



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

March 14, 2014

Shane Goettle, Treasurer
North Dakota Republican Party
1029 North 5th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: ADR 706 (AR 14-01)
North Dakota Republican Party and Shane Goettle, Treasurer

Dear Mr. Goettle:

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 Audit Division (Audit) was based on an audit of the North Dakota Republican Party which reflects 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 North Dakota Republican Party and Shane Goettle, 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 Audit Division referred the North Dakota Republican Party and Shane Goettle, Treasurer (Respondents or the Committee) for a material misstatement of financial activity in 2009 and 2010. The final audit, approved on February 3, 2014, of the Committee's reports filed with the Commission and the Committee's bank records for 2009-2010 revealed a \$657,482 misstatement of financial activity.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE
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Respondents contend that they worked with the Audit Team to file amended reports throughout the process. In response to the draft final audit report, the Committee filed additional amended reports that materially corrected the misstatement for 2009-2010.

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 706**. 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