



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 6, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Jessica Millwood  
Surry County Republican Executive Committee  
PO Box 6108  
Mount Airy, NC 27030  
[REDACTED]

RE: MUR 8233  
Surry County Republican Executive  
Committee

Dear Ms. Millwood,

On April 1, 2024, the Federal Election Commission notified Surry County Republican Executive Committee 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 November 6, 2024, voted to dismiss this matter and close the file effective December 6, 2024.

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). A copy of the General Counsel's Report, which more fully explains the Commission's decision, is enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Fortkiewicz, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1169.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aaron Rabinowitz".

Aaron Rabinowitz  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure  
General Counsel's Report

**BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**  
**ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM**  
**DISMISSAL REPORT**

**MUR:** 8233

**Respondent:** Surry County Republican Executive  
 Committee

**Complaint Receipt Date:** March 25, 2024

**Response Date:** April 17, 2024

**Alleged Statutory and Regulatory Violations:** 52 U.S.C. §§ 30101(4)(C); 30103; 30104; 30120(a)  
 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.5(c); 102.1(d); 104.1; 104.3; 110.11(a)

The Complaint alleges that Surry County Republican Executive Committee (the “Committee”), a party committee registered with the North Carolina State Board of Elections, violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, by failing to register as a political committee and failing to include disclaimers on a mailer and palm cards.<sup>1</sup> The Complaint includes a copy of the mailer which contains the results of a straw poll conducted by the Committee regarding two federal offices and 29 state and local offices.<sup>2</sup> The mailer states that it was paid for by the “Surry Republican Party” but the partial disclaimer is not contained in a printed box and does not include the Committee’s full name.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the Complaint includes a copy of the palm card which contained the same information as the mailer and the

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<sup>1</sup> Compl. at 1-3 (Mar. 25, 2024); Surry Republican Executive Committee, Statement of Organization (Aug. 9, 2021), <https://cf.ncsbe.gov/CFOrgLkup/ViewDocumentImage/?DID=262417> (registering with the North Carolina State Board of Elections).

<sup>2</sup> Compl. at 3-4, Attach. 4.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, Attach. 4.

1 same partial disclaimer.<sup>4</sup> Finally, the Complaint states the Committee should have registered  
2 with the Commission based on this activity.<sup>5</sup>

3 The Response states that the mailer and palm card were created by volunteers and  
4 acknowledges that they lacked proper disclaimers.<sup>6</sup> The Response states that it spent \$4,418.53  
5 on these communications.<sup>7</sup> Finally, the Response states that the Committee “pledge[s] not to  
6 make these erroneous mistakes again” and requests that the Commission dismiss the Complaint.<sup>8</sup>

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

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 4-5, Attach. 2.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 7.

<sup>6</sup> Resp. at 1-2 (Apr. 17, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 1.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 2.


<sup>9</sup> *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).

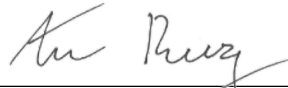
1 Commission close the file as to all Respondents effective 30 days from the date the certification  
2 of this vote is signed (or on the next business day after the 30th day, if the 30th day falls on a  
3 weekend or holiday) and send the appropriate letters.

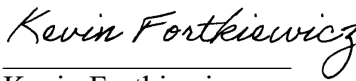
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Lisa J. Stevenson  
Acting General Counsel

10/24/2024  
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Date

BY:   
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Claudio J. Pavia  
Deputy Associate General Counsel  
for Enforcement

  
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Aaron Rabinowitz  
Assistant General Counsel

  
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Kevin Fortkiewicz  
Attorney