



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 6, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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hamiltontexasgop@gmail.com

Lucas Robinson, Chair
Hamilton County Republican Party
119 N Rice Street
Hamilton, TX 76531

RE: MUR 8275
Hamilton County Republican Party, *et al.*

Dear Mr. Robinson:

On June 20, 2024, the Federal Election Commission notified the Hamilton County Republican Party (the "Committee") 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 the Committee at that time.

Upon further review of the allegations contained in the complaint, and information supplied in response, the Commission, on December 4, 2024, voted to dismiss this matter and close the file effective January 6, 2025. The General Counsel's Report, which more fully explains the Commission's decision, is enclosed for your information.

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).

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

Wanda D. Brown

BY: Wanda D. Brown
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
General Counsel's Report

1 **BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

2
3 **ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM**
4 **DISMISSAL REPORT**

5
6 **MUR:** 8275

Respondents: Hamilton County Republican Party
John Carter for Congress and Todd
Meredith in his official capacity as
treasurer

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11 **Complaint Receipt Date:** June 13, 2024

12 **Response Receipt Dates:** June 28, 2024; July 3, 2024

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15
16 **Alleged Statutory/**

17 **Regulatory Violations:**

52 U.S.C. §§ 30104(b), 30116(a)(2)(A), (d)(4), (f)
11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a), (b), 104.13, 109.32, 109.37

18
19 The Complaint alleges that the Hamilton County Republic Party, a local party committee in
20 Texas (the “County Party”), made, and John Carter for Congress and Todd Meredith in his official
21 capacity as treasurer, the principal campaign committee of Representative John Carter,¹ a candidate
22 for Texas’s 31st Congressional District in the 2024 election cycle (the “Carter Committee”)² and
23 other unidentified committees, knowingly accepted and failed to disclose excessive in-kind
24 contributions of \$6,000, or alternately that the County Party made a coordinated party expenditure
25 of the same amount during a primary election supporting Carter and apparently the other
26 unidentified committees,³ in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended
27 (the “Act”).

¹ John Carter for Congress, Statement of Organization at 2 (Aug. 27, 2024), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/583/202408279675287583/202408279675287583.pdf>.

² Rep. John Carter, Statement of Candidacy at 1 (Nov. 10, 2022), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/998/202211109546748998/202211109546748998.pdf>.

³ Compl. at 1-2 (June 13, 2024).

1 The Complainant, a candidate for Texas’s 31st Congressional District in the 2024 election
2 cycle, states that he was denied an opportunity to speak at a County Party “candidate fair” on
3 February 5, 2024, whereas four other primary candidates, including Carter, spoke at the event,
4 constituting in-kind contributions from the County Party to the speakers or a prohibited coordinated
5 party expenditure during a primary election, with an approximate value of \$6,000.⁴

6 In Response, the County Party and Carter Committee each state that no money was spent by
7 the County Party to hold its meeting on February 5, 2024, and argue that the Commission should
8 dismiss the Complaint.⁵

9 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement
10 Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and
11 assess 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
13 and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the
14 electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in
15 potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for
16 Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating and low
17 apparent dollar amount at issue we recommend that the Commission dismiss the Complaint,
18 consistent with the Commission’s prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper ordering of its
19 priorities and use of agency resources.⁶ We also recommend that the Commission close the file

⁴ *Id.* at 1-2.

⁵ County Party Resp. at 3 (June 28, 2024); Carter Committee Resp. at 2 (July 3, 2024).

⁶ *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).

MUR 8275 (Hamilton County Republican Party, *et al.*)
EPS Dismissal Report
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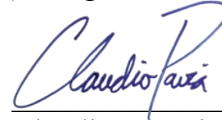
effective 30 days from the date of certification of this vote is signed (or on the next business day
after the 30th day, if the 30th day falls on a weekend or holiday) and send the appropriate letters.

November 20, 2024

Date

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

BY:



Claudio J. Pavia
Deputy Associate General Counsel



Wanda D. Brown
Assistant General Counsel



Gordon King
Attorney