

MUR 8233

FEC General Counsel's Office,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to respond. We want to underscore our unwavering commitment to upholding compliance with federal election laws and regulations set forth by the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

We acknowledge, without reservation, that the creation and distribution of the "Straw Poll" mailer and palm card were spearheaded by volunteers who, while well-intentioned, lacked the necessary expertise to navigate the intricate web of FEC regulations. Despite their earnest motives, we fully recognize that ignorance of the law is not an excuse, and we take full responsibility for any inadvertent violations that may have transpired. This experience has served as a stark reminder of the vital importance of understanding and adhering to FEC reporting requirements, especially concerning federal candidates. Moving forward, we pledge to meticulously ensure that every facet of our operations is in strict accordance with FEC regulations, leaving no room for future violations or missteps. We offer no defense beyond our admission of inexperience and extend our sincerest apologies for any oversights.

Addressing the specific concerns outlined in your complaint:

Party Expenditures: We candidly acknowledge that the Surry County Republican Party may have unintentionally participated in "Federal election activity" without fully grasping the gravity of such actions under FEC regulations. We readily admit our failure to maintain a federal account, recognizing that this does not absolve us from adhering to FEC reporting requirements. We are resolutely committed to rectifying any oversights and ensuring that all future activities are conducted meticulously in accordance with federal law.

Failure to Register as a Political Committee: We understand that our expenditures associated with the mailer triggered the threshold for qualifying as a political committee under federal law. We spent \$4,418.53 on printing and mailing our cards. Regrettably, we failed to promptly register as such with the FEC, and we take full responsibility for this oversight. Moving forward, we are firmly committed to taking the requisite steps to ensure strict compliance with all registration requirements.

Failure to Include Disclaimer: We unequivocally recognize the critical importance of including a clear and conspicuous disclaimer on public

communications, as mandated by federal law. The absence of such a disclaimer on the mailer was an inexcusable oversight, and we extend our deepest apologies for any resultant confusion. We are firmly dedicated to ensuring that all future communications meticulously comply with FEC disclaimer requirements.

In light of the concerns raised in your complaint, we stand ready to collaborate fully with the FEC to address any deficiencies and implement corrective actions as necessary. Our paramount objective is to uphold the integrity of the electoral process and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Once again, we pledge to let this complaint serve as a stark reminder of the vital importance of understanding and adhering to FEC reporting requirements. We have learned from this experience and pledge not to make these erroneous mistakes again. We further ask that no action be taken against the Surry County Republican Party. With that said, we understand that our mistakes may result in a penalty and, if that be so, you be lenient in levying such a penalty.

Should you have any further inquiries or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Jessica Millwood

Treasurer

Surry County Republican Executive Committee

PO Box 6108

Mount Airy, NC 27030