

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

6 **MUR:** 8045

Respondents: Janice Winfrey for Congress and
Bridgette M. Dawson in her official
capacity as treasurer
Janice Winfrey

11 **Complaint Receipt Date:** August 3, 2022

12 **Response Date:** August 10, 2022
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16 **Alleged Statutory/**

17 **Regulatory Violations:**

52 U.S.C. § 30120

11 C.F.R. § 110.11
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20 The Complaint alleges that Janice Winfrey for Congress and Bridgette M. Dawson in her
21 official capacity as treasurer (the “Committee”), the principal campaign committee of 2022
22 candidate in Michigan’s 12th Congressional District, Janice Winfrey, violated the Federal Election
23 Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the “Act”), and Commission regulations by failing to include a
24 proper disclaimer on its website.¹ Complainant states that he personally visited the Committee’s
25 website, janiceforcongress.com, on June 22, 2022, and observed that it did not contain any “paid for
26 by” statement.² The Complaint includes eight screenshots of the campaign website captured on
27 July 22, 2022, displaying no disclaimers.³ However, the screenshots show that the website included
28 the Committee’s logo and had a statement signed by Janice Winfrey in her capacity as a candidate

¹ Compl. at 1 (Aug. 3, 2022). Winfrey lost the Democratic primary election in August 2022 and is not currently a candidate for federal office. See Janice Winfrey, Statement of Candidacy at 1 (Feb. 11, 2022) (current statement of candidacy showing that Winfrey was a candidate during the 2022 election cycle); *Janice Winfrey*, BALLOTPEdia, https://ballotpedia.org/Janice_Winfrey (last visited Dec. 15, 2023) (showing that Winfrey lost the 2022 Democratic primary election and that her last federal candidacy was during the 2022 cycle).

² Compl. at 1.

³ *Id.* at 2-6.

1 for Congress.⁴ An archived version of the website further shows that the website included the
2 language “Copyright Janice Winfrey 2022” at the bottom.⁵ The Response, submitted by both
3 Winfrey and the Committee, appears to acknowledge that there were no disclaimers on the website
4 and notes that the website is no longer active.⁶

5 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement
6 Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and
7 assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These
8 criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity
9 and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the
10 electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in
11 potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for
12 Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given the low rating, and the
13 unlikelihood that the general public would have been confused as to whether the Committee paid for
14 the website as well as the apparent low amount in violation, we recommend that the Commission
15 dismiss the Complaint consistent with the Commission’s prosecutorial discretion to determine the
16 proper ordering of its priorities and use of agency resources.⁷ We also recommend that the
17 Commission close the file and send the appropriate letters.

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⁴ *Id.* at 3.


⁵ WINFREY FOR CONGRESS, <https://janiceforcongress.com/>
[<https://web.archive.org/web/20220708043904/https://janiceforcongress.com/>] (last visited Feb. 8, 2024).

⁶ Resp. at 1 (Aug. 10, 2022). During the 2022 election cycle, the Committee reported spending \$6,850 on web design. JANICE WINFREY FOR CONGRESS – COMMITTEE OVERVIEW | FEC, <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00806125/?cycle=2022&tab=spending> (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

⁷ *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

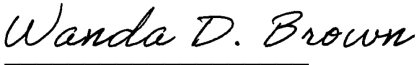
Charles Kitcher
Associate General Counsel

BY: 

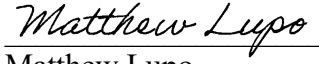
Claudio J. Pavia
Deputy Associate General Counsel

February 20, 2024

Date



Wanda D. Brown
Assistant General Counsel



Matthew Lupo
Attorney

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