



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 18, 2021

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treasurer@alaskagop.net
glen@alaskagop.net

Rhonda Boyles, Treasurer
Alaska Republican Party
P.O. Box 201049
Anchorage, AK 99520

RE: MUR 7739
Alaska Republican Party
and Rhonda Boyles, as treasurer

Dear Ms. Boyles:

On May 21, 2020, the Federal Election Commission (“Commission”) notified Alaska Republican Party and Lorne Bretz, in his official capacity as treasurer, of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the “Act”) and Commission regulations. A copy of the complaint was forwarded to the Committee at that time. On January 14, 2021, based upon the information contained in the complaint and information provided by respondents, the Commission voted to dismiss allegations that Alaska Republican Party and Lorne Bretz, in his official capacity as treasurer, violated provisions of the Act. The Commission then closed its file in this matter. A copy of the General Counsel’s Report, which more fully explains the basis for the Commission’s decision, is enclosed.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. See Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files, 68 Fed. Reg. 70,426 (Dec. 18, 2003) and Statement of Policy Regarding Placing First General Counsel’s Reports on the Public Record, 74 Fed. Reg. 66132 (Dec. 14, 2009). If you have any questions, please contact Don Campbell, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jordan

Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure:
General Counsel’s Report

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM

DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR: MUR 7739

Respondents: Alaska Republican Party
and Lorne Bretz, as treasurer
(the “Committee”)
Glenn Clary

Complaint Receipt Date: May 20, 2020

Response Date: July 2, 2020

Alleged Statutory/ Regulatory Violations:

**52 U.S.C. §§ 30104(a)(1), (a)(11)(C);
11 C.F.R. §§ 104.1-104.2, 104.14, 104.18**

The Complaint, filed by the former treasurer of the Alaska Republican Party, alleges that the Committee improperly used his electronic signature to file its April 2020 Monthly Report after he signed.¹ The Complainant alleges that Glenn Clary, the Committee's chairman, implicitly agreed the allegation when Clary told the Complainant he would "not be liable for anything on April 20 FEC report."²

The Response filed by Clary on behalf of the Committee and himself asserts that the omission of the Complainant's name as treasurer on the April 2020 Monthly Report was intentional and the result of Clary's lack of understanding of the FEC filing process.³ The

¹ Compl. at 1-2 (May 20, 2020). See Alaska Republican Party April 2020 Monthly Report, available at <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/839/202004219232244839/202004219232244839.pdf>. The Committee is registered with the FEC as a state party committee. See Alaska Republican Party FEC Form 1 Statement of Organization (“Form 1”) (September 20, 2020), available at <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/518/202009209276064518/202009209276064518.pdf>. Glenn Clary is the Chairman of the Committee. Compl. at 1. See also Resp. at 1 (July 2, 2020).

2 *Id.*

³ Resp. at 1-2. Clary attributes the circumstances leading to the Complaint to the Complainant’s dissatisfaction with the format and procedures at the Committee’s State Convention. *Id.* at 1. *see also* Committee Form 1 (May 15, 2020), available at <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/789/202005159232698789/202005159232698789.pdf>. The available information indicates that the Committee filed a handwritten copy of a Form 1 on April 20, 2020, with Clary’s name written in the Treasurer line, with a line struck through the word “Treasurer” and replaced with the written word “Chairman.” This filing was not accepted as a properly filed Form 1, and has been titled “Alaska Republican Party Miscellaneous Report to FEC 2020,” available at <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/597/202004210300317597/202004210300317597.pdf>.

1 Response alleges that after the Complainant resigned, he did not sufficiently communicate
2 information regarding the Committee's accounts, including the Committee's online FEC account,
3 which presented challenges in filing the April 2020 report timely.⁴ The Response further states that
4 it has filed Amended Statements of Organization, correcting the name of the Committee's
5 treasurer.⁵

6 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement
7 Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and
8 assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These
9 criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity
10 and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the
11 electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in
12 potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for
13 Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating, and the
14 subsequent forms filed by the Respondents, we recommend that the Commission dismiss the
15 Complaint consistent with the Commission's prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper
16 ordering of its priorities and use of agency resources.⁶ We also recommend that the Commission
17 close the file as to all respondents and send the appropriate letters.

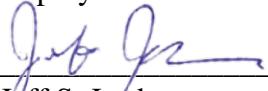
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Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

⁴ *Id.* Clary further states that he was unable to establish a new treasurer before the April 20, 2020 filing date for the monthly FEC report, and that the username and password provided by the Complainant was not valid. *Id.* at 1-2. Clary states that he was unaware that the Complainant was still listed as the Committee's treasurer when he filed the April 2020 Monthly Report, and was unaware that the Complainant's name would appear on the Committee's electronically filed report. *Id.*

⁵ See note 1,

⁶ *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).

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4 12.09.20
5 _____
6 Date
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Charles Kitcher
Acting Associate General Counsel
BY: 
Stephen Gura
Deputy Associate General Counsel

Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel

Donald E. Campbell
Attorney