commission

FEC  
FORM 3REPORT OF RECEIPTS  
AND DISBURSEMENTS  
For An Authorized Committee

Office Use Only

1. NAME OF  
COMMITTEE (in full) **TYPE OR PRINT ▼** Example: If typing, type  
over the lines.

12FE4M5

TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS

ADDRESS (number and street)  
▼  
Check if different  
than previously  
reported. (ACC)

2875 HWY 80

SAVANNAH

GA

31405

CITY ▲

STATE ▲

ZIP CODE ▲

2. FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ▼

C C00741397

3. IS THIS  
REPORTNEW  
(N)AMENDED  
(A)

STATE ▼ DISTRICT

GA

01

## 4. TYPE OF REPORT (Choose One)

## (a) Quarterly Reports:

- April 15 Quarterly Report (Q1)
- July 15 Quarterly Report (Q2)
- October 15 Quarterly Report (Q3)
- January 31 Year-End Report (YE)
- Termination Report (TER)

## (b) 12-Day PRE-Election Report for the:

- Primary (12P)
- General (12G)
- Convention (12C)
- Special (12S)

Election on

M M 08 / D D 11 / Y Y Y Y 2020

in the  
State of

GA

## (c) 30-Day POST-Election Report for the:

- General (30G)
- Runoff (30R)
- Special (30S)

Election on

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y

in the  
State of

5. Covering Period

M M 07 / D D 01 / Y Y 2020

through

M M 07 / D D 22 / Y Y 2020

I certify that I have examined this Report and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.

Thomas, Laurie, , ,

Type or Print Name of Treasurer

Signature of Treasurer

Thomas, Laurie, , ,

[Electronically Filed]

Date

M M 11 / D D 02 / Y Y Y Y 2020

NOTE: Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Report to the penalties of 52 U.S.C. §30109.

Office  
Use  
OnlyFEC FORM 3  
(Revised 05/2016)

Write or Type Committee Name

TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS

Report Covering the Period: From:

M M 07 / D D 01 / Y Y Y Y 2020

To:

M M 07 / D D 22 / Y Y Y Y 2020

## 6. Net Contributions (other than loans)

- (a) Total Contributions (other than loans) (from Line 11(e)) ....
- (b) Total Contribution Refunds (from Line 20(d)) .....
- (c) Net Contributions (other than loans) (subtract Line 6(b) from Line 6(a)) .....

COLUMN A  
This PeriodCOLUMN B  
Election Cycle-to-Date

3095.60	6988.60
0.00	0.00
3095.60	6988.60

## 7. Net Operating Expenditures

- (a) Total Operating Expenditures (from Line 17) .....
- (b) Total Offsets to Operating Expenditures (from Line 14).....
- (c) Net Operating Expenditures (subtract Line 7(b) from Line 7(a)) .....

11878.00	55346.83
0.00	0.00
11878.00	55346.83

## 8. Cash on Hand at Close of Reporting Period (from Line 27).....

13160.77

9. Debts and Obligations Owed **TO** the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D) .....

0.00

10. Debts and Obligations Owed **BY** the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D) .....

61519.00

## For further information contact:

Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Toll Free 800-424-9530  
Local 202-694-1100

## DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE

of Receipts

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FEC Form 3 (Revised 05/2016)

Write or Type Committee Name

TASK FORCE GRIGGS FOR CONGRESS

Report Covering the Period: From:

M M  
07D D  
01Y Y Y Y  
2020

To:

M M  
07D D  
22Y Y Y Y  
2020

## I. RECEIPTS

COLUMN A  
Total This PeriodCOLUMN B  
Election Cycle-to-Date

## 11. CONTRIBUTIONS (other than loans) FROM:

- (a) Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees
  - (i) Itemized (use Schedule A) .....
  - (ii) Unitemized .....
  - (iii) TOTAL of contributions from individuals .....
- (b) Political Party Committees .....
- (c) Other Political Committees (such as PACs) .....
- (d) The Candidate .....
- (e) TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (other than loans)  
(add Lines 11(a)(iii), (b), (c), and (d)) .....

1010.00	2988.00
2085.60	4000.60
3095.60	6988.60
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
3095.60	6988.60

2988.00	4000.60
6988.60	
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
6988.60	

## 12. TRANSFERS FROM OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES .....

0.00
0.00

0.00
0.00

## 13. LOANS:

- (a) Made or Guaranteed by the Candidate .....
- (b) All Other Loans .....
- (c) TOTAL LOANS  
(add Lines 13(a) and (b)) .....

10850.00	61519.00
0.00	0.00
10850.00	61519.00

61519.00
0.00
61519.00

14. OFFSETS TO OPERATING EXPENDITURES  
(Refunds, Rebates, etc.) .....

0.00
0.00

0.00
0.00

15. OTHER RECEIPTS  
(Dividends, Interest, etc.) .....

0.00
0.00

0.00
0.00

16. TOTAL RECEIPTS (add Lines 11(e), 12, 13(c), 14, and 15)  
(Carry Total to Line 24, page 4) .....

13945.60
68507.60

68507.60

## DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE

of Disbursements

PAGE 4 / 62

FEC Form 3 (Revised 05/2016)

II. DISBURSEMENTS	COLUMN A Total This Period	COLUMN B Election Cycle-to-Date
17. OPERATING EXPENDITURES.....	11878.00	55346.83
18. TRANSFERS TO OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES .....	0.00	0.00
19. LOAN REPAYMENTS:		
(a) Of Loans Made or Guaranteed by the Candidate.....	0.00	0.00
(b) Of All Other Loans .....	0.00	0.00
(c) TOTAL LOAN REPAYMENTS (add Lines 19(a) and (b)).....	0.00	0.00
20. REFUNDS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO:		
(a) Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees .....	0.00	0.00
(b) Political Party Committees.....	0.00	0.00
(c) Other Political Committees (such as PACs) .....	0.00	0.00
(d) TOTAL CONTRIBUTION REFUNDS (add Lines 20(a), (b), and (c)).....	0.00	0.00
21. OTHER DISBURSEMENTS .....	0.00	0.00
<b>22. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b> (add Lines 17, 18, 19(c), 20(d), and 21) ►	<b>11878.00</b>	<b>55346.83</b>

## III. CASH SUMMARY

23. CASH ON HAND AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD.....	11093.17
24. TOTAL RECEIPTS THIS PERIOD (from Line 16, page 3).....	13945.60
25. SUBTOTAL (add Line 23 and Line 24).....	25038.77
26. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS THIS PERIOD (from Line 22).....	11878.00
27. CASH ON HAND AT CLOSE OF REPORTING PERIOD (subtract Line 26 from Line 25).....	13160.77



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 7, 2021

Laurie Thomas, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Task Force Griggs for Congress  
2875 Hwy 80  
Savannah, GA 31405

C00741397  
AF# 3916

Dear Ms. Thomas:

On January 7, 2021, the Federal Election Commission (“the Commission”) found reason to believe (“RTB”) that Task Force Griggs for Congress and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report. The Commission also made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$661 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43.

After reviewing your written response and any supplemental information submitted by you and Commission staff, the Reviewing Officer has recommended that the Commission make a final determination and assess a civil money penalty. A copy of the Reviewing Officer’s recommendation is attached.

You may file with the Commission Secretary a written response to the recommendation within 10 days of the date of this letter. Please note, the agency’s offices 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, if you choose to submit a response to the recommendation, it 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 the Commission Secretary at [secretary@fec.gov](mailto:secretary@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 responses will be deemed received on the date it is electronically received by staff. Please include the AF # in your response. Your response may not raise any arguments not raised in your original written response or not directly responsive to the Reviewing Officer’s recommendation. 11 C.F.R. § 111.36(f). The Commission will then make a final determination in this matter.

Please contact me at the toll free number 800-424-9530 (press 0, then press 1660) or 202-694-1158 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Rhiannon Magruder*

Rhiannon Magruder  
Reviewing Officer  
Office of Administrative Review

**Rhiannon Magruder**

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**From:** Joyce Griggs <thegriggsgroupllc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:17 AM  
**To:** FEC Administrative Fines  
**Subject:** Dispute

Dear Sir:

We are asking that the monetary penalties be waived for this committee for the following reasons:

1. The FEC office was called for assistance at least 6 times before we got help and had to get the file sent to us.
2. Most importantly the computer that was used crashed and we had to rebuild files.
3. We had an Apple computer but could not use that program and the one we could use the Window crashed.
4. We had filed all prior reports on time and had never been fined.
5. Please note that according to Form 3, line 13A the candidate loaned the Committee \$61,519 of her personal money as of July 17, 2020.
6. There were only about a dozen contributors during this time and the majority of the money as indicated in item 5 came from loans made to the committee by the candidate.
7. The committee is indebted to the Candidate for over \$70,000.00
8. The committee does not have money to pay the fine.
9. We are requesting that the monetary penalties be abated and or waived.
10. We made our best effort to file in a timely manner.

Respectfully  
Joyce Griggs



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**SENSITIVE**

October 27, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

To: The Commission

Through: Alec Palmer *AP*  
Staff Director

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

Rhiannon Magruder *RM*  
Reviewing Officer  
Office of Administrative Review

Subject: Final Determination Recommendation in AF# 3916 – Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in their official capacity as Treasurer (C00741397)

On January 7, 2021, the Commission found reason to believe (“RTB”) that Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report and made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$661 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. On March 8, 2021, the Commission received their written response (“challenge”). After reviewing the challenge, the Reviewing Officer Recommendation (“ROR”) dated May 7, 2021 was forwarded to the Commission, a copy was forwarded to the respondents, and is hereby incorporated by reference. Treasurer/staff inexperience and committee computer/software failures are specifically included at 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(d) as examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond the respondents’ control. Therefore, the Reviewing Officer determined the respondents’ “best efforts” defense did not succeed. The Reviewing Officer also confirmed the calculation of the civil money penalty at RTB was correct. The Reviewing Officer recommended that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty of \$661.

Within 10 days of transmittal of the recommendation, the respondents may file a written response with the Commission Secretary which may not raise any arguments not raised in their challenge or not directly responsive to the ROR. 11 C.F.R. § 111.36(f). On October 27, 2021, the Candidate submitted a response. *See* Attachment 1. The response reiterates the points made in the original challenge and addressed in the ROR.

The Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendations are unchanged. Treasurer/staff inexperience and committee computer/software failures are specifically included at 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(d) as examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond the respondents' control. Therefore, the respondents' "best efforts" defense does not succeed. In addition, the calculation of the civil money penalty at RTB is correct. Therefore, the Reviewing Officer recommends that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty of \$661.

### **OAR Recommendations**

1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 3916 involving Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in their official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination;
2. Make a final determination in AF# 3916 that Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$661 civil money penalty; and
3. Send the appropriate letter.

## BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
 ) AF 3916  
Final Determination Recommendation: )  
Task Force Griggs for Congress and )  
Laurie Thomas, in their official capacity )  
as Treasurer (C00741397) )

## CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on November 03, 2021, the Commission decided by a vote of 6-0 to take the following actions in AF 3916:

1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 3916 involving Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in their official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination.
2. Make a final determination in AF# 3916 that Task Force Griggs for Congress and Laurie Thomas, in their official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a \$661 civil money penalty.
3. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Broussard, Cooksey, Dickerson, Trainor, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

# Laura e Sinram

Digitally signed by  
Laura e Sinram  
Date: 2021.11.04  
15:58:37 -04'00'

Laura E. Sinram  
Acting Secretary and Clerk of the  
Commission





FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

November 9, 2021

Laurie Thomas, in official capacity as Treasurer  
Task Force Griggs for Congress  
2875 Hwy 80  
Savannah, GA 31405

C00741397  
AF# 3916

Dear Ms. Thomas:

On January 7, 2021, the Federal Election Commission (“the Commission”) found reason to believe (“RTB”) that Task Force Griggs for Congress and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file the 2020 Pre-Runoff Report. By letter dated February 4, 2021, the Commission sent notification of the RTB finding that included a civil money penalty calculated at RTB of \$661 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. On March 8, 2021, the Office of Administrative Review received your written response challenging the RTB finding.

The Reviewing Officer reviewed the Commission’s RTB finding with its supporting documentation and your written response. Based on this review, the Reviewing Officer recommended that the Commission make a final determination that Task Force Griggs for Congress and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), and assess a civil money penalty in the amount of \$661 in accordance with 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. The Reviewing Officer Recommendation was sent to you on May 7, 2021. On October 27, 2021, the Commission received your written response.

On November 3, 2021, the Commission adopted the Reviewing Officer’s recommendation and made a final determination that Task Force Griggs for Congress 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 \$661. A copy of the Final Determination Recommendation is attached.

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 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 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 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 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 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 C.F.R. §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within 30 days from the date of this notification.

If you have any questions regarding the payment of the civil money penalty, please contact Rhiannon Magruder on our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1660) or (202) 694-1660.

On behalf of the Commission,



Shana M. Broussard  
Chair

Attachment

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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 final determination is \$661 for the 2020 Pre-Runoff 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 Rhiannon Magruder on our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1660) or (202) 694-1660.

COMMITTEE NAME: Task Force Griggs for Congress

FEC ID#: C00741397

AF#: 3916

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$661