



Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

June 2, 2016

Neil Reiff, Esq.
Sandler, Reiff, Lamb Rosenstein & Burkenstock, PC
1025 Vermont Ave, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

Re: ADR 793
Ohio Democratic Party and Fran Alberty, Treasurer

Dear Mr. Reiff:

Enclosed is the signed copy of the Negotiated Settlement resolving the referral initiated on December 30, 2015, by the Federal Election Commission ("FEC/Commission") involving the above-shown Respondents. The Negotiated Settlement was approved by the Commission on June 2, 2016 – the effective date of the agreement.

Note the specific time frames for compliance in Paragraph 6 of the agreement. Please forward to this office, a statement confirming Respondent's compliance with the terms listed in the aforementioned agreement. The letter should note the dates on which Respondents satisfied each of the terms listed in Paragraph 6, and contain the ADR caption and case number. The civil penalty payment should be sent to the attention of the Accounting/Finance Office of the FEC. The civil penalty under the agreement is due on or before July 2, 2016.¹ Please put the ADR case number on the civil penalty check as well, to ensure crediting to the correct case.

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 Information Office.

¹ Please note, if the Commission refers an unpaid civil penalty to the US Treasury or third party collection agent, additional costs and fees will be assessed.



Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

Case Number: ADR 793
Source: RAD 15L-51
Case Name: Ohio Democratic Party

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT

This matter was initiated by the Federal Election Commission (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 Neil Reiff, Esq., representing the Ohio Democratic Party and Fran Alberty, in his/her official capacity as Treasurer (the Committee or Respondents). It is understood that this agreement 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 entered into this agreement 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 agreement with the Commission.
3. The Reports Analysis Division (RAD) referred Respondents for failure to remedy excessive contributions totaling \$51,066.56 within the permissible timeframe during the 2013-2014 election cycle. The Committee has remedied these excessive contributions, albeit untimely.
4. No person shall make contributions to a political committee established and maintained by a State committee of a political party in any calendar year which, in the aggregate, exceed \$10,000. 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a), 11 C.F.R. § 110.1(c). No multicandidate political committee shall make contributions to any other political committee in any calendar year which exceed \$5,000. 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a), 11 C.F.R. § 110.2(d). If a committee receives a contribution that appears to be excessive, the committee must return the check to the donor, deposit the contribution and maintain sufficient funds to potentially make a refund until the legality of the contribution is established, or seek a reattribution or a redesignation of the excessive portion. If the committee does not receive a proper reattribution or redesignation within 60 days of

receiving the excessive contribution, the excessive portion must be refunded to the donor. 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f), 11 C.F.R. § 103.3.

5. On July 29, 2015, the Committee filed a Miscellaneous Electronic Submission (FEC Form 99). The Committee stated, in part, that it "has implemented new procedures to prevent any future issues with excessive contributions."
6. 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 program developed in consultation with the FEC's Information Division within twelve (12) months of the effective date of this agreement; and (b) pay a civil penalty of \$3,850 within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this agreement.
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 agreement 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 submit any unpaid civil penalty to the U.S. Treasury for collection or undertake civil action in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to secure compliance.
9. This agreement shall become effective on the date signed by all parties and approved by the Commission. Respondents shall comply with the terms of this agreement as set out in paragraph 6 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 793 (RAD 15L-51), and resolves those issues identified in paragraph 3 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, Assistant Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office



6/2/16
Date Signed

FOR THE RESPONDENTS:



Neil Reiff, Esq.
Representing Ohio Democratic Party and
Fran Alberty, Treasurer

5/16/16
Date Signed