

RAD Referral 21L-16
Conservatives Acting Together Political Action Committee (CATPAC)
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21L-16

REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL

TO

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE

DATE: April 23, 2021

ANALYST: Nick Tarone

I. COMMITTEE: Conservatives Acting Together
Political Action Committee (CATPAC)
C00518779
David Satterfield, Treasurer
228 S. Washington St.
Suite 115
Alexandria, VA 22314

II. RELEVANT STATUTE: 52 U.S.C. § 30104 (g)(2)
11 CFR § 104.4(b)(2)

III. BACKGROUND:

Failure to Provide Supporting Schedules (Failure to Timely File 48 Hour Reports)

Conservatives Acting Together Political Action Committee (CATPAC) (“the Committee”) failed to timely file one (1) 48-Hour Report totaling \$122,094.32 to support one (1) independent expenditure disclosed on the 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report, made up to and including the 20th day before the 2020 General Election (Attachment 2).

On October 22, 2020, the Committee filed its 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report, covering the period from October 1, 2020, through October 14, 2020. The report included a Schedule E (Itemized Independent Expenditures) disclosing two (2) independent expenditures, totaling \$167,104.32, made in opposition to one (1) Federal candidate (Image 202010229333200619).

On January 6, 2021, a Request for Additional Information (RFAI) was sent to the Committee referencing the 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report. The RFAI noted that the Committee may have failed to file one (1) or more of the required 48-Hour Reports

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regarding independent expenditures. A chart was included with the RFAI identifying one (1) independent expenditure, totaling \$122,094.32, for which a 48-Hour Report had not been filed (Images 202101060300100173-75, Attachment 2).

On January 7, 2021, the Committee filed one (1) 48-Hour Report to support one (1) independent expenditure, totaling \$122,094.32, disseminated on October 13, 2020 (Image 202101079398297193).

On the same date, the Committee filed an FEC Form 99 (Miscellaneous Electronic Submission) in response to the RFAI referencing the 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report. The FEC Form 99 stated, in part:

“In response to the Request for Additional Information regarding the Pre-General FEC Report filed by Conservatives Acting Together Political Action Committee (C00518779), the PAC filed the missing 48 Hour Notice on the same day it received your RFAI letter. The 48 Hour Notice that was just filed was actually prepared on October 13 and was to be filed on October 15 along with the October Quarterly report. The October Quarterly report was properly filed on October 15 but the prepared 48 Hour Notice was inadvertently not filed that day. As the Commission knows, the filing dates for the various reports due in October are very compressed. While working from home under quarantined orders, I inadvertently did not send this single 48 Hour Notice on a very busy filing day, believing it had already been filed. Fortunately the information on the missing 48 Hour Notice was included on the Pre-General Report filed on October 22 and therefore on the public record in advance of the election. In the time since taking over as Treasurer of this committee in 2014, I have filed over two dozen reports and notices on-time and without issue, including timely-filed 24 and 48 Hour Notices both before and after this missing notice. I sincerely regret this mistake and request the FEC excuse this late filing in recognition of the facts presented and our positive compliance history over the last six years” (Image 202101079398297199).

On February 22, 2021, the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Analyst called David Satterfield, the Committee’s Treasurer, and explained the issue cited in the RFAI may be referred to another Commission office for potential further action. The RAD Analyst asked Mr. Satterfield if the Committee would like to provide additional clarification on the public record, and Mr. Satterfield declined (Attachment 3).

On the same date, Mr. Satterfield called the RAD Analyst to discuss the Committee’s formal response. Mr. Satterfield stated that the Committee would file an additional FEC Form 99 to provide further clarification on the public record (Attachment 3).

Subsequently, on the same date, the Committee filed an FEC Form 99, stating, in part:

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“As was true for most Americans last year, due to covid-19 restrictions, the usual Committee office and support personnel were not readily accessible for the majority of 2020. Normal in-office procedures and systems that help provide filing due date reminders were interrupted. In recognition of these new challenges and in response to this specific issue, a new dedicated calendar system to track Independent Expenditure activity and provide digital alerts for the corresponding 24 or 48 Hour Notice due dates was created. The calendar will allow tasks to be marked as completed to provide a clear, visual picture of open or closed FEC obligations. The PAC maintained a solid compliance history for the 2020 cycle as well as in recent cycles since changing Treasurers in 2014. In fact, all other 24 and 48 Hour Notices filed in 2020 were filed early. Instead of filing notices the day after or the second day after, as permitted under FEC regulations, all the other timely notices were filed on the day the distribution or dissemination took place. Over \$230,000 in Independent Expenditure activity for the Committee was reported early. Given that the October 13 activity was due to be reported on October 15 along with the October Quarterly report, the intention was to file both the 48 Hour Notice and October Quarterly report at the same time on October 15. As noted previously, the 48 Hour Notice was prepared on time. However, due to covid-19 related issues, the Committee did not have access to its standard tracking tools and the prepared 48 Hour Notice was regrettably not submitted that day. While the 48 Hour Notice was missed, the information on the Notice was contained on the 12 Day Pre-General report itself. The PAC uses FECFILE for compliance, so the data had to be part of the 12 Day Pre-General report to reconcile. Therefore, the information was on the public record within 7 days of the 48 Hour Notice due date and well before the General election. Further, the Committee received email notice of the RFAI on January 7, and promptly filed the missing 48 Hour Notice and provided an initial Form 99 explanation on January 7. The Committee took action as soon as possible to resolve the issue. On a personal note, I take FEC compliance very seriously and make every effort to file all disclosure reports accurately and on time. October of a presidential election year is the most difficult month to be a professional FEC treasurer. While working from home, I was able to file hundreds of FEC reports including dozens of timely notices on time. This single 48 Hour Notice was the only filing that was missed last cycle. I sincerely regret this oversight and request the FEC consider the information provided as both an explanation and details on the proactive steps taken to prevent future oversights” (Image 202102229428804495).

To date, no further communications have been received from the Committee regarding this matter.

O-Index (2021-2022)
Cmte. ID: C00518779 Cmte. Name: CONSERVATIVES ACTING TOGETHER POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CATPAC)
Treasurer Name: SATTERFIELD, DAVID Address: 228 S WASHINGTON STREET SUITE 115, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Cmte. Type: O (INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY COMMITTEE) Cmte. Designation: U (UNAUTHORIZED) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER

Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
MS-T			1/7/2021	1	202101079398297199				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MS-T			2/22/2021	1	202102229428804495				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F24N	48		1/7/2021	1	202101079398297193				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals										\$0	\$0				

O-Index (2019-2020)
Cmte. ID: C00518779 Cmte. Name: CONSERVATIVES ACTING TOGETHER POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CATPAC)
Treasurer Name: SATTERFIELD, DAVID Address: 228 S WASHINGTON STREET SUITE 115, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Cmte. Type: O (INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY COMMITTEE) Cmte. Designation: U (UNAUTHORIZED) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER

Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
RQ2	12G	N	1/6/2021	3	202101060300100173	10/1/2020	10/14/2020	1/6/2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F3XN	MY	N	7/23/2019	5	201907239151630163	1/1/2019	6/30/2019		\$4,461	\$0	\$170	\$4,291	-	-	\$0
F3XN	YE	N	1/31/2020	7	202001319184136454	7/1/2019	12/31/2019		\$4,291	\$135,000	\$323	\$138,967	-	-	\$0
F3XN	Q1	N	4/5/2020	6	202004059216594578	1/1/2020	3/31/2020		\$138,967	\$55,600	\$40	\$194,527	-	-	\$0
F3XN	Q2	N	7/13/2020	6	202007139244500563	4/1/2020	6/30/2020		\$194,527	\$0	\$302	\$194,225	-	-	\$0
F3XN	Q3	N	10/14/2020	5	202010149285912703	7/1/2020	9/30/2020		\$194,225	\$0	\$158	\$194,066	-	-	\$0
F3XN	12G	N	10/22/2020	6	202010229333200614	10/1/2020	10/14/2020		\$194,066	\$0	\$167,104	\$26,962	-	-	\$0
F3XN	30G	N	12/3/2020	11	202012039338178330	10/15/2020	11/23/2020		\$26,962	\$225,000	\$202,357	\$49,604	-	-	\$0
F3XN	YE	N	1/30/2021	5	202101309418279434	11/24/2020	12/31/2020		\$49,604	\$0	\$87	\$49,517	-	-	\$0
F24N	48		10/9/2020	1	202010099285099151				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F24N	24		10/23/2020	2	202010239336504570				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F1A		A	3/17/2020	4	202003179203839912				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F24N	24		10/27/2020	1	202010279336627618							\$415,600	\$370,543		
Totals															

O-Index (2017-2018)
Cmte. ID: C00518779 Cmte. Name: CONSERVATIVES ACTING TOGETHER POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (CATPAC)
Treasurer Name: SATTERFIELD, DAVID Address: 228 S WASHINGTON STREET SUITE 115, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Cmte. Type: O (INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY COMMITTEE) Cmte. Designation: U (UNAUTHORIZED) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER

Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
F3XN	MY	N	7/31/2017	6	201707319069909256	1/1/2017	6/30/2017		\$5,307	\$0	\$282	\$5,024	-	-	\$0
F3XN	YE	N	1/31/2018	6	201801319090981930	7/1/2017	12/31/2017		\$5,024	\$0	\$238	\$4,785	-	-	\$0
F3XN	Q1	N	4/13/2018	5	201804139108019364	1/1/2018	3/31/2018		\$4,785	\$0	\$25	\$4,760	-	-	\$0
F3XN	Q2	N	7/13/2018	5	201807139115392616	4/1/2018	6/30/2018		\$4,760	\$0	\$60	\$4,700	-	-	\$0
F3XN	Q3	N	10/15/2018	5	201810159124787041	7/1/2018	9/30/2018		\$4,700	\$0	\$198	\$4,501	-	-	\$0
F3XN	30G	N	12/5/2018	5	201812059134327787	10/1/2018	11/26/2018		\$4,501	\$0	\$40	\$4,461	-	-	\$0
F3XN	YE	N	1/14/2019	5	201901149143813359	11/27/2018	12/31/2018		\$4,461	\$0	\$0	\$4,461	-	-	\$0
Totals										\$0	\$845				

Conservatives Acting Together Political Action Committee (CATPAC) (C00518779)
2020 12-Day Pre-General Report, received 10/22/2020

48-Hour Report Not Timely Filed

Name of Payee	Date of Dissemination (Schedule E)	Expenditure Amount	Candidate Opposed	Election	48-Hour Report Filed
Imge LLC	10/13/2020	\$122,094.32 <i>48-Hour Report Required</i>	COLIN ALLRED	2020 General	1/7/2021