



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matters of)	
)	
Fair People for Fair Government)	MUR 7460
Coalition for a Safe Secure America)	MURs 7536 & 7551

STATEMENT OF REASONS OF CHAIR SHANA M. BROUSSARD, VICE CHAIR ALLEN DICKERSON, AND COMMISSIONERS SEAN J. COOKSEY, JAMES E. "TREY" TRAINOR, III, STEVEN T. WALTHER, AND ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB

These matters involve allegations that entities calling themselves Fair People for Fair Government ("Fair People") and Coalition for a Safe Secure America ("CSSA") failed to include required disclaimers on mailers containing express advocacy and failed to report the cost of those mailers to the Commission.

The Complaint in Matter Under Review 7460 alleges that Fair People distributed mailers expressly advocating the defeat of two candidates in the 2018 Republican primary election for Florida's 18th Congressional District and failed to file disclosure reports with the Commission. The mailers, which were distributed in July 2018, approximately one month before the August 28, 2018 primary election, challenged the character and fitness of Republican primary candidates Dave Cummings and Brian Mast.¹ The mailers included the statement "Paid for by Fair People for Fair Government" but did not provide the group's address, telephone number, or website.² In addition, after the Complaint was filed, the Commission was unable to locate an address or other contact information for Fair People with respect to the required notice under 11 C.F.R. § 111.5.³ Nor does the Commission have information that Fair People engaged in activity beyond the alleged distribution of the mailers identified in the Complaint.

Matters Under Review 7536 and 7551 involve similar allegations. The Complaints allege that CSSA failed to include the required disclaimers on mailers that were critical of then-candidate Mike Braun and distributed a week before the 2018 U.S. Senate election. In its

¹ Compl. Attach. 1 and 2.

² *Id.*

³ Fair People is not registered with the Internal Revenue Service or the State of Florida.

MUR 7460 (Fair People for Fair Government)
MURs 7536 and 7551 (Coalition for a Safe Secure America, *et al.*)
Statement of Reasons
Page 2 of 2


Response, CSSA acknowledged that it was responsible for the mailers. It also represented that it was a § 501(c)(4) entity that had dissolved as of December 31, 2018.⁴

In light of the circumstances outlined above, the limited prospects of a successful investigation, and in an effort to direct its constrained resources to more significant matters, the Commission exercises its prosecutorial discretion and dismisses these matters.⁵

May 27, 2021
Date


Shana M. Broussard
Chair

May 28, 2021
Date


Allen Dickerson
Vice Chair

May 28, 2021
Date


Sean J. Cooksey
Commissioner

May 28, 2021
Date


James E. "Trey" Trainor, III
Commissioner

May 27, 2021
Date


Steven T. Walther
Commissioner

May 27, 2021
Date


Ellen L. Weintraub
Commissioner

⁴ See CSSA MUR 7536 Resp. at 1; CSSA MUR 7551 Resp. at 1.

⁵ See Certification, MUR 7460 (Fair People for Fair Government) (Apr. 8, 2021); Certification, MURs 7536 and 7551 (Coalition for a Safe Secure America) (Apr. 8, 2021); *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831 (1985). Although the Commission was unanimous in deciding to dismiss MUR 7460 as a matter of prosecutorial discretion, Commissioners Broussard and Weintraub supported an earlier motion to find reason to believe that Fair People violated the Act as recommended in the First General Counsel's Report. See Certification, MUR 7460 (Fair People for Fair Government) (Apr. 8, 2021).