



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

March 14, 2014

Jeff Howell, Treasurer
Republican Party of Florida
420 E. Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: ADR 702 (P-MUR 570)
Republican Party of Florida and Jeff Howell, Treasurer

Dear Mr. Howell:

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 Office of General Counsel was based on a *sua sponte* submission filed by the Republican Party of Florida which noted a possible failure to comply with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

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 the Republican Party of Florida and Jeff Howell, 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 concludes 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:

SUMMARY: The Office of General Counsel referred this *sua sponte* submission filed by the Republican Party of Florida and Jeff Howell, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee) on January 29, 2014. The Committee self-reported that it failed to file 48-Hour Reports for eleven (11) independent expenditures in the amount of \$115,961.07 made between December 6, 2013 and January 17, 2014 in connection with the March 11,

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE
999 E STREET N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20463
TELEPHONE: 202.694.1665 FAX: 202.219.0613
EMAIL: lfraser@fec.gov

14190294441

2014 special general election in Florida's 13th Congressional District. The 48-Hour Reports were filed on January 28, 2014, and the independent expenditures were disclosed on Schedule E of the 2012 Year End Report filed January 31, 2014.

If after reviewing this letter and the enclosed ADR Frequently Asked Questions, which describe the ADR program, Respondents 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 of receipt 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, and the likelihood that the Committee will be audited during the next election cycle will increase.

This matter has been designated as **ADR 702**. 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,

Lynn M. Fraser, Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office
202-694-1665

Enclosures: ADR Frequently Asked Questions
Commitment to Submit Matter to ADR
Designation of Representative/Counsel