



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

December 5, 2022

Melinda Paterson

Aspen, CO 81611

Re: ADR 1081 (22L-16)
For a Better Colorado and Melinda Paterson, Treasurer (C00758664)

Dear Melinda Paterson:

Enclosed is the signed copy of the Negotiated Settlement resolving the above-shown matter. The Negotiated Settlement was approved by the Commission on December 1, 2022 – the effective date of the agreement.

Note the specific time frames for compliance detailed in the agreement. Please forward to this office, a statement confirming Respondent's compliance with each term. The letter should note the dates on which Respondents satisfied each of the terms and contain the ADR case number. For your convenience, a compliance chart is attached.

Under the terms of the agreement, a civil penalty in the amount of \$12,625 is due in two (2) installment payments - \$6,312.00 due on January 2, 2023, and \$6,313.00 due on February 6, 2023. Kindly review the attached payment instructions for details on payment methods and the collection of unpaid debts.

As you are aware, the Negotiated Settlement will be made part of the record that is released to the public. The Commission will also place on the record copies of the complaint/referral, correspondence exchanged between your office and this office prior to our negotiations, and reports prepared for the Commission by this office to assist in its consideration of this matter. The Commission is obliged by Federal statute to place on the public record documents in closed enforcement and alternative dispute resolution cases; accordingly, copies of documents relative to this matter will be forwarded shortly to the FEC's Public Records Office.

This agreement resolves this matter. I appreciate your assistance in effectively resolving this matter and bringing the case to a mutually acceptable conclusion.

Sincerely,



Rosa Marshall
Assistant Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

Enc: Payment Instructions
Compliance Chart
Negotiated Settlement

ADRO Civil Penalty Payment Instructions

You may remit payment by credit card, debit card, or ACH withdrawal from your bank account through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online collections. Visit www.fec.gov/adrpayment to be directed to Pay.gov's FEC ADR Payment form.

Unpaid Civil Penalties

Unpaid civil money penalties will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA") as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 ("DCIA"), 31 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq. If you do not pay this debt within 30 days (or file a written petition to a federal district court - see below), the Commission will transfer the debt to the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") for collection. Within 5 days of the transfer to Treasury, Treasury will contact you to request payment. Treasury currently charges a fee of 30% of the civil money penalty amount for its collection services. If the age of the debt is greater than or equal to two years old, Treasury will charge a fee of 32% of the civil money penalty amount for its collection services. The fee will be added to the amount of the civil money penalty that you owe. Should Treasury's attempts fail, Treasury will refer the debt to a private collection agency ("PCA"). If the debt remains unpaid, Treasury may recommend that the Commission refer the matter to the Department of Justice for litigation.

Actions which may be taken to enforce recovery of a delinquent debt by Treasury may also include: (1) offset of any payments, which the debtor is due, including tax refunds and salary; (2) referral of the debt to agency counsel for litigation; (3) reporting of the debt to a credit bureau; (4) administrative wage garnishment; and (5) reporting of the debt, if discharged, to the IRS as potential taxable income. In addition, under the provisions of DCIA and other statutes applicable to the FEC, the debtor may be subject to the assessment of other statutory interest, penalties, and administrative costs.

In accordance with the DCIA, at your request, the agency will offer you the opportunity to inspect and copy records relating to the debt, the opportunity for a review of the debt, and the opportunity to enter into a written repayment agreement.



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Case Number: ADR 1081

Source: RAD 22L-16

Case Name: For A Better Colorado

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT

This matter was initiated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC or the Commission) pursuant to information ascertained in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. Following review of the matter, and in an effort to promote compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, (FECA) and resolve this matter, the Commission entered into negotiations with Melinda Paterson representing For A Better Colorado and herself, in the official capacity of Treasurer (the Committee or Respondents). It is understood that this settlement will have no precedential value relative to any other matters coming before the Commission.

Negotiations between the Commission and Respondents addressed the issues raised in this referral. The parties agree to resolve the matter according to the following terms:

1. The Commission enters into this settlement as part of its responsibility for administering the FECA, and in an effort to promote compliance on the part of Respondents. The Commission's use of alternative dispute resolution procedures (ADR) is guided by "The Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996," 5 U.S.C. § 572 and is an extension of 52 U.S.C. § 30109.
2. Respondents voluntarily enter into this settlement with the Commission.
3. The Reports Analysis Division (RAD) referred Respondents for four (4) issues.
 - a. Respondents failed to timely file one (1) 48-Hour Report totaling \$59,523.90 to support two (2) independent expenditures disclosed in the Amended 2020 October Quarterly Report, received October 26, 2021. The 48-Hour Reports were filed on January 5, 2021, and October 26, 2021, albeit untimely.
 - b. Respondents failed to disclose all financial activity on their 2020 October Quarterly Report. On May 5, 2021, the Committee filed an Amended 2020 October Quarterly Report which disclosed \$59,523.90 in additional disbursements.
 - c. Respondents failed to disclose all financial activity on their 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report. On October 26, 2021, the Committee filed an Amended 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report which disclosed \$50,030.00 in additional disbursements.
 - d. Respondents failed to timely file one (1) 24-Hour Report totaling \$50,000.00 to support two (2) independent expenditures disclosed in the Amended 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report,

received October 26, 2021. The 24-Hour Report was filed on October 26, 2021, albeit untimely.

4. a. A person, including a political committee, that makes or contracts to make independent expenditures aggregating \$10,000.00 or more at any time up to and including the 20th day before the date of an election shall file a report describing the expenditures within 48 hours. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(g)(2), 11 C.F.R. § 104.4(b)(2).
 - b. Treasurers of political committees are required to report all financial activity, including all disbursements, pursuant to the FECA. 52 U.S.C. §§ 30104(a)(1), 30104(b)(4), 11 C.F.R. §§ 104.1, 104.3(b).
 - c. A person, including a political committee, that makes or contracts to make independent expenditures aggregating \$1,000.00 or more after the 20th day, but more than 24 hours, before the date of an election shall file a report describing the expenditures within 24 hours. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(g)(1), 11 C.F.R. § 104.4(c).
5. Respondent acknowledges its failure to timely disclose the independent expenditures and states it was unaware of independent expenditure reporting requirements since this was its first independent expenditure campaign. The Committee additionally notes that it intends to terminate its political committee status upon resolution of this matter.
6. Respondents, in order to resolve this matter, agree to:
 - a. As the Committee wishes to terminate its political committee status, Respondents will certify the closure of the Committee's federal account and file a termination report within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this agreement, and work with Commission staff to terminate their political committee status and reporting obligations with the Commission. The Committee will continue reporting until such time as the termination has been approved.
 - b. Pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of \$12,625.00, payable as follows:
 - i. Two (2) installments of \$6,312.00 due within thirty (30) and sixty (60) days of the effective date of this agreement and one (1) installment of \$6,313.00 due within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this agreement.
 - ii. In the event that any payment is not received by the Commission by the fifth day after it becomes due, the Commission may, at its discretion, accelerate the remaining payments and cause the entire amount to become due upon ten days written notice to the Respondents. Failure by the Commission to accelerate the payments with regard to any overdue payment shall not be construed as a waiver of its right to do so with regard to further overdue payments. Unpaid civil money penalties are subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), 31 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq. The Commission will transfer debt to the United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury) for collection.
7. Respondents agree that all information provided to resolve this matter is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and that they sign this settlement under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746.

8. The parties agree that if Respondents fail to comply with the terms of this settlement, the Commission may undertake civil action in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to secure compliance. Unpaid civil money penalties are subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), 31 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq. The Commission will transfer the debt to the United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury) for collection.
9. This settlement shall become effective on the date signed by all parties and approved by the Commission. Respondents shall comply with the terms of this settlement as set forth above and shall certify compliance with the above settlement terms in writing to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office on or before the date each term becomes due.
10. This Negotiated Settlement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties on ADR 1081 (RAD 22L-16), and resolves those issues identified above. No other statement, promise or agreement, either written or oral, made by either party, not included herein, shall be enforceable.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Rosa Marshall, Assistant Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office



12/1/2022

Date Signed

FOR THE RESPONDENTS:



Melinda Paterson (Sep 13, 2022 15:03 MDT)

Melinda Paterson
Representing For A Better Colorado
and Melinda Paterson, Treasurer

Sep 13, 2022

Date Signed