



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

September 5, 2019

Robert Owens
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Re: ADR 910
National Rifle Association (NRA) Institute for Legislative Action and Robert
Owens, Treasurer

Dear Robert Owens:

Enclosed is the signed copy of the Negotiated Settlement resolving the above-shown matter. The Negotiated Settlement was approved by the Commission on August 29, 2019 – 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 \$4,500.00 is due on September 28, 2019. 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.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION – ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE
1050 FIRST STREET, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463
TELEPHONE: 202.694.1661
EMAIL: ADR@FEC.GOV

Sincerely,



Krista J. Roche
Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

Enc:

Negotiated Settlement

cc: Gwendolyn Holmes, Finance and Accounting Office



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Case Number: ADR 910

Source: RAD 19L-08

Case Name: National Rifle Association (NRA) Institute for Legislative Action

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 Robert G. Owens representing National Rifle Association (NRA) Institute for Legislative Action and himself, in the official capacity of Fiscal Officer (Respondents or the Organization). 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 the Organization for failing to disclose all financial activity on its 2018 12 Day Pre-General Report, originally filed on October 25, 2018. On November 3, 2018, the Organization filed an Amended 2018 12 Day Pre-General Report including \$104,813.99 in additional disbursements.
4. The FECA requires every membership organization that makes disbursements exceeding \$2,000 per election for communications expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate to disclose such costs to the Commission on FEC Form 7. 2 U.S.C. § 431(9)(B)(iii), 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.134(a), 104.6, 114.5(e)(2)(i).
5. In a Form 99 (Miscellaneous Electronic Submission) filed on December 18, 2018, the Respondents stated that the information disclosed on the amendment was "inadvertently overlooked when the original report was prepared." The Respondents additionally explained that invoices relating to federal candidate advocacy were "incorrectly coded in the accounting system... and as a result not included in the committee's 12-Day Pre-General Report." The Respondents further state that all information was complete and accurate before the general election held on November 6, 2018.

6. Respondents, in an effort to avoid similar errors in the future, agree to: (a) develop and certify implementation of a compliance operations manual which includes internal controls consistent with those described in the Commission's Internal Controls and Political Committees advisory document (2007) and the Best Practices for Committee Management (published in the April 2009 Record, available at www.fec.gov/pages/brochures/bestpractices.shtml), as well as a process to track receipt of, and response to, communications with the Commission within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this agreement; (b) 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 (c) pay a civil penalty of \$4,500 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 910 (RAD 19L-08), 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, Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

FOR THE RESPONDENTS:

Robert G. Owens
Representing National Rifle Association (NRA) Institute
for Legislative Action and Robert G. Owens, Fiscal Officer

8/29/19
Date Signed

7/8/19
Date Signed