

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM
DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR: 7988

Respondents: Severino for Congress and Joseph
 Severino in his official capacity as
 treasurer
 Joseph Severino

Complaint Receipt Date: April 22, 2022

Response Date: May 20, 2022

EPS Rating:

Alleged Statutory and

Regulatory Violations:

52 U.S.C. §§ 30101(2); 30104(a), (b)

11 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(a); 104.1; 104.3; 104.5(a)

The Complaint alleges that, as of the date of the Complaint, April 22, 2022, Severino for Congress and Joseph Severino in his official capacity as treasurer (the “Committee”), the principal campaign committee of congressional candidate Joseph Severino, has filed no disclosure reports for the 2020 and 2022 election cycles, even though Severino and the Committee filed Statements of Candidacy and Organization for both elections, in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the “Act”).¹ With respect to the 2022 election cycle, the Complaint alleges that the Committee’s website has solicited donations since at least December 4, 2021, suggesting that it may have exceeded the \$5,000 reporting threshold.²

In response, Severino and the Committee state that, with respect to the 2020 election, Severino attempted for a three-week period to get on the ballot with no success.³ They state that

¹ 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/413/202007079244354413/202007079244354413.pdf>; Joseph Severino, Amended Statement of Candidacy (Nov. 29, 2021), <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.

³ Resp. at 1 (May 20, 2022).

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.”⁴ 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

7 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.⁷ Based on information disclosed in the report, the
10 Committee exceeded \$5,000 in receipts by May 19, 2022.⁸ The Committee also filed its 2022
11 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

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ 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>.

⁸ 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).

⁹ 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.*

¹⁰ 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.

