

23L-40**REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL****TO****OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL****DATE:** August 10, 2023**ANALYST:** Kevin Fortkiewicz**I. COMMITTEE:**

Michigan Republican Party
C00041160
Marcus Cairns, Treasurer (4/19/2023 - Present)
Matt Johnson, Treasurer (2/18/2023 - 4/18/2023)
Stuart Foster, Treasurer (2/13/2023 - 2/17/2023)
Carl Meyers, Treasurer (11/18/2005 - 2/12/2023)
3450 Alpine Ave NW
Box 332
Grand Rapids, MI 49544

II. RELEVANT STATUTE:

52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2), (b)(4)
11 C.F.R. §104.3(a), (b)

III. BACKGROUND:**Failure to Provide Supporting Schedules (Failure to Disclose All Financial Activity)**

Michigan Republican Party (“the Committee”) failed to disclose all financial activity in its 2023 March Monthly Report filed on March 20, 2023. On April 20, 2023, the Committee filed an Amended 2023 March Monthly Report which disclosed \$164,016.80 in additional receipts and \$2,023,423.92 in additional disbursements which were not disclosed in the original report (Attachment 1).

On March 20, 2023, the Committee filed the original [2023 March Monthly Report](#) covering the period from February 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023. The report disclosed \$865.00 in receipts on Line 11(a)(i) (Itemized Contributions from Individuals), \$981.00 in receipts on Line 11(a)(ii) (Unitemized Contributions from Individuals), \$300.00 in receipts

on Line 11(b) (Contributions from Political Party Committees), no receipts on Line 11(c) (Contributions From Other Political Committees), and no receipts on Line 18(a) (Transfers from Non-Federal Account for Allocated Activity) of the [Detailed Summary Page](#) and no disbursements on the [Detailed Summary Page](#).

On April 20, 2023, the Committee filed an [Amended 2023 March Monthly Report](#). The report disclosed \$6,668.10 in receipts on Line 11(a)(i), \$639.84 in receipts on Line 11(a)(ii), no receipts on Line 11(b), \$5,000.00 in receipts on Line 11(c), and \$153,854.86 in receipts on Line 18(a) of the [Detailed Summary Page](#), a total increase of \$164,016.80 from the original report (Attachment 1). Additionally, the report disclosed \$1,673.60 in disbursements on Line 21(a)(i) (Allocated Federal/Non-Federal Activity (Federal Share)), \$9,483.71 in disbursements on Line 21(a)(ii) (Allocated Federal/Non-Federal Activity (Non-Federal Share)), \$17,587.77 in disbursements on Line 21(b) (Other Federal Operating Expenditures), and \$1,994,678.84 in disbursements on Line 22 (Transfers to Affiliated/Other Party Committees) of the [Detailed Summary Page](#), a total increase of \$2,023,423.92 from the original report (Attachment 2). [Memo text](#) was attached to the report stating, in part:

“THIS REPORT IS BEING AMENDED TO CORRECT THE ORIGINAL MARCH MONTHLY REPORT FILED ON MARCH 20, 2023. THE ORIGINAL MARCH MONTHLY REPORT WAS FILED USING THE FEC FREE FILING SOFTWARE WITH NO PREVIOUS OR CURRENT COMMITTEE DATA AS THE COMPLIANCE AND STAFF WAS UNDERGOING AN ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSITION. THE COMMITTEE HAS RETAINED A PROFESSIONAL COMPLIANCE FIRM TO ENSURE ALL ACTIVITY IS PROPERTY REPORTED GOING FORWARD.”

On June 1, 2023, a [Request for Additional Information \(RFAI\)](#) was sent to the Committee referencing the Amended 2023 March Monthly Report, received April 20, 2023. The RFAI requested clarification regarding the substantial increase in receipts and disbursements disclosed in the Amended 2023 March Monthly Report.

On July 6, 2023, the Committee filed an [FEC Form 99 \(Miscellaneous Electronic Submission\)](#) in response to the RFAI referencing the Amended 2023 March Monthly Report. The Committee stated:

“In response to the RFAI received on June 1, 2023, with a due date of July 6, 2023, the Committee responds as follows: As stated in memo language in the Amended March Monthly Report, the original report was filed using the FEC free filing software. The individual filing the report did not have access to Aristotle, the Committee's compliance software. This was due to a change in the administration of the Committee, a state party. The Committee wanted to be able to file a timely report, however, did not have any transaction data available to them at that time to enter into the report. The Committee has since hired a compliance firm and the original report

was amended as soon as all access was either restored or granted to the compliance software.”

Since July 10, 2023, the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) logged one (1) communication with a representative of the Committee which reflects efforts to help the Committee voluntarily comply with the Act regarding the matters referenced above. The RAD Analyst notified Liz Curtis, the Committee’s Assistant Treasurer, that the Committee could be referred to another Commission office for further review. Ms. Curtis was aware this issue would likely be referred due to the amount of the increase in activity and stated that the Committee did not have any additional information to provide at this time (Attachment 2). To date, no further communications have been received from the Committee regarding this matter.

Filings and correspondence related to the Committee can be found here: [Michigan Republican Party](#).

Michigan Republican Party (C00041160)[2023 March Monthly Report/Amended 2023 March Monthly Report](#)Overview of Additional Receipts

Report Line	<u>Original 2023 March Monthly Report</u>	<u>Amended 2023 March Monthly Report, Received 4/20/2023</u>	Variance Amount
Line 11(a)(i): Itemized Contributions from Individuals	\$865.00	\$6,668.10	\$5,803.10
Line 11(a)(ii): Unitemized Contributions from Individuals	\$981.00	\$639.84	-\$341.16
Line 11(b): Contributions from Political Party Committees	\$300.00	\$0.00	-\$300.00
Line 11(c): Contributions from Other Political Committees	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Line 18(a): Transfers from Non-Federal Account for Allocated Activity	\$0.00	\$153,854.86	\$153,854.86
		Total:	\$164,016.80

Michigan Republican Party (C00041160)[2023 March Monthly Report/Amended 2023 March Monthly Report](#)Overview of Additional Disbursements

Report Line	<u>Original 2023 March Monthly Report</u>	<u>Amended 2023 March Monthly Report, Received 4/20/2023</u>	Variance Amount
Line 21(a)(i): Allocated Federal / Non-Federal Activity (Federal Share)	\$0.00	\$1,673.60	\$1,673.60
Line 21(a)(ii): Allocated Federal / Non-Federal Activity (Non- Federal Share)	\$0.00	\$9,483.71	\$9,483.71
Line 21(b): Other Federal Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$17,587.77	\$17,587.77
Line 22: Transfers to Affiliated/Other Party Committees	\$0.00	\$1,994,678.84	\$1,994,678.84
		Total:	\$2,023,423.92