



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

February 15, 2023

VIA EMAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Frank Smith

Florence, OR 97439

RE: MUR 7993
Canning for Congress, *et al.*

Dear Mr. Smith:

On February 7, 2023, the Federal Election Commission reviewed the allegations in your complaint and supplemental complaint dated April 28 and May 6, 2022, and found that on the basis of the information provided in your complaint and supplemental complaint, and information provided by respondents, that there is no reason to believe Carlos Joly a/k/a Carlos Federico Joly violated 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a) by making a foreign national contribution. In addition, the Commission found no reason to believe Canning for Congress and Jennifer May in her official capacity as treasurer and Canning for Congress and Shawnda Deane in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a) by receiving a contribution from a foreign national. The Commission further found no reason to believe Canning for Congress and Shawnda Deane in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(3) and 11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a)(4) and 104.8 by misreporting contributor identification information. Accordingly, 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). The Factual and Legal Analysis, which more fully explains the Commission's findings 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). If you have any questions, please contact Christine C. Gallagher, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

Ana J. Peña-Wallace

BY: Ana J. Peña-Wallace
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
Factual and Legal Analysis

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

RESPONDENTS: Carlos Joly a/k/a Carlos Federico Joly MUR 7993
Canning for Congress and Jennifer May in her
official capacity as treasurer
Canning for Congress and Shawnda Deane in her
official capacity as treasurer

I. INTRODUCTION

The Complaint in this matter alleges that Canning for Congress and Shawnda Deane in her official capacity as treasurer (“terminated Committee”)¹ accepted a prohibited contribution from a Brazilian national, Carlos A. Joly, in the amount of \$2,600 during the 2020 election cycle in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, (the “Act”) and that the contribution has yet to be refunded. The Complaint further alleges that information regarding Joly’s residence and employment reflected in the terminated Committee’s July 2019 Quarterly Report appears to be “false.”²

Canning was a federal candidate in 2020 and 2022. The terminated Committee; Canning’s active committee, Canning for Congress and Jennifer May in her official capacity as treasurer (the “2022 Committee”); and Joly filed Responses denying the allegations that Joly made, or the Committees accepted, a foreign national contribution. Both Committees and Joly filed responses stating that Joly is a U.S. citizen and providing information from Joly’s U.S. passport. The Committees’ Responses do not address the reporting allegation.

As discussed below, the Respondents have provided credible information that Joly is, and was at the time the contribution was made, a U.S. citizen. Accordingly, the Commission finds

¹ Canning for Congress, Termination Report (July 14, 2020); Canning for Congress, Termination Approval Letter (July 16, 2020).

² Compl. at 1 (Apr. 28, 2022).

that there is no reason to believe that Respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a) by making and accepting a prohibited foreign national contribution. The Commission further finds that there is no reason to believe that the terminated Committee violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(4) and 11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a)(4) and 104.8 by inaccurately disclosing Joly's contributor identification information.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In 2020, Doyle Canning was a U.S. House candidate for Oregon's 4th Congressional District and her principal campaign committee was Canning for Congress and Shawnda Deane in her official capacity as treasurer.³ On May 19, 2020, Canning lost the Democratic primary election for that seat, and on July 16, 2020, the Commission approved the Committee's request to terminate.⁴ In 2022, Canning ran a second time for the U.S. House seat in Oregon's 4th Congressional District, and her principal campaign committee was Canning for Congress and Jennifer May in her official capacity as treasurer.⁵ On May 17, 2022, Canning lost the Democratic primary election for that seat.⁶ Canning's 2022 Committee remains active.

The Complaint alleges that on June 13, 2019, Carlos A. Joly, a Brazilian national, made a \$2,600 contribution to the terminated Committee.⁷ According to the Complaint, Joly falsely claimed to be a resident of Burlington, Vermont, and the street address listed on the relevant

³ Doyle Canning, Statement of Candidacy at 1 (May 22, 2019); Canning for Congress (terminated Committee), Amended Statement of Organization at 2 (Sept. 30, 2019).

⁴ OREGON SEC'Y OF STATE, MAY 19, 2020, PRIMARY ELECTION ABSTRACT OF VOTES at 9 (2020), <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/results/may-primary-2020.pdf>; Canning for Congress (terminated Committee), Termination Approval Letter (July 16, 2020); *see also supra* note 1.

⁵ Doyle Canning, Statement of Candidacy at 1 (Feb. 3, 2022); Canning for Congress (2022 Committee), Statement of Organization at 2 (Feb. 3, 2022).

⁶ OREGON SEC'Y OF STATE, MAY 17, 2022, PRIMARY ELECTION ABSTRACT OF VOTES at 7 (2022), <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/results/may-primary-2022.pdf>.

⁷ Compl. at 1.

disclosure report, 25 Cherry St., was actually a Marriott hotel.⁸ The Complaint also alleges that Joly falsely claimed to be unemployed when he had been a tenured professor at the University of Campinas, in São Paulo state in Brazil since 1998, and that he also taught at Cambridge University in Great Britain.⁹ The Complaint provides a copy of online biographies for “Carlos Joly” purporting to show his employment.¹⁰ The Complaint further alleges that Canning’s 2022 Committee has not refunded Joly’s contribution.¹¹

The Supplemental Complaint contains an excerpt from a post on Doyle Canning’s Facebook page in which she discusses the instant Complaint filed with the Commission and states that the allegations amount to “anti-immigrant bullying” by a supporter of her political opponent.¹²

The Office of the General Counsel mailed the Complaint to the “Carlos Joly” located at the Burlington, Vermont address identified in the Complaint.¹³ Subsequently, Carlos Federico Joly submitted a response asserting that he is a U.S. citizen and that his contribution to Canning for Congress is lawful.¹⁴ In addition, Joly asserts that the Complaint confuses “Dr. Carlos A. Joly

⁸ *Id.*; see also Canning for Congress (terminated Committee), 2019 July Quarterly Report at 35 (July 15, 2019); Canning for Congress (terminated Committee), Amended 2019 July Quarterly Report at 36 (Oct. 14, 2019).

⁹ Compl. at 1; Canning for Congress (terminated Committee), 2019 July Quarterly Report at 35 (July 15, 2019); Canning for Congress (terminated Committee), Amended 2019 July Quarterly Report at 36 (Oct. 14, 2019). Both the original and amended reports indicate Joly’s occupation as “unemployed.”

¹⁰ Compl. at 2. The Complaint contains links to the web pages for the online biographies, which include photographs that appear to be for two different individuals, as follows: *compare Speakers: Carlos Joly*, SÃO PAULO SCH. OF ADVANCED SCI. ON SCENARIOS & MODELLING ON BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM SERVS. TO SUPPORT HUM. WELL-BEING, <https://scenariosbes.wixsite.com/spsas-scenarios/carlosjoly> (last visited Jan. 18, 2023); *with Carlos Joly, Are Money Matters Moral Matters? A Plea for “Yes”*, SOC. EUR., <https://socialeurope.eu/are-money-matters-moral-matters-a-plea-for-yes> (last visited Jan. 18, 2023).

¹¹ Compl. at 2.

¹² Supp. Compl. at 1 (May 6, 2022).

¹³ Compl. Notif. Letter at 1 (May 3, 2022).

¹⁴ Joly Resp. at 1 (May 10, 2022) (providing information from his U.S. passport).

1 with me — Carlos Joly (Carlos Federico Joly),” noting that “Carlos A Joly, a professor of biology
 2 in Brazil is not Carlos Joly, Fellow, Cambridge University, graduate of Harvard GSAS. Two
 3 different people with slightly different names.”¹⁵

4 The terminated Committee and 2022 Committee filed separate Responses in which each
 5 asserts that Carlos Federico Joly, who made the contribution, is a citizen of the United States and
 6 provides a copy of Joly’s U.S. passport in support.¹⁶ The passport lists _____, as the date
 7 it was issued. The 2022 Committee further notes that it did not register with the Commission
 8 until February 3, 2022, which was over two and a half years after the contribution at issue was
 9 made on June 13, 2019.¹⁷ The Committees’ Responses do not address the allegation that Joly’s
 10 address and employment information are reported incorrectly.

11 The Commission’s contributor database appears to indicate that Joly has made additional
 12 contributions, given that disclosure reports show that a “Carlos Joly” with the same address in
 13 Burlington, Vermont made contributions totaling \$12,300 to various political committee since
 14 June 13, 2019, including to the terminated Committee and the 2022 Committee.¹⁸

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Canning for Congress (terminated Committee) Resp. at 1 & Attach. (May 9, 2022); Canning for Congress (2022 Committee) Resp. at 1 & Attach. (May 18, 2022).

¹⁷ 2022 Committee Resp. at 1.

¹⁸ *FEC Individual Contributions: Filtered Results*, FEC.GOV, https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?contributor_name=carlos+joly (last visited Jan. 18, 2023) (showing results for “Carlos Joly.”).

The Complainant asserts that according to his search of the Commission’s database, Joly has not made reportable federal contributions other than the \$2,600 contribution from June 13, 2019, which is contrary to the information available in disclosure reports filed with the Commission, and that according to his other searches Joly has also not made reportable state or local contributions. Compl. at 1 (*citing* FOLLOW THE MONEY, <https://www.followthemoney.org/> (last visited Jan. 18, 2023)). The searchable database identified in the Complaint indicates that in 2020 “Carlos Joly” made contributions to federal candidates Doyle Canning, Kara Eastman, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and no contributions to state or local candidates. *Joly, Carlos*, FOLLOW THE MONEY, <https://www.followthemoney.org/entity-details?eid=48894727> (last visited Jan. 18, 2023).

III. LEGAL ANALYSIS

A. The Commission Finds No Reason to Believe That Respondents Made or Accepted a Foreign National Contribution

The Act and Commission regulations prohibit any “foreign national” from “directly or indirectly” making a contribution or donation of money or any other thing of value, or an expenditure, independent expenditure, or disbursement, in connection with a federal, state, or local election.¹⁹ The Act’s definition of “foreign national” includes an individual who “is not a citizen of the United States or a national of the United States . . . and who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence[.]”²⁰

The Act and Commission regulations further provide that no person shall knowingly solicit, accept, or receive a prohibited foreign national contribution or donation.²¹ The term “knowingly” is defined as having “actual knowledge” that the source is a foreign national, or being aware of “facts that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that there is a substantial probability that” or “facts that would lead a reasonable person to inquire whether” the source is a foreign national.²²

Respondents have provided credible information in the form of copies of Joly’s U.S. passport that confirms Joly is currently a citizen of the United States and was a citizen at the time he made the contribution in question in 2019. As a U.S. citizen, Joly was eligible to make, and

¹⁹ 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a)(1); 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(b).

²⁰ 52 U.S.C. § 30121(b); 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(a)(3).

²¹ 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a)(2); 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(g).

²² 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(a)(4).

the Committees were permitted to receive, his contributions,²³ and the Committees were not obligated to refund the contributions made by Joly.

Therefore, there is no reason to believe that Carlos Joly a/k/a Carlos Federico Joly, Canning for Congress and Jennifer May in her official capacity as treasurer, and Canning for Congress and Shawnda Deane in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a).

B. The Commission Finds No Reason to Believe That the Terminated Committee Failed to Accurately Report Joly’s Contributor Identification Information

The Act requires committee treasurers to file accurate disclosure reports of receipts and disbursements.²⁴ When itemizing receipts, an authorized committee’s reports must include, *inter alia*, the identification of each person whose contribution or contributions have an aggregate amount or value in excess of \$200 within the election cycle,²⁵ including the contributor’s name, mailing address, occupation, and the name of his or her employer, if any.²⁶

Here, the terminated Committee’s 2019 July Quarterly Report discloses Joly’s mailing address as 25 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont; in the occupation field, lists that Joly is “Not Employed”; and indicates “N/A” in the “Name of Employer” field.²⁷ The Complaint alleges that Joly’s reported mailing address is false because the address is that of a Marriott hotel and Joly did not appear to be a guest there.²⁸ The Complaint further alleges that the terminated Committee

²³ See Factual & Legal Analysis at 1-2, MUR 7857 (Oonagh McQuarrie, *et al.*) (finding no reason to believe respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30121 where the respondent demonstrated that she was a permanent U.S. resident and provided a copy of her Permanent Resident card).

²⁴ 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(1), (b).

²⁵ 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(3)(A); 11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a)(4).

²⁶ 11 C.F.R. § 104.8; *see also* 52 U.S.C. § 30101(13); 11 C.F.R. § 100.12.

²⁷ Canning for Congress (terminated Committee), 2019 July Quarterly Report at 35 (July 15, 2019); Canning for Congress (terminated Committee), Amended 2019 July Quarterly Report at 36 (Oct. 14, 2019).

²⁸ Compl. at 1.

1 disclosed false employment information for Joly because he had purportedly been a tenured
2 professor at the University of Campinas, in São Paulo, Brazil since 1998, and that he also taught
3 at Cambridge University in Great Britain.²⁹

4 However, the reported mailing address in Burlington, Vermont, appears to be accurate
5 given that Joly responded to the notification letter that the Office of the General Counsel mailed
6 to him at that address.³⁰ Further, Joly denies that he is the professor from Brazil and appears to
7 indicate that he is a Fellow at Cambridge University.³¹ No other information is available about
8 Joly's employment status in 2019 or to indicate that the Burlington, Vermont address was
9 inaccurate. Therefore, there is no basis on which to conclude that the terminated Committee
10 reported false information about Joly on its 2019 July Quarterly Report.

11 Therefore, there is no reason to believe that Canning for Congress and Shawnda Deane in
12 her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(4) and 11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a)(4)
13 and 104.8 by inaccurately disclosing Joly's contributor identification information.

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ Compl. Notif. Letter at 1; Joly Resp. at 1.

³¹ Joly Resp. at 1.