



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 17, 2022

Neil Reiff
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein
& Birkenstock, P.C.
1090 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20005
reiff@sandlerreiff.com

RE: MUR 7970
Washington State Democratic
Central Committee

Dear Mr. Reiff:

On June 15, 2022, the Federal Election Commission accepted the signed conciliation agreement and civil penalty submitted on behalf of your client, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and Julie Johnson in her official capacity as treasurer, in settlement of violations of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2) and (4), provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. Accordingly, the file has been closed 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). Information derived in connection with any conciliation attempt will not become public without the written consent of the respondent and the Commission. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B).

Enclosed you will find a copy of the fully executed conciliation agreement for your files. Please note that the civil penalty is due within 30 days of the conciliation agreement's effective date. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 694-1650 or lconley@fec.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that appears to read "Laura Conley".

Laura Conley
Attorney

Enclosure
Conciliation Agreement

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
Washington State Democratic Central) MUR 7970
Committee and Julie Johnson in her)
official capacity as treasurer)

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

This matter was initiated pursuant to information ascertained by the Federal Election Commission (the “Commission”) in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. Based on information obtained by the Commission about the Committee’s activity during the 2020 election cycle, the Commission found reason to believe that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and Julie Johnson in her official capacity as treasurer (“Respondent”) violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2) and (4) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the “Act”), by failing to report receipts and disbursements.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission and Respondent, having participated in informal methods of conciliation, prior to a finding of probable cause to believe, do hereby agree as follows:

I. The Commission has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this proceeding, and this Agreement has the effect of an agreement entered under 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(A)(i).

II. Respondent has had a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate that no action should be taken in this matter.

III. Respondent enters voluntarily into this Agreement with the Commission.

MUR 7970 (Washington State Democratic Central Committee)

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IV. The pertinent facts and law in this matter are as follows:

1. Respondent is the state committee of the Democratic Party in Washington, and Julie Johnson is its current treasurer.

2. The Act requires political committee treasurers to file reports of receipts and disbursements in accordance with the provisions of 52 U.S.C. § 30104. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(1), (b).

3. These reports must include, among other things, the total amount of receipts and disbursements, including the appropriate itemizations, where required. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2), (4).

4. On October 22, 2020, Respondent initially filed its 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report, disclosing \$38,272 in receipts identified as transfers from Affiliated/Other Party Committees and \$0 in transfers to Affiliated/Other Party Committees.

5. On February 8, 2021, the Committee amended its 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report and disclosed an additional \$250,000 in transfers from Affiliated/Other Party Committees and \$250,000 in transfers made to Affiliated/Other Party Committees.

6. Respondent contends that the errors in this matter were inadvertent and were not immediately discovered due to the offsetting nature of the transactions. Respondent further contends that since the violations occurred, it has taken steps to prevent such errors in the future, namely adding internal procedures and, in September 2021, having staff and consultants participate in an Education Program run by the Commission's Reports Analysis Division.

V. Respondent violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2) and (4) by failing to report receipts and disbursements totaling \$500,000 on its original 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report.

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VI. Respondent will take the following actions:

1. Respondent will pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000) pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(5)(A).
2. Respondent will cease and desist from committing violations of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2) and (4).

VII. The Commission, on request of anyone filing a complaint under 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) concerning the matters at issue herein or on its own motion, may review compliance with this Agreement. If the Commission believes that this Agreement or any requirement thereof has been violated, it may institute a civil action for relief in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

VIII. This Agreement shall become effective as of the date that all parties hereto have executed same and the Commission has approved the entire Agreement.

IX. Respondent shall have no more than 30 days from the date this Agreement becomes effective to comply with and implement the requirements contained in this Agreement and to so notify the Commission.

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X. This Conciliation Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties on the matters raised herein, and no other statement, promise, or agreement, either written or oral, made by either party or by agents of either party, that is not contained in this written Agreement shall be enforceable.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

BY:

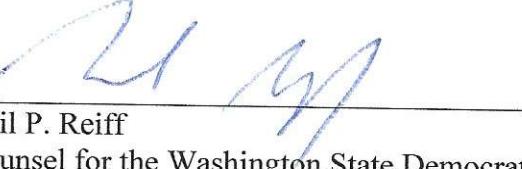
Charles Kitcher
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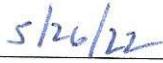
Charles Kitcher
Associate General Counsel
for Enforcement

6/16/22

Date

FOR THE RESPONDENT:


Neil P. Reiff
Counsel for the Washington State Democratic
Central Committee and Julie Johnson in her
official capacity as treasurer



Date