



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

January 25, 2023

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

William G. Buoni Jr.

LaFayette, GA 30728

RE: MUR 7966

Dear Mr. Buoni:

On January 11, 2023, the Federal Election Commission reviewed the allegations in your complaint received March 1, 2022, and on the basis of the information provided in the complaint, and information provided by respondents, decided to exercise its prosecutorial discretion to dismiss the allegations as to Committee to Elect Lutin for Congress and Charles D. Lutin in his official capacity as treasurer, and Charles D. Lutin in his individual capacity. Accordingly, on January 11, 2023, the Commission closed the file in this matter.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. See Disclosure of Certain Documents in Enforcement and Other Matters, 81 Fed. Reg. 50,702 (Aug. 2, 2016), effective September 1, 2016. A copy of the General Counsel's Report, which more fully explains the Commission's finding, is enclosed.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. See 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(8).

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

Roy Q. Lockett

BY: Roy Q. Lockett
Acting Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
General Counsel's Report

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM
DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR: 7966

Respondents: Committee to Elect Lutin for Congress
and Charles D. Lutin in his official
capacity as treasurer
Charles D. Lutin

Complaint Receipt Date: March 2, 2022

Response Date: May 25, 2022

EPS Rating:

Alleged Statutory

52 U.S.C. §§ 30104(b)(3), (5); 30102(h)(2)

Regulatory Violations:

11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a)(4), (b)(4); 102.11

The Complaint alleges that the Committee to Elect Lutin for Congress (the “Committee”), the authorized committee of Charles Lutin, violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, by failing to report the identities of its contributors and the payees of its disbursements.¹ The Complaint claims that the Committee’s 2021 Year-End Report does not disclose the identity of any contributors, and identified itself as the only payee of Committee disbursements.² In addition, the Complaint alleges that the Committee failed to establish a petty cash fund.³

In the Response, Lutin, who was also the treasurer of his committee, concedes that “it is possible that [he] messed up on the reporting” of the initial 2021 Year-End Report that the Committee filed.⁴ The Response claims that Lutin “was unable to capture and transmit all the necessary information through the FECfile program.”⁵ The Response additionally states that Lutin

¹ Compl. at 1 (Mar. 2, 2022).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*; see Committee to Elect Lutin for Congress Amended 2021 Year-End Report at 11 (Jan. 24, 2022), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/155/202201249475112155/202201249475112155.pdf>.

⁴ Charles D. Lutin Resp. at 1 (May 25, 2022).

⁵ *Id.*

1 was a “first time candidate.”⁶ The Response further explains that the Committee intended to amend
2 its 2021 Year-End Report.⁷ The Committee subsequently amended its 2021 Year-End Report
3 which disclosed \$12,215 in aggregate contributions and \$6,635 in aggregate disbursements.⁸

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

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* Commission records indicate that the Committee filed an Amended 2021 Year-End Report on April 28, 2022, including itemized receipts and disbursements. Committee to Elect Lutin for Congress Amended 2021 Year-End Report (Apr. 28, 2022), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/594/202204289502482594/202204289502482594.pdf>.

⁸ Committee to Elect Lutin for Congress Amended 2021 Year-End Report at 3-4.

⁹ *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).

1 that the Commission close the file as to all Respondents and send the appropriate letters.

2 Lisa J. Stevenson
3 Acting General Counsel
4

5
6 Charles Kitcher
7 Associate General Counsel
8

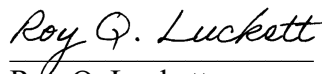
9
10 December 20, 2022

11 Date

BY:



12 Claudio J. Pavia
13 Deputy Associate General Counsel
14

15 

16 Roy Q. Luckett
17 Acting Assistant General Counsel
18

19 

20 Donald E. Campbell
21 Attorney
22