



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC

April 25, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

info@severinoforcongress.com

Joseph Severino, Treasurer
Severino for Congress
PO Box 370
Lake Forest, IL 60045

RE: MUR 7988
Severino for Congress
and Joseph Severino in his official
capacity as treasurer
Joseph Severino

Dear Mr. Severino:

On April 28, 2022, the Federal Election Commission notified Severino for Congress and you in your individual capacity and official capacity as treasurer, of a Complaint alleging violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"). A copy of the Complaint was forwarded to you at that time.

Upon further review of the allegations contained in the complaint, and information supplied by you, the Commission, on March 26, 2024, voted to dismiss this matter and close the file effective April 25, 2024. The General Counsel's Report, which more fully explains the Commission's decision, is enclosed for your information.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record today. *See* Disclosure of Certain Documents in Enforcement and Other Matters, 81 Fed. Reg. 50,702 (Aug. 2, 2016).

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

Wanda D. Brown

BY: Wanda D. Brown
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
General Counsel's Report

1 **BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**
2
3 **ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM**
4 **DISMISSAL REPORT**
5

6 **MUR:** 7988

Respondents: Severino for Congress and Joseph
7 Severino in his official capacity as
8 treasurer
9 Joseph Severino
10

11 **Complaint Receipt Date:** April 22, 2022

12 **Response Date:** May 20, 2022
13

14 **EPS Rating:**
15

16 **Alleged Statutory and**

17 **Regulatory Violations:**

52 U.S.C. §§ 30101(2); 30104(a), (b)

18 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(a); 104.1; 104.3; 104.5(a)
19

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”).¹ With respect to the 2022 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-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).

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.”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.

