

January 17, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

David Williams, Treasurer Dave Williams for Colorado P.O. Box 77021 Colorado Springs, CO 80970

RE: MUR 8240

Dave Williams

Dear Mr. Williams:

On April 16, 2024, the Federal Election Commission notified you of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections 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, the Commission, on December 18, 2024, voted to dismiss this matter effective January 17, 2025. 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 finding, is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Constantine Soupios, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Aaron Rabinowitz

Aaron Rabinowitz Assistant General Counsel

| 1 | BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION | | |
|----------|---|---|--|
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM | | |
| 4 | DISMISSAL REPORT | | |
| 5 6 | MUR: 8240 | Respondents: Dave Williams | |
| 7 8 | | Dave Williams for Colorado and Thomas Bjorklund in his official | |
| 9 | | capacity as treasurer | |
| 10 | | Colorado Republican Committee | |
| 11 | | and Thomas Bjorklund in his | |
| 12 | | official capacity as Treasurer | |
| 13 | | 1 , | |
| 14 | Complaint Receipt Date: April 11, 2024 | | |
| 15 | Response Date: April 30, 2024 | | |
| 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 19 | Alleged Statutory and | | |
| 20 | Regulatory Violations: | 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116, 30120, 30125 | |
| 21 | regulatory violations. | 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.5, 109.21, 110.11, 300.10 | |
| 22 | | | |
| 23 | The Complaint alleges that Dave Williams, a 2024 candidate for Colorado's Fifth | | |
| 24 | Congressional District, his principal campaign committee, Dave Williams for Colorado and | | |
| 25 | Thomas Bjorklund in his official capacity as treasurer (the "Williams Campaign"), and the | | |
| 26 | Colorado Republican Committee and Thomas Bjorklund in his official capacity as treasurer | | |
| 27 | (the "State Party") violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, when the | | |
| 28 | State Party made payments to benefit the Williams Campaign, resulting in the State Party making | | |
| 29 | and Williams and the Williams Campaign knowingly accepting and failing to report, excessive | | |
| 30 | in-kind contributions. ¹ | | |

Compl. at 1 (April 11, 2024); Dave Williams, Am. Statement of Candidacy (Jan. 10, 2024); Dave Williams for Colorado, Am. Statement of Organization (April 15, 2024); Colorado Republican Committee, Am. Statement of Organization (Aug. 8, 2024).

MUR 8240 (Dave Williams for Colorado, *et al.*) EPS Dismissal Report Page 2 of 3

The Complaint points to emails and a mailer that it alleges Williams sent in his role as 1 2 the chair of the State Party but that supported his candidacy or opposed his primary opponent.² The Complaint also alleges that the mailer did not provide an adequate 3 disclaimer.³ The Response disputes the allegations and attaches a purported copy of the 4 mailer.⁴ The State Party's disclosure reports list a disbursement of \$9,866.23 on February 5 6 26, 2024, around when the mailer was allegedly sent, for "Fold out mailer – response to 7 attack article," the description of which appears to match the content of the mailer attached to the Response.⁵ 8 9 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement Priority 10 System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and assess 11 whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These 12 criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had 13 14 on the electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent 15 trends in potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low 16 priority for Commission action after applying these pre-established criteria. Given the low 17 rating, the apparent low dollar amount at issue, and the unlikeliness that the general public would

² Compl. at 1-2.

³ *Id.* at 3.

⁴ Resp. at 1 & Ex. A (April 30, 2024).

Colorado Republican Committee, 2024 March Monthly Report at 34 (Mar 20, 2024), https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/. State disclosures for committees associated with the State Party do not disclose any disbursement clearly associated with the mailer, but the total spending for these committees for that period is less than \$5,000. Colorado Secretary of State, TRACER Committee Search, https://tracer.sos.colorado.gov/PublicSite/SearchPages/CommitteeSearch.aspx (last visited Nov. 21, 2024) (search for "COLORADO REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE" in the Committee Name field).

MUR824000029

MUR 8240 (Dave Williams for Colorado, *et al.*) EPS Dismissal Report Page 3 of 3

- 1 have been confused as to who paid for the mailers, we recommend that the Commission dismiss
- 2 the Complaint consistent with the Commission's prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper
- 3 ordering of its priorities and use of agency resources. 6 We also recommend that the Commission
- 4 close the file as to all Respondents and send the appropriate letters.

| 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 | December 10, 2024 Date | BY: | Lisa J. Stevenson Acting General Counsel Claudio J. Pavia Deputy Associate General Counsel for Enforcement Aaron Rabinowitz |
|---|------------------------|-----|---|
| 16 | | | Aaron Rabinowitz |
| 17 | | | Assistant General Counsel |
| 18 | | | |
| 19 | | | 0 + + 1/5 |
| 20 | | | Constantine V. Soupios |
| 21 | | | Constantine Soupios |
| 22 | | | Attorney |