

OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

2022 AUG -3 PM 1:55

Max Maxfield
Former Wyoming Secretary of State

v.

MUR No. 8047

Charles Gray
P.O. Box 51842 Casper, WY 82605

COMPLAINT

1. Charles (Chuck) Gray was a candidate for US House. According to Campaign Finance reports filed with the FEC, Mr. Gray loaned \$298,318 to his congressional campaign.
2. Independent financial disclosures made show that Mr. Gray has a very limited income with an earned income of \$9,304 for 2021 and \$11,148 in 2022.
3. This Complaint is filed under 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) and is based on information that Mr. Gray illegally received donations from an individual and recorded it as a personal loan to his campaign in violation of the straw donor laws and violated the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA"), 52 U.S.C. § 30101, et seq. "If the Commission, upon receiving a complaint . . . has reason to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of [FECA] . . . [t]he Commission shall make an investigation of such alleged violation."

FACTS

1. In May of 2022, Charles Gray was a candidate for U.S. Congress. On May 16, 2022, he filed a Financial Disclosure Report filing ID #10048920 with the Clerk of the House of

Representatives. (https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2022/10048920.pdf)

2. In the May 16, 2022, Report, Mr. Gray disclosed that Mt. Rushmore Broadcasting paid him an annual income for the entire year of 2021 of \$3,500. Mr. Gray further disclosed that during 2021, he had an income of \$5,804.25 from the State of Wyoming. Mr. Gray's total reported earned income for 2021 was \$9,304.25.

3. Mr. Gray further disclosed that for 2022, he had an income of \$4,500 from Mt. Rushmore Broadcasting. He also reported an income of \$6,648.75 from the State of Wyoming. Mr. Gray's total reported income for 2022 was \$11,148.75.

4. In the same report, Mr. Charles Gray disclosed that he had no other significant assets. He disclosed that he has unearned income from investments equal to \$5,000-\$15,000 for both 2021 and 2022.

5. In whole, from both earned income and unearned income, Mr. Gray reported that he earned between \$15,000 and \$26,000 per year for the two years reported in the financial disclosure.

6. During the same time frame, Mr. Gray filed campaign finance reports with the Federal Election Commission. In that report, Mr. Gray claims that he gave his campaign a loan for \$298,318 from his personal accounts to his campaign.

7. On its face, a loan of \$298,318 is not plausible based on an annual income of \$15,000/year. In addition, a loan of \$298,318 is more than all the combined assets listed by Mr. Gray on his financial disclosure.

8. Beyond the implausibility of the disparity between reported assets, reported income and the amount loaned to the campaign, Mr. Gray's father, Jan Charles Gray, is the sole donor to the Protect Wyoming Values PAC, a super PAC set up solely to benefit his son Charles Gray. (<https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/forms/C00777524/1533154/sa/ALL>).

9. Jan Gray has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to this Super PAC in an effort to support Charles Gray's campaign for congress.

10. Jan Gray is the owner of Mt. Rushmore Broadcasting, the only non-government employment listed by Mr. Charles Gray.

11. Upon information and belief, Jan Charles Gray and Charles Gray violated federal election law by filing campaign finance reports alleging that Charles Gray loaned his own campaign \$298,318 when in fact the money was given to Charles Gray from his father.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

11 CRF § 110.4 states:

Contributions in the name of another; cash contributions (52 U.S.C. 30122, 30123, 30102(c)(2)).

(b) Contributions in the name of another.

(1) No person shall -

- i. Make a contribution in the name of another;
- ii. Knowingly permit his or her name to be used to effect that contribution;
- iii. Knowingly help or assist any person in making a contribution in the name of another; or
- iv. Knowingly accept a contribution made by one person in the name of another.

12. Federal Campaign laws are designed to protect the integrity of our election system. It is highly unlikely that an individual with no notable assets and income levels far below the poverty level could have the cash on hand to loan himself nearly \$300,000. It is far more likely that, just like the Protect Wyoming Values PAC, the \$300,000 allegedly loaned to the campaign by Mr. Charles Gray was actually a donation from his father Mr. Jan Charles Gray in violation of federal campaign laws. 52 U.S.C. § 30101, et seq.

13. In addition to the straw man donor violations, a donation of \$300,000 from a single donor violates federal campaign donations limits and requirements.

Max Maxfield
Max Maxfield

STATE OF Wyoming)
) ss.
COUNTY OF Laramie)

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on the 2 day of August 2022, by Max Maxfield.

(Seal, if any)



Brittany Ringsteyer
Notary Public

My commission expires: 10-26-2022