

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 10:32 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 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 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, Vern Buchanan for Congress, represents a candidate who won the General Election. The committee is being referred for failing to timely file 48-hour notices for contributions totaling \$85,100.00.

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 Vern Buchanan for Congress and David T. Meredith, in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that a civil money penalty of \$9,242 be assessed.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Attachment

Contributions for Which a 48-Hour Notice Was Not Timely Received**AF 4854****Committee ID: C00412759****Committee Name: Vern Buchanan for Congress****Report Type: 2024 30-Day Post-General Report (10/17/2024 – 11/25/2024)****48-Hour Reporting Period: 10/17/2024 – 11/2/2024**

CONTRIBUTOR	DATE	AMOUNT
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY PAC	10/17/2024	\$2,500.00
ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS PAC	10/17/2024	\$5,000.00
HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE CO. PAC	10/17/2024	\$2,500.00
NATIONAL BEER WHOLESALERS ASSN. PAC	10/17/2024	\$5,000.00
PHIPPS, JEFFREY	10/17/2024	\$1,500.00
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PA PAC)	10/21/2024	\$2,500.00
AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION PAC	10/21/2024	\$2,500.00
AMERICAN HOMES 4 RENT TRS, LLC	10/21/2024	\$3,000.00
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PAC	10/21/2024	\$5,000.00
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK PAC	10/21/2024	\$1,000.00
EDISON INTERNATIONAL PAC	10/21/2024	\$2,000.00
PRIMERICA, INC. PAC	10/21/2024	\$2,500.00
VIZIENT, INC PAC	10/21/2024	\$1,500.00
AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION PAC	10/25/2024	\$2,500.00
AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	10/25/2024	\$5,000.00
BUILDING AMERICAS REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATION PAC (BARR PAC)	10/25/2024	\$2,500.00
PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL, INC. FEDERAL PAC	10/25/2024	\$1,000.00
AM COUNCIL OF LIFE INSURERS PAC	10/28/2024	\$2,500.00
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING CO. PAC	10/28/2024	\$5,000.00
BEN CLINE FOR CONGRESS, INC.	10/28/2024	\$1,000.00
BLACK & VEATCH PAC	10/28/2024	\$2,000.00
BRETTPAC- THE LEADERSHIP PAC OF US REP.	10/28/2024	\$5,000.00
CBOE GLOBAL MARKETS, INC PAC	10/28/2024	\$3,500.00
ELEVANCE HEALTH PAC	10/28/2024	\$2,500.00
HOUSE CONSERVATIVES FUND	10/28/2024	\$1,000.00
INTERNATIONAL WAREHOUSE LOGISTICS PAC	10/28/2024	\$1,000.00
LUCAS FOR CONGRESS	10/28/2024	\$2,000.00
PATRIOTS IN ACTION	10/28/2024	\$2,500.00

PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, INC. ASSOC. PAC	10/28/2024	\$2,000.00
REPUBLICANS UNITED TO DEFEND YOU PAC (RUDY PAC)	10/28/2024	\$1,000.00
RICHARDS, CHRISTINE	10/28/2024	\$3,300.00
RICHARDS, DANIEL	10/28/2024	\$3,300.00
	TOTAL	\$85,100.00

Proposed Civil Money Penalty: \$9,242 ((4 Notices Not Timely Filed at \$183 each) + (10% of the Overall Contributions Not Reported))

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

2/24/2025 8:41 AM

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	State	Election	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Prev Violations	Notices Not Filed	LOA	Penalty
4854	C00412759	VERN BUCHANAN FOR CONGRESS	FL	GENERAL	BUCHANAN, VERNON	MEREDITH, DAVID T	0	4	\$85,100	\$9,242

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
) AF 4854
 Reason to Believe Recommendation -)
 Failure to File 48-Hour Notices under the)
 Administrative Fine Program: Vern)
 Buchanan for Congress and David T.)
 Meredith, in his official capacity as)
 treasurer)

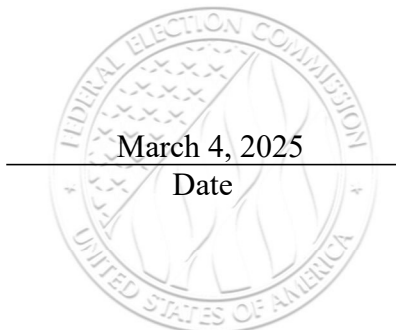
CERTIFICATION

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 4854:

1. Find reason to believe that Vern Buchanan for Congress and David T. Meredith, in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that a civil money penalty of \$9,242 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 16:34:16
 -05'00'

Vicktoria J. Allen
 Deputy Secretary of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AF

March 5, 2025

David T. Meredith, in official capacity as Treasurer
Vern Buchanan for Congress
P. O. Box 48928
Sarasota, FL 34230

C00412759
AF#: 4854
FINE: \$9,242

Dear David T. Meredith,

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 Vern Buchanan for Congress did not submit 48-Hour Notices for contributions of \$1,000 or more, received between October 17, 2024 and November 2, 2024, totaling \$85,100, 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 Vern Buchanan 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 \$9,242. 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 \$9,242 within forty (40) days of the finding, or by April 12, 2025.

VERN BUCHANAN 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

VERN BUCHANAN 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 Vern Buchanan 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.

VERN BUCHANAN 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.E. Trainor, III".

James E. "Trey" Trainor III
Acting Chairman

Contributions for Which a 48-Hour Notice Was Not Timely Received**AF 4854****Committee ID: C00412759****Committee Name: Vern Buchanan for Congress****Report Type: 2024 30-Day Post-General Report (10/17/2024 – 11/25/2024)****48-Hour Reporting Period: 10/17/2024 – 11/2/2024**

CONTRIBUTOR	DATE	AMOUNT
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AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PAC	10/21/2024	\$5,000.00
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VIZIENT, INC PAC	10/21/2024	\$1,500.00
AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION PAC	10/25/2024	\$2,500.00
AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	10/25/2024	\$5,000.00
BUILDING AMERICAS REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATION PAC (BARR PAC)	10/25/2024	\$2,500.00
PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL, INC. FEDERAL PAC	10/25/2024	\$1,000.00
AM COUNCIL OF LIFE INSURERS PAC	10/28/2024	\$2,500.00
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING CO. PAC	10/28/2024	\$5,000.00
BEN CLINE FOR CONGRESS, INC.	10/28/2024	\$1,000.00
BLACK & VEATCH PAC	10/28/2024	\$2,000.00
BRETTPAC- THE LEADERSHIP PAC OF US REP.	10/28/2024	\$5,000.00
CBOE GLOBAL MARKETS, INC PAC	10/28/2024	\$3,500.00
ELEVANCE HEALTH PAC	10/28/2024	\$2,500.00
HOUSE CONSERVATIVES FUND	10/28/2024	\$1,000.00
INTERNATIONAL WAREHOUSE LOGISTICS PAC	10/28/2024	\$1,000.00
LUCAS FOR CONGRESS	10/28/2024	\$2,000.00
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RICHARDS, CHRISTINE	10/28/2024	\$3,300.00
RICHARDS, DANIEL	10/28/2024	\$3,300.00
	TOTAL	\$85,100.00

Proposed Civil Money Penalty: \$9,242 ((4 Notices Not Timely Filed at \$183 each) + (10% of the Overall Contributions Not Reported))

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 11:23 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

BY: Kristin D. Roser *KDR*
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 Florida General Election. 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
4854	C00412759	VERN BUCHANAN FOR CONGRESS	FL	GENERAL	VERNON BUCHANAN	DAVID T MEREDITH	0	4	\$85,100	3/3/2025	\$9,242	49	\$9,242	3/6/2025	\$9,242

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

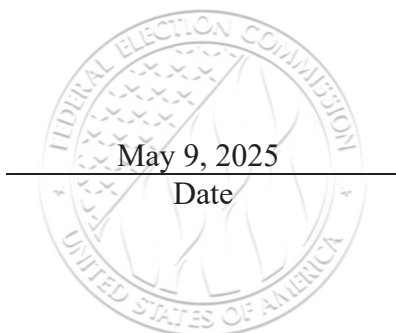
In the Matter of)
) AF 4854
 Administrative Fine Program – Final)
 Determination Recommendation for the)
 Failure to File 48-Hour Notices: Vern)
 Buchanan for Congress and David T.)
 Meredith, in their official capacity as)
 treasurer)

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 4854:

1. Make a final determination that Vern Buchanan for Congress and David T. Meredith, in their official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty in the amount of \$9,242.
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
 14:45:38 -04'00'

Laura E. Sinram
 Secretary and Clerk of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AF

May 13, 2025

David T. Meredith, in official capacity as Treasurer
Vern Buchanan for Congress
P. O. Box 48928
Sarasota, FL 34230

C00412759

AF#: 4854

Dear David T. Meredith,

On March 3, 2025, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Vern Buchanan 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 October 17, 2024 and November 2, 2024, totaling \$85,100. 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 \$9,242, in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.44.

On March 6, 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 Vern Buchanan 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 \$9,242 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.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J.E. Trainor, III".

James E. "Trey" Trainor III
Acting Chairman