

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 14, 2025

### Via Email

Gary Tasser, Treasurer Kumar for Congress

Rishi Kumar

Re: ADR 1197 (RAD 24L-51)

ADR 1199 (RR 23L-41 and MUR 8152)

Kumar for Congress and Gary Tasser, Treasurer (C00695866)

Dear Rishi Kumar & Gary Tasser:

Enclosed is the signed copy of the Negotiated Settlement resolving the aboveshown matters. The Negotiated Settlement was approved by the Commission on May 7, 2025 – 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 \$1,756.33 is due on June 6, 2025. Kindly review the attached payment instructions for details on payment methods and the collection of unpaid debts. Please also note that if the outstanding \$1,700 refund check is not cashed within ninety (90) days of its issue, it must be disgorged to the US Treasury.

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.

### ADR119700017

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

Sincerely,

Krista J. Roche

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 <a href="www.fec.gov/adrpayment">www.fec.gov/adrpayment</a> 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.

## **ADR 1197 Compliance Chart**

Thu 5/7/2026

Type	Date Due

Certify that a representative participated in an FEC training



Case Numbers: ADR 1197 & ADR 1199 Source: RAD 24L-51, RR 23L-41, and MUR 8152 Case Name: Kumar for Congress

### NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT

These matters were initiated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC or the Commission) pursuant to information ascertained in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities and the filing of two Complaints. Following review of these matters, and in an effort to promote compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, (FECA) and resolve these matters, the Federal Election Commission (FEC or the Commission) entered into negotiations with Rishi Kumar representing himself (the Candidate), and Gary Tasser representing Kumar for Congress and himself in the official capacity of Treasurer (the Committee or Respondents, collectively). 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 these referrals and Complaints. The parties agree to resolve the matters 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 in RR 23L-41 for failing to disclose all financial activity on the 2022 12-Day Pre-General Report. The Committee filed an Amended 2022 12-Day Pre-General Report which disclosed additional disbursements totaling \$70,100.
- 4. RAD referred Respondents in RAD 24L-51 for failing to remedy 2024 general election contributions, totaling \$46,300, within the permissible timeframe. All of the contributions have been remedied, albeit untimely.
- 5. On January 11, 2023, Mary McMillan filed a Complaint alleging, in part, that \$19,900 in contributions were misattributed in the 2022 election cycle.
- 6. On August 9, 2023, Tamara Fagin filed a Complaint alleging that Rishi Kumar failed to file a Statement of Candidacy designating Kumar for Congress as his principal campaign committee for the 2023-2024 election cycle, despite meeting the statutory requirements as

- a candidate. The Complaint also alleges that the Committee misreported its election-cycle-to-date receipts on its 2023 July Quarterly Report by \$3,438.
- 7. 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), (b)(4); 11 C.F.R. §§ 104.1, 104.3(b).
- 8. If the candidate is not a candidate in a general election, any contributions made for the general election shall be refunded to the contributors, redesignated, or reattributed within sixty (60) days. 52 U.S.C. 30116(a); 11 C.F.R. §§ 102.9(e), 110.1(b)(3).
- 9. During the 2021-2022 election cycle, an authorized committee could not receive more than \$2,900 per election from any person or \$5,000 per election from a multicandidate political committee. 52 U.S.C § 30116; 11 CFR §§ 110.1(b), 110.2(b). Within 60 days of receiving the excessive contribution, the committee must receive the proper reattribution or redesignation, or refund the excessive portion to the donor. 11 CFR § 103.3.
- 10. No later than fifteen days after becoming a candidate, each candidate for Federal office shall designate a political committee to serve as the principal campaign committee of such candidate. 52 U.S.C. § 30102(e)(1); 11 C.F.R. § 101.1(a).
- 11. Each report filed must disclose the amount of cash on hand at the beginning of the reporting period, as well as at the close of the reporting period. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(1), (b)(8); 11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a)(1), (b)(1), (d).
- 12. Respondents state that all issues described above have been remedied. Respondents further state that they are committed to compliance and have implemented additional procedures to ensure timely and accurate reporting in the future. Specifically, after the treasurer prepares each report, another staff member performs an internal audit and bank reconciliation before reports are forwarded to the Candidate for additional review and approval to file.
- 13. Respondents, in an effort to avoid similar errors in the future, agree to:
  - (a) certify that a representative of the Committee participated in an FEC conference, webinar, or other training program developed in consultation with the FEC's Information Division within twelve (12) months of the effective date of this settlement; and
  - (b) pay a civil penalty of \$1,756.33, the amount of funds remaining in the Committee's bank account less a \$1,700 outstanding refund check which shall be disgorged to the US Treasury if not cashed within ninety (90) days of issue, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this settlement. The Committee acknowledges that a larger civil penalty would be appropriate under the circumstances of this matter. However, the Committee indicates that financial hardship prevents it from paying such penalty and has submitted financial documentation in support of this claim. These submissions and representations are material representations attested to in this settlement. Due to the Committee's financial condition, it is requested that the Commission depart from the civil penalty that the Commission would otherwise seek for the violations at issue.

Respondents understand that if evidence is discovered indicating that the Committee's financial condition is not as stated, a civil penalty of up to \$7,350 (less any previously paid amount) shall be due immediately. Further, if the Committee receives any funds within two (2) years of the effective date of this agreement, they shall be paid towards the civil penalty of \$7,350 (less any previously paid amount) prior to any other disbursements, including the repayment of any candidate loans.

- 14. Respondents agree that all information provided to resolve these matters 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.
- 15. 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 debt to the United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury) for collection.
- 16. 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 out 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.
- 17. This Negotiated Settlement constitutes the entire settlement between the parties in ADR 1197 (RAD 24L-51) and ADR 1199 (MUR 8152 and RR 23L-41), 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: Krista J. Roche, Director Alternative Dispute Resolution Office May 7, 2025 Date Signed FOR THE RESPONDENTS: Apr 23, 2025 Gary Tasser Representing Kumar for Congress and Gary Tasser, Treasurer Apr 22, 2025 Apr 22, 2025 Date Signed