

RAD Referral 21L-27
Rural Colorado United
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21L-27

REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL

TO

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE

DATE: May 11, 2021

ANALYST: Abigail Capps

I. COMMITTEE: Rural Colorado United
C00755678
George Autobee, Treasurer
P.O. Box 19834
Colorado City, CO 81019

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)

Rural Colorado United (“the Committee”) failed to timely file two (2) 48-Hour Reports totaling \$76,401.99 to support seventeen (17) independent expenditures disclosed in the 2020 October Quarterly Report, made up to and including the 20th day before the 2020 General Election (Attachment 2).

On October 15, 2020, the Committee filed its 2020 October Quarterly Report, covering the period from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. The report included a Schedule E (Itemized Independent Expenditures) disclosing twenty-one (21) independent expenditures totaling \$80,486.33 made in opposition to one (1) Federal candidate (Images 202010159294409020-30).

On December 10, 2020, a Request for Additional Information (RFAI) was sent to the Committee referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report. Among other items, the

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RFAI noted that the Committee may have failed to file one (1) or more of the required 48-Hour Reports regarding independent expenditures. A chart was included with the RFAI identifying seventeen (17) independent expenditures, totaling \$76,401.99, for which a 48-Hour Report had not been filed (Images 202012100300095320-23, Attachment 2).¹

On December 15, 2020, Bobbie Kuns, a representative of the Committee, called the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Analyst with questions regarding the RFAI referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report. Ms. Kuns explained she did not believe that 48-Hour Reports needed to be filed until the 20th day before a given election. The Analyst explained that 48-Hour Reports were required for independent expenditures made up to and including the 20th day before the day of a given election each time independent expenditures for that election aggregated to \$10,000.00 or more. Ms. Kuns said she would file the missing 48-Hour Reports. The Analyst encouraged her to do so and informed her the reports would still be considered not timely filed (Attachment 3).

On December 18, 2020, the Committee filed one (1) 24-Hour Report to support twenty-eight (28) independent expenditures, totaling \$82,977.61, disseminated on September 1, 2020, September 3, 2020, September 9, 2020, September 14, 2020, September 18, 2020, September 24, 2020, September 28, 2020, September 29, 2020, October 17, 2020, October 24, 2020, October 31, 2020, and November 18, 2020 (Images 202012189393370015-28).²

On January 14, 2021, the Committee filed an Amended 2020 October Quarterly Report. The report disclosed no changes to Schedule E from the original report (Images 202101149404571945-91, Attachment 2).

On April 8, 2021, the RAD Analyst called George Autobee, the Committee's Treasurer, to discuss the outstanding issues noted on the RFAI referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report. The Analyst explained that the Committee could be referred to another Commission office for potential further action. Mr. Autobee asked if the Commission had received the 48-Hour Report filed on December 18, 2020. The Analyst confirmed receipt of the 48-Hour Report; however, explained that the outstanding matter remained unresolved because the Report had not been timely filed. The Analyst encouraged Mr. Autobee to provide any additional information he had regarding the circumstances surrounding the report not being timely filed (Attachment 3).

Also, on April 8, 2021, Ms. Kuns called the RAD Analyst several times to discuss the outstanding issues from the RFAI referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report. Ms. Kuns explained that she believed that the matter was resolved when the Committee filed the missing 48-Hour Report on December 18, 2020. The Analyst explained the outstanding matter was not resolved because the report was not timely filed. The Analyst encouraged Ms. Kuns to file any additional information she had detailing the circumstances

¹ The chart attached to the December 10, 2020 RFAI referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report did not include one (1) independent expenditure disseminated on September 24, 2020 for \$2,750.00 due to the Committee indicating this independent expenditure was for the 2020 Primary Election in Colorado.

² Please note that the Committee incorrectly filed a 24-Hour Report instead of the required 48-Hour Report of Independent Expenditures made up to and including the 20th day before the 2020 General Election.

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surrounding the report not being timely filed via an FEC Form 99 (Miscellaneous Electronic Submission). She said that she would file a response as soon as possible (Attachment 3).

On April 9, 2021, the RAD Analyst called Ms. Kuns. Among other matters, the Analyst and Ms. Kuns continued to discuss the outstanding matter noted on the RFAI referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report. Ms. Kuns indicated that she would file an FEC Form 99 in response to the RFAI later that day (Attachment 3).

Also, on April 9, 2021, Ms. Kuns called the RAD Analyst with a reporting question concerning how the Committee may file an FEC Form 99 in response to the RFAI referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report. The Analyst directed her to the FEC Online Webforms and provided step-by-step instructions detailing how to provide a narrative statement on the public record (Attachment 3).

On April 12, 2021, the RAD Analyst called Ms. Kuns to discuss the outstanding issue noted on the RFAI referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report. The Analyst explained that the Commission had not received the Committee's FEC Form 99 in response to the RFAI. Ms. Kuns stated that she would file the FEC Form 99 response that day (Attachment 3).

On that same day, the Committee filed an FEC Form 99 in response to the RFAI referencing the 2020 October Quarterly Report. The Committee stated, in part:

“One or more of the 24 hour reports were not filed in a timely manner. As soon as we realized we were required to file 24 hour reports, we began filing them. We now are aware and understand the reporting requirements, and have strived to stay in compliance since” (Image 202104129443213594).

To date, no further communication has been received from the Committee regarding this matter.

O-Index (2021-2022)															
Cmte. Type: O (INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY COMMITTEE)						Cmte. ID: C00755678 Cmte. Name: RURAL COLORADO UNITED									
Treasurer Name: AUTOBEE, GEORGE						Address: PO BOX 19834, COLORADO CITY, CO 81019									
Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltrr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
MS-T			1/14/2021	1	202101149404571992				-	-	-	-	-	-	
MS-T			4/9/2021	1	202104099443159884				-	-	-	-	-	-	
MS-T			4/9/2021	1	202104099443160203				-	-	-	-	-	-	
MS-T			4/12/2021	1	202104129443213594				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		1/5/2021	4	202101059394540079				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		1/12/2021	1	202101129398457223				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		1/29/2021	1	202101299413886109				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		3/2/2021	6	202103029431312732				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		4/29/2021	3	202104299446136332				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		4/29/2021	3	202104299446136381				-	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals										\$0	\$0				

O-Index (2019-2020)															
Cmte. Type: O (INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY COMMITTEE)						Cmte. ID: C00755678 Cmte. Name: RURAL COLORADO UNITED									
Treasurer Name: AUTOBEE, GEORGE						Address: PO BOX 19834, COLORADO CITY, CO 81019									
Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltrr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
MS-T			9/24/2020	3	202009290300343759				-	-	-	-	-	-	
RQ2	Q3	N	12/10/2020	4	202012100300095320	7/1/2020	9/30/2020	12/10/2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	
RQ2	12G	A	4/1/2021	4	202104010300114308	10/1/2020	10/14/2020	4/1/2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	
RQ2	30G	A	4/1/2021	3	202104010300114313	10/15/2020	11/23/2020	4/1/2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	
F3XN	Q3	N	10/15/2020	47	202010159294408984	7/1/2020	9/30/2020		\$0	\$202,680	\$80,486	\$122,193	-	-	\$0
F3XA	Q3	A	1/14/2021	47	202101149404571945	7/1/2020	9/30/2020		\$0	\$202,680	\$80,486	\$122,193	-	-	\$0
F3XN	12G	N	10/18/2020	30	202010189297152331	10/1/2020	10/14/2020		\$122,193	\$34,518	\$113,956	\$42,754	-	-	\$0
F3XA	12G	A	11/30/2020	32	202011309337209851	10/1/2020	10/14/2020		\$122,193	\$54,518	\$109,794	\$66,916	-	-	\$0
F3XN	30G	N	11/30/2020	34	202011309337209754	10/15/2020	11/23/2020		\$66,916	\$47,315	\$120,872	(\$6,641)	-	-	\$0
F3XA	30G	A	12/2/2020	37	202012029337490819	10/15/2020	11/23/2020		\$66,916	\$48,565	\$115,296	\$185	-	-	\$0
F3XA	30G	A	12/3/2020	38	202012039339604193	10/15/2020	11/23/2020		\$66,916	\$50,624	\$115,344	\$2,196	-	-	\$0
F3XN	YE	N	1/29/2021	13	202101299413913428	11/24/2020	12/31/2020		\$2,196	\$6,668	\$3,330	\$5,534	-	-	\$0
F1N		N	8/19/2020	5	202008199261415318				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	48		10/16/2020	11	202010169296952907				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/16/2020	5	202010169296953019				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/22/2020	2	202010229333030363				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/20/2020	4	202010209298273648				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/18/2020	1	202010189297152430				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/26/2020	2	202010269336548344				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/31/2020	3	202010319336677469				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/28/2020	4	202010289336632233				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/28/2020	1	202010289336632277				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		10/30/2020	2	202010309336671557				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		11/3/2020	4	202011039336744072				-	-	-	-	-	-	
F24N	24		12/18/2020	14	202012189393370015				-	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals										\$314,490	\$308,955				

O-Index (2017-2018)

Cmte. ID: C00755678 Cmte. Name: RURAL COLORADO UNITED

Treasurer Name: AUTOBEE, GEORGE Address: PO BOX 19834, COLORADO CITY, CO 81019

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
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No records were found for this cycle.

Rural Colorado United
2020 October Quarterly Report

48-Hour Reports Not Timely Filed

Name of Payee	Date of Dissemination (Schedule E)	Expenditure Amount	Candidate Opposed	Election	24-Hour Report Filed ³
SQUARESPACE	9/1/2020	\$16.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
SQUARESPACE	9/1/2020	\$20.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
MB STRATEGIES LLC	9/3/2020	\$3,200.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
US BANK	9/9/2020	\$36.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
LAMAR COMPANIES	9/14/2020	\$1,857.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
MAIL CHIMP	9/14/2020	\$19.99	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
MB STRATEGIES LLC	9/14/2020	\$2,500.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
CAPITAL HILL LAW	9/18/2020	\$200.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
LAMAR COMPANIES	9/28/2020	\$3,412.00 <i>48-Hour Report Required</i>	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
SUSIE SCOTT MEDIA LLC	9/28/2020	\$3,083.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
SUSIE SCOTT MEDIA LLC	9/28/2020	\$3,658.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
CHOOZLE, INC	9/29/2020	\$20,000.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
COLORADO WEST OUTDOOR ADVERTISING	9/29/2020	\$6,400.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
EFFECTV EAST	9/29/2020	\$10,000.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020

³ Please note that the Committee incorrectly filed a 24-Hour Report instead of the required 48-Hour Report of Independent Expenditures made up to and including the 20th day before the 2020 General Election.

Rural Colorado United
 2020 October Quarterly Report

48-Hour Reports Not Timely Filed

Name of Payee	Date of Dissemination (Schedule E)	Expenditure Amount	Candidate Opposed	Election	24-Hour Report Filed
KKCO	9/29/2020	\$2,000.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
SPECTRUM	9/29/2020	\$10,000.00	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020
SPECTRUM	9/29/2020	\$10,000.00 <i>48-Hour Report Required</i>	BOEBERT, LAURENT	2020 General	12/18/2020