



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

January 12, 2022

Laurel Sheffield, Treasurer
Kern County Republican Central Committee
P.O. Box 1144
Bakersfield, CA 93302

**Response Due Date
February 3, 2022**

Re: ADR 1067 (P-MUR 646)
ADR 1068 (RR 20L-13)
Kern County Republican Central Committee and Laurel Sheffield, Treasurer
(C00265603)

Dear Laurel Sheffield:

The Federal Election Commission (FEC or Commission) referred a compliance issue to the FEC's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office (ADR Office) for processing. The referral by the Commissioners was based on a review of reports filed by Kern County Republican Central Committee which reflect a possible failure to comply with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, along with a *sua sponte* submission.

The FEC established the ADR Program to provide an informal means for resolving matters that come before the Commission and to facilitate negotiations directly with Kern County Republican Central Committee and Laurel Sheffield, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee). The ADR Program provides Respondents with an opportunity to negotiate settlement of a matter that is mutually agreeable. The negotiations occur prior to any Commission consideration of whether there is reason to believe a violation has occurred. If negotiations are successful, the resulting settlement would conclude the matter.

The Commission, in referring the matter to the ADR Office, determined that the case is eligible for processing in the ADR program. If Respondents decide to participate in the ADR Program, you must: 1) indicate in writing a willingness to have your case submitted for ADR processing; 2) agree to participate in the bilateral interest based negotiations; and 3) waive the statute of limitations while the matter is being processed under the FEC's ADR program.

The issues referred to the ADRO, and the focus of our subsequent negotiations are summarized as follows:

The Reports Analysis Division (RAD) referred Kern County Republican Central Committee and Laurel Sheffield, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee) on July 24,

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE
1050 FIRST STREET N.E., WASHINGTON, DC 20463
EMAIL: KROCHE@FEC.GOV

2020, for apparent unauthorized disbursement totaling \$218,546.39 on the 2019 Mid-Year Report.

The Committee states in a *sua sponte* submission filed on October 23, 2020, that in response to the discovery of the unauthorized disbursements it undertook an investigation, appointed a new treasurer, and implemented internal controls in accordance with the Commission's best practices. Further, the Committee states it obtained partial restitution from the former treasurer and reported the matter to law enforcement.

If after reviewing this letter and the enclosed ADR Frequently Asked Questions, which describe the ADR program, Respondent(s) would like to participate in ADR processing, you need to affirmatively indicate that on the enclosed Commitment to Submit Matter to ADR form. **Failure to respond affirmatively within fifteen (15) business days from the date of this letter will be taken as a notice of disinterest in the program and your case will be dropped from further consideration for ADR.** In that event, your case will be sent to the FEC's Office of General Counsel for further processing.

This matter has been designated as **ADR 1067 and ADR 1068**. Please refer to this number in future correspondence with the FEC. If you have questions about the ADR Program, please contact the ADRO at my direct dial as indicated below

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Roche', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Krista J. Roche
Director

Alternative Dispute Resolution Office