



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

November 10, 2020

Montana Rural Voters
P.O. Box 178
Billings, MT 59103

Response Due Date
December 1, 2020

Re: ADR 979 (RAD 20L-21)
Montana Rural Voters (C90019571)

Dear Respondent:

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 Reports Analysis Division was based on a review of reports filed by Montana Rural Voters, which reflect 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 Montana Rural Voters (Respondent). 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 would conclude 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:

The Reports Analysis Division referred Montana Rural Voters (Respondent) for failing to file one (1) 48-Hour Report totaling \$109,008.21 to support three (3) independent expenditures and three (3) 24-Hour Reports totaling \$30,614.47 to support four (4) independent expenditures disclosed in the 2018 Year-End Report.

Respondent filed a Form 99 (Miscellaneous Electronic Submission) on March 4, 2020, acknowledging the error and stating that they have since corrected the issues that caused the error to occur.

If after reviewing this letter and the enclosed ADR Frequently Asked Questions, which describe the ADR program, Respondent(s) 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 from the date 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 979**. 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,



Rosa Marshall
Assistant Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office