

19L-11

REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL
TO
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE

DATE: June 3, 2019

ANALYST: Jack Baisden

- I. COMMITTEE: ELEVATE OHIO
(C00683037)
Jeffrey A. Ruppert, Treasurer
35 East Gay Street, Ste 403
Columbus, OH 43215
- II. RELEVANT STATUTE: 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(4)
11 CFR §104.3(b)

III. BACKGROUND:

Failure to Provide Supporting Schedules (Failure to Disclose All Financial Activity)

ELEVATE OHIO (“the Committee”) amended its 2018 October Quarterly Report to disclose additional disbursements totaling \$100,000.00 which were not disclosed on the original report (Attachment 2).

On October 14, 2018, the Committee filed its original 2018 October Quarterly Report covering the period from July 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018. The report disclosed \$0.00 in disbursements on Line 23 (Contributions to Federal Candidates/Committees and Other Political Committees) of the Detailed Summary Page (Image 201810149124775591, Attachment 2).

On October 25, 2018, the Committee filed an Amended 2018 October Quarterly Report. The report disclosed \$100,000.00 in disbursements on Line 23 of the Detailed Summary Page, an increase of \$100,000.00 from the original report (Image 201810259130860008, Attachment 2). The Committee included a memo text in the report, which stated in full: “DATA ENTRY ERROR. UPLOADED INCORRECT FILE FOR PREVIOUS REPORT” (Image 201810259130860010).

On February 10, 2019, a Request for Additional Information (RFAI) was sent to the Committee referencing the Amended 2018 October Quarterly Report, received October 25, 2018. The RFAI requested clarification regarding the substantial increase in disbursements disclosed on the Amended 2018 October Quarterly Report (Image 201902100300030475).

On March 18, 2019, the Committee filed a FEC Form 99 (Miscellaneous Electronic Submission) in response to the RFAI referencing the Amended 2018 October Quarterly Report, received October 25, 2018. The Committee stated, in part:

“The increase in distributions reported in the Amended October Quarterly Report (7/1/2018 -- 9/30/2018) as filed on 10/25/2018 resulted from the undersigned working from an incorrect set of data. The undersigned initially relied upon an expenditure dataset based upon an automated sync and upload function between the online committee's bank account and an online Intuit bookkeeping service.

At the time of data entry and report upload to FECFile, the undersigned was not aware that the sync had malfunctioned and did not properly reflect the date or amount of a wire in the dataset.. Upon a fuller review of all account statements and expenditures when filing the 12 Day Pre General Report (11 days after filing the original October Quarterly Report), as well as when making 24 Hour Notifications, the undersigned recognized that the expenditure had not been reported properly and filed the amendment.

In the future, the committee and the undersigned will reconcile all filings with actual account statements before filing. Such a reconciliation is generally part of the undersigned's best practices, but was not fully followed in this instance” (Image 201903189145734155).

On April 12, 2019, the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Analyst called Mr. Jeffrey Ruppert, Committee Treasurer, and left a message informing the Committee they were being referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office for the increase in activity disclosed on their Amended 2018 October Quarterly Report. The RAD Analyst invited the Committee to provide any further clarification on the matter if they wished (Attachment 3).

On April 16, 2019, Mr. Ruppert called the RAD Analyst to discuss the Committee's increase in activity disclosed on their 2018 October Quarterly Report. Mr. Ruppert explained the Committee had provided a response to the RFAI sent requesting clarification, and he did not believe the Committee should be punished for correcting and self-reporting the issue. The RAD Analyst explained the Committee would have a chance to explain the circumstances to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office if any enforcement action was taken (Attachment 3).

To date, no further communications have been received from the Committee regarding this matter.

O-Index (2019)															
Cmte. ID: C00683037 Cmte. Name: ELEVATE OHIO															
Treasurer Name: RUPPERT, JEFFREY A Address: 35 EAST GAY STREET STE 403, COLUMBUS, OH 43215															
Cmte. Type: O (INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY COMMITTEE) Cmte. Designation: U (UNAUTHORIZED) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER															
Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
MS-T			3/18/2019	1	201903189145734155				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F3XN	Q1	N	4/15/2019	5	201904159146171909	1/1/2019	3/31/2019		\$10,975	\$0	\$105	\$10,870	-	-	\$0
Totals										\$0	\$105				

O-Index (2017-2018)															
Cmte. ID: C00683037 Cmte. Name: ELEVATE OHIO															
Treasurer Name: RUPPERT, JEFFREY A Address: 35 EAST GAY STREET STE 403, COLUMBUS, OH 43215															
Cmte. Type: O (INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY COMMITTEE) Cmte. Designation: U (UNAUTHORIZED) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER															
Form Tp	Rpt Tp	A/I	Recpt Dt	Pgs	Begin Img#	Beg Cvg Dt	End Cvg Dt	Ltr Mail Dt	Begin Cash	Recpts	Disb	End Cash	Debts	Loans	Debts & Loans
RQ2	Q3	A	2/10/2019	2	201902100300030475	7/1/2018	9/30/2018	2/10/2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ2	30G	N	3/21/2019	2	201903210300035925	10/18/2018	11/26/2018	3/21/2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RQ2	30G	A	4/9/2019	3	201904090300036868	10/18/2018	11/26/2018	4/9/2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F3XN	Q3	N	10/14/2018	7	201810149124775588	7/1/2018	9/30/2018		\$0	\$235,000	\$0	\$235,000	-	-	\$0
F3XA	Q3	A	10/25/2018	9	201810259130860005	7/1/2018	9/30/2018		\$0	\$235,000	\$100,000	\$135,000	-	-	\$0
F3XN	12G	N	10/25/2018	6	201810259130860014	10/1/2018	10/17/2018		\$135,000	\$0	\$19,280	\$115,720	-	-	\$0
F3XN	30G	N	12/6/2018	12	201812069134454715	10/18/2018	11/26/2018		\$115,720	\$4,000	\$108,729	\$10,990	-	-	\$0
F3XA	30G	A	3/22/2019	13	201903229145920763	10/18/2018	11/26/2018		\$115,720	\$4,000	\$108,709	\$11,010	-	-	\$0
F3XN	YE	N	1/29/2019	5	201901299144137913	11/27/2018	12/31/2018		\$10,990	\$0	\$35	\$10,955	-	-	\$0
F3XA	YE	A	3/22/2019	6	201903229145920790	11/27/2018	12/31/2018		\$11,010	\$0	\$35	\$10,975	-	-	\$0
F1N		N	7/17/2018	5	201807179115729687				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals										\$239,000	\$228,024				

O-Index (2015-2016)															
Cmte. ID: C00683037 Cmte. Name: ELEVATE OHIO															
Treasurer Name: RUPPERT, JEFFREY A Address: 35 EAST GAY STREET STE 403, COLUMBUS, OH 43215															
Cmte. Type: O (INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-ONLY COMMITTEE) Cmte. Designation: U (UNAUTHORIZED) Filing Frequency: QUARTERLY FILER															
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No records were found for this cycle.

ELEVATE OHIO (C00683037)

2018 October Quarterly Report/Amended 2018 October Quarterly Report

Overview of Additional Disbursements

Report Line	Original 2018 October Quarterly Report (Image 201810149124775591)	Amended 2018 October Quarterly Report, Received 10/25/18 (Image 201810259130860008)	Variance Amount
Line 23: Contributions to Federal Candidates/ Committees and Other Political Committees	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Total:			\$100,000.00