1 2	BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM DISMISSAL REPORT				
3 4 5					
6 7 8 9	MUR: 7988	Respondents:	Severino for Congress and Joseph Severino in his official capacity as treasurer Joseph Severino		
11 12 13	Complaint Receipt Date: April Response Date: May 20, 2022	22, 2022			
14	EPS Rating:				
15 16 17 18 19	Alleged Statutory and Regulatory Violations:	52 U.S.C. §§ 30101(11 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(a	2); 30104(a), (b) a); 104.1; 104.3; 104.5(a)		
20	The Complaint alleges that, as of the date of the Complaint, April 22, 2022, Severino for				
21	Congress and Joseph Severino in his official capacity as treasurer (the "Committee"), the principal				
22	campaign committee of congressional candidate Joseph Severino, has filed no disclosure reports for				
23	the 2020 and 2022 election cycles, even though Severino and the Committee filed Statements of				
24	Candidacy and Organization for both elections, in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act				
25	of 1971, as amended (the "Act").	With respect to the 202	22 election cycle, the Complaint alleges		
26	that the Committee's website has	solicited donations since	at least December 4, 2021, suggesting		
27	that it may have exceeded the \$5,000 reporting threshold. ²				
28	In response, Severino and	the Committee state that	, with respect to the 2020 election,		
29	Severino attempted for a three-we	eek period to get on the b	allot with no success. ³ They state that		

Compl. at 1-2 (Apr. 22, 2022); Joseph Severino, Statement of Candidacy (July 7, 2020), https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/362/202007079244354362/202007079244354362.pdf; Severino for Congress, Statement of Organization (July 7, 2020), https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/873/202111299469525873/202111299469525873.pdf; Severino for Congress, Amended Statement of Organization (Nov. 29, 2021), https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/843/202111299469525843/202111299469525843.pdf.

² Compl. at 2-3.

Resp. at 1 (May 20, 2022).

MUR 7988 (Severino for Congress, *et al.*) EPS Dismissal Report Page 2 of 3

- 1 photographs of him attached to the Complaint "are not reflective of any contributions" but rather
- 2 Severino was "just introducing [himself] to the community for [his] future run." With respect to
- 3 the 2022 election, Severino and the Committee state that as of the 2022 first quarter filing date
- 4 (March 31, 2022), there was no obligation to file disclosure reports because the Committee did not
- 5 spend or receive \$5,000.⁵ Severino ran unopposed in the June 28, 2022 Republican primary and
- 6 lost the 2022 general election for Illinois's 10th Congressional District.⁶
- Following the filing of the Complaint, the Committee filed its first disclosure report, its
- 8 2022 July Quarterly Report, which showed total activity during the election cycle of \$14,600 in
- 9 contributions and \$9,806 in expenditures. Based on information disclosed in the report, the
- 10 Committee exceeded \$5,000 in receipts by May 19, 2022. The Committee also filed its 2022
- October Quarterly Report which showed \$12,325 in contributions and \$8,427.69 in expenditures.⁹
- 12 Subsequently, the Committee stopped filing its reports, then filed its missing reports, but then
- 13 stopped filing its reports again. 10

¹ Id.

⁵ *Id*.

Illinois 10th Congressional District Election, 2022, BALLOTPEDIA, https://ballotpedia.org/Illinois%27 10th Congressional District election, 2022 (last visited Feb. 5, 2025).

⁷ Severino for Congress, 2022 July Quarterly Report at 2 (July 18, 2022), https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/638/202207189522167638/202207189522167638.pdf.

Severino for Congress, 2022 July Quarterly Report at 5-8 (July 18, 2022), https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/638/202207189522167638/202207189522167638.pdf (showing itemized receipts which exceeded \$5,000 in the aggregate on May 19, 2022).

Severino for Congress, 2022 October Quarterly Report at 2 (Oct. 18, 2022), https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/452/202210189537558452/202210189537558452.pdf. We note that there is an ambiguity in the report's Summary Page which shows the same amounts for "This Period" and "Election Cycle-to-Date" totals for contributions and expenditures. *Id.*

The Reports Analysis Division ("RAD") sent the Committee non-filer notices for the 2022 12-Day Pre-General, 30 Day Post-General, and Year-End Reports, and the 2023 April, July, and October Quarterly Reports. *E.g.*, Non-filer notice (Oct. 28, 2022) (failure to file 2022 12-Day Pre-General Report). The Committee later filed its 2022 12-Day Pre-General, 2022 30-Day Post-General, and 2022 Termination Reports (covering the same period as the Year-End Report). *E.g.*, Severino for Congress Termination Report at 2 (May 10, 2023) (disclosing zero receipts and disbursements), https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/816/202305109581433816/202305109581433816.pdf. The Committee has not filed a disclosure report since.

MUR 7988 (Severino for Congress, *et al.*) EPS Dismissal Report Page 3 of 3

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

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¹¹ Heckler v. Chaney, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).