

RECEIVED

AF485300001

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 10:19 am, Feb 25, 2025

SENSITIVE



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 25, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*
Staff Director

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

Debbie Chacona *DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: Kristin D. Roser *KDR*
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason to Believe Recommendation -
Failure to Timely File 48-Hour Notices under the Administrative Fine
Program

Attached is the name of a principal campaign committee that has failed to timely file 48-hour notices with the Commission for contributions of \$1,000.00 or more received (1) from the close of books for the Nebraska 2024 12-Day Pre-Primary Report up to 48 hours before the May 14, 2024 Primary Election, and (2) from the close of books for the 2024 12-Day Pre-General Report up to 48 hours before the November 5, 2024 General Election in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(f). The committee, Vargas for Congress, represents a candidate who lost the General Election. The committee is being referred for failing to timely file 48-hour notices for contributions totaling \$37,100.00.

A 48-hour notice is required to report all contributions of a \$1,000.00 or more, to any authorized committee of a candidate, including contributions from the candidate, loans from the candidate and other non-bank sources and endorsements or guarantees of loans from banks, as per 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(f).

We have attached an information sheet which includes the contributor name, date of receipt and amount of the contributions for which a 48-hour notice was not timely filed.

In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties outlined within 11 C.F.R. § 111.44, this committee should be assessed the civil money penalty so indicated.

Recommendation

1. Find reason to believe that Vargas for Congress and Jessica Lathrop, in her official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that a civil money penalty of \$4,442 be assessed.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Attachment

Contributions for Which a 48-Hour Notice Was Not Timely Received

AF 4853

Committee ID: C00784371

Committee Name: Vargas for Congress

Report Types: 2024 July Quarterly Report (4/25/2024 – 6/30/2024)

2024 30-Day Post-General Report (10/17/2024 – 11/25/2024)

Primary 48-Hour Reporting Period: 4/25/2024 – 5/11/2024

General 48-Hour Reporting Period: 10/17/2024 – 11/02/2024

CONTRIBUTOR	DATE OF RECEIPT BY COMMITTEE	DATE OF RECEIPT BY CONDUIT/ JFR	AMOUNT	CONDUIT/ JOINT FUNDRAISER (JFR)	REPORTING PERIOD
SAGER, THOMAS	5/4/2024 ¹	5/5/2024	\$1,000.00	ACTBLUE	PRIMARY
SAGER, THOMAS	5/4/2024 ²	5/5/2024	\$1,000.00	ACTBLUE	PRIMARY
PLANNED PARENTHOOD	5/9/2024	N/A	\$2,500.00	N/A	PRIMARY
LAZO, SANDRA L.	10/23/2024	N/A	\$3,300.00	N/A	GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AN EFFECTIVE CONGRESS	10/23/2024	N/A	\$1,500.00	N/A	GENERAL
ALPERT, ARIELA	10/25/2024	10/18/2024	\$1,000.00	SWING LEFT	GENERAL
GRILIKHES-LASKY, ANTONIA	10/25/2024	10/24/2024	\$2,400.00	SWING LEFT	GENERAL
GURAL, JEFFREY	10/25/2024	10/21/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
HOLD THE LINE PAC	10/25/2024	10/18/2024	\$2,500.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
RUEVEN, DANIEL	10/25/2024	10/21/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL

¹ It appears the committee disclosed incorrect receipt dates. The date the contribution was received by the conduit is disclosed as being one day later than the date of receipt of the contribution by the committee.

² It appears the committee disclosed incorrect receipt dates. The date the contribution was received by the conduit is disclosed as being one day later than the date of receipt of the contribution by the committee.

RUEVEN, SARAH	10/25/2024	10/21/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
PITTS, BRADLEY	10/25/2024	10/24/2024	\$2,400.00	SWING LEFT	GENERAL
SNOWDON, EDWARD ³	10/30/2024	10/28/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
DREXLER, PEGGY	10/31/2024	10/31/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS ACTION FUND	10/31/2024	N/A	\$1,000.00	N/A	GENERAL
STORM PAC	10/31/2024	10/29/2024	\$1,000.00	314 ACTION IMPACT SLATE 2024	GENERAL
DIGIDEMS PAC	11/1/2024	N/A	\$1,000.00	N/A	GENERAL
		TOTAL	\$37,100.00		

Proposed Civil Money Penalty: \$4,442 ((4 Notices Not Timely Filed at \$183 each) + (10% of the Overall Contributions Not Reported))

³ This contribution was only disclosed on the Amended 2024 30-Day Post-General Report, received January 31, 2025.

Federal Election Commission
Reason to Believe Circulation Report
48-Hour Notification Report

2/24/2025 8:32 AM

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	State	Election	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Prev Violations	Notices Not Filed	LOA	Penalty
4853	C00784371	VARGAS FOR CONGRESS	NE	PRIMARY AND GENERAL	VARGAS, ANTHONY 'TONY'	LATHROP, JESSICA	0	4	\$37,100	\$4,442

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
Reason to Believe Recommendation -)
Failure to Timely File 48-Hour Notices)
under the Administrative Fine Program:)
Vargas for Congress and Jessica Lathrop,)
in her official capacity as treasurer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Vicktoria J. Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on March 03, 2025, the Commission decided by a vote of 4-0 to take the following actions in AF 4853:

1. Find reason to believe that Vargas for Congress and Jessica Lathrop, in her official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that a civil money penalty of \$4,442 be assessed.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

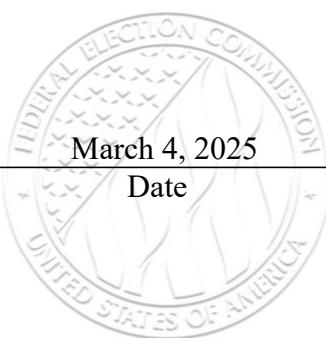
Commissioners Broussard, Dickerson, Lindenbaum, and Trainor voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

Vicktoria J.
Allen

Digitally signed by Vicktoria J
Allen
Date: 2025.03.04 15:54:31
-05'00'

Vicktoria J. Allen
Deputy Secretary of the Commission





FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AF

March 5, 2025

Jessica Lathrop, in official capacity as Treasurer
 Vargas for Congress
 PO Box 746
 Boys Town, NE 68010

C00784371
 AF#: 4853
 FINE: \$4,442

Dear Jessica Lathrop,

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, 52 U.S.C. § 30101, et seq. ("the Act"), requires principal campaign committees of candidates for federal office to notify in writing the Federal Election Commission (the "Commission" or "FEC") and the Secretary of State, as appropriate, of any contribution of \$1,000 or more, received by any authorized committee of the candidate after the 20th day, but more than 48 hours before, any election. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(6)(A). The Act further requires notification to be made within 48 hours after the receipt of the contribution and to include the name of the candidate and office sought, the date of receipt, the amount of the contribution, and the identification of the contributor. Id. These notification requirements are in addition to all other reporting requirements. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Our records indicate that Vargas for Congress did not submit 48-Hour Notices for contributions of \$1,000 or more, received between April 25, 2024 and May 11, 2024, and between October 17, 2024 and November 2, 2024, totaling \$37,100, as required by 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(6)(A). Attachment 1.

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. § 30109(a)(4). On March 3, 2025, the Commission found that there is Reason to Believe ("RTB") that Vargas for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file the 48-Hour Notices. Based on the FEC's schedule of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.44, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$4,442. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 2. The FEC's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. 11 CFR § 111.34. The amount of the civil money penalty is \$183 for each non-filed notice plus 10 percent of the dollar amount of the contributions not timely reported. The civil money penalty increases by 25 percent for each prior violation. Send your payment of \$4,442 within forty (40) days of the finding, or by April 12, 2025.

VARGAS FOR CONGRESS

Page 2 of 4

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 decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, you must email a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review at administrativefines@fec.gov. 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 April 12, 2025. 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).

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three factors: (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).

If you fail to timely raise a factual argument in your challenge to the RTB finding, your right to present such an argument in an appeal to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109 shall be deemed waived. 11 CFR § 111.38.

It should also be noted that, all challenges to an RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty should be converted to Portable Document Format ("PDF") and emailed to administrativefines@fec.gov. The Commission encourages the use of electronic signatures on electronically submitted documents, but scanned copies of ink signatures

VARGAS FOR CONGRESS

Page 3 of 4

will be accepted. Electronically submitted challenges will be deemed received on the date they are electronically received by staff.

In addition, 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 challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, the FEC will conclude that the factual allegations are true and make a final determination that Vargas 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 Commission 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 decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, please follow the payment instructions below. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

You may remit payment by Automated Clearinghouse ("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 <http://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml> to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form. Please use the details at the top of this letter to complete the required fields.

NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS

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.

VARGAS FOR CONGRESS

Page 4 of 4

Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission will be rejected. This includes making 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. 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 <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Jacqueline Gausepohl on the toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt, press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review on the toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1158) or (202) 694-1158.

On behalf of the Commission,



James E. "Trey" Trainor III
Acting Chairman

Contributions for Which a 48-Hour Notice Was Not Timely Received

AF 4853

Committee ID: C00784371

Committee Name: Vargas for Congress

Report Types: 2024 July Quarterly Report (4/25/2024 – 6/30/2024)

2024 30-Day Post-General Report (10/17/2024 – 11/25/2024)

Primary 48-Hour Reporting Period: 4/25/2024 – 5/11/2024

General 48-Hour Reporting Period: 10/17/2024 – 11/02/2024

CONTRIBUTOR	DATE OF RECEIPT BY COMMITTEE	DATE OF RECEIPT BY CONDUIT/ JFR	AMOUNT	CONDUIT/ JOINT FUNDRAISER (JFR)	REPORTING PERIOD
SAGER, THOMAS	5/4/2024 ¹	5/5/2024	\$1,000.00	ACTBLUE	PRIMARY
SAGER, THOMAS	5/4/2024 ²	5/5/2024	\$1,000.00	ACTBLUE	PRIMARY
PLANNED PARENTHOOD	5/9/2024	N/A	\$2,500.00	N/A	PRIMARY
LAZO, SANDRA L.	10/23/2024	N/A	\$3,300.00	N/A	GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AN EFFECTIVE CONGRESS	10/23/2024	N/A	\$1,500.00	N/A	GENERAL
ALPERT, ARIELA	10/25/2024	10/18/2024	\$1,000.00	SWING LEFT	GENERAL
GRILIKHES-LASKY, ANTONIA	10/25/2024	10/24/2024	\$2,400.00	SWING LEFT	GENERAL
GURAL, JEFFREY	10/25/2024	10/21/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
HOLD THE LINE PAC	10/25/2024	10/18/2024	\$2,500.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
RUEVEN, DANIEL	10/25/2024	10/21/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL

¹ It appears the committee disclosed incorrect receipt dates. The date the contribution was received by the conduit is disclosed as being one day later than the date of receipt of the contribution by the committee.

² It appears the committee disclosed incorrect receipt dates. The date the contribution was received by the conduit is disclosed as being one day later than the date of receipt of the contribution by the committee.

RUEVEN, SARAH	10/25/2024	10/21/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
PITTS, BRADLEY	10/25/2024	10/24/2024	\$2,400.00	SWING LEFT	GENERAL
SNOWDON, EDWARD ³	10/30/2024	10/28/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
DREXLER, PEGGY	10/31/2024	10/31/2024	\$3,300.00	NEWDEM FIGURES VARGAS STELSON VICTORY FUND	GENERAL
LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS ACTION FUND	10/31/2024	N/A	\$1,000.00	N/A	GENERAL
STORM PAC	10/31/2024	10/29/2024	\$1,000.00	314 ACTION IMPACT SLATE 2024	GENERAL
DIGIDEMS PAC	11/1/2024	N/A	\$1,000.00	N/A	GENERAL
		TOTAL	\$37,100.00		

Proposed Civil Money Penalty: \$4,442 ((4 Notices Not Timely Filed at \$183 each) + (10% of the Overall Contributions Not Reported))

³ This contribution was only disclosed on the Amended 2024 30-Day Post-General Report, received January 31, 2025.

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 10:52 am, Apr 21, 2025


**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**
SENSITIVE

April 21, 2025

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
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Administrative Fine Program – Final Determination Recommendation for the Failure to File 48-Hour Notices

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 appropriate 48-Hour Notices for the 2024 Nebraska Primary and 2024 General Elections. The committee has paid the civil money penalty requested at RTB.

In accordance with 11 CFR § 111.34, the Commission shall send a final determination notice to the respondent that has paid the civil money penalty.

RAD Recommendation

- (1) Make a final determination that the political committee and its treasurer, in their 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
 Final Determination Circulation Report
 48-Hour Notification Report
 FD Circulation Report for 48H

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	State	Election	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Prev. Violations	Notices Not Filed	LOA	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Days Since RTB	FD Penalty	Date Paid	Amount Paid
4853	C00784371	VARGAS FOR CONGRESS	NE	PRIMARY AND GENERAL	ANTHONY 'TONY' VARGAS	JESSICA LATHROP	0	4	\$37,100	3/3/2025	\$4,442	49	\$4,442	4/14/2025	\$4,442

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
) AF 4853
Administrative Fine Program - Final)
Determination Recommendation for the)
Failure to File 48-Hour Notices: Vargas)
for Congress and Jessica Lathrop, in their)
official capacity as treasurer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on May 09, 2025, the Commission decided by a vote of 4-0 to take the following actions in AF 4853:

1. Make a final determination that Vargas for Congress and Jessica Lathrop, in their official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty in the amount of \$4,442.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Broussard, Dickerson, Lindenbaum, and Trainor voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

Laura E
Sinram

Digitally signed by
Laura E Sinram
Date: 2025.05.09
14:56:12 -04'00'

Laura E. Sinram
Secretary and Clerk of the Commission





FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AF

May 13, 2025

Jessica Lathrop, in official capacity as Treasurer
 Vargas for Congress
 PO Box 746
 Boys Town, NE 68010

C00784371
 AF#: 4853

Dear Jessica Lathrop,

On March 3, 2025, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Vargas for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file 48-Hour Notices for contributions of \$1,000 or more, received between April 25, 2024 and May 11, 2024, and between October 17, 2024 and November 2, 2024, totaling \$37,100. By letter dated March 5, 2025, the Commission notified you of the RTB finding and the civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage totaling \$4,442, in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.44.

On April 14, 2025, the Commission received payment of the civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage. The Commission made a final determination on May 9, 2025 that Vargas for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), assessed a civil money penalty in the amount of \$4,442 in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.44, and voted to close the file.

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 this matter, please contact Jacqueline Gausepohl on the toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt, press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or (202) 694-1130.

VARGAS FOR CONGRESS

Page 2 of 2

On behalf of the Commission,



James E. "Trey" Trainor III
Acting Chairman