

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM

DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR 8344

Respondent: Arizona Republicans Who Believe In
Treating Others With Respect and
John Webster in his official capacity
as treasurer

Complaint Receipt Date: Nov. 6, 2024

Response Date: Dec. 12, 2024



**Alleged Statutory/
Regulatory Violations:**

52 U.S.C. § 30120(a)
11 C.F.R. § 110.11(c)

The Complaint alleges that Arizona Republicans Who Believe In Treating Others With Respect and John Webster in his official capacity as treasurer (the “Committee”), an independent expenditure-only political committee,¹ paid to run an advertising campaign on billboards in the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area which contained express advocacy for a 2024 candidate for president, and which lacked adequate disclaimers, in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.² The Complaint argues that the disclaimers displayed on the billboards were unreadable “when accounting for digital pixelation and drivers’ inability to see the disclaimer at high rates of speed.”³

In Response, the Committee argues that the disclaimers as originally displayed on the billboards in question were adequate, that the Complainant had no apparent difficulty discovering that the Committee paid for the billboards, and that once the Committee was made aware of the

¹ Arizona Republicans Who Believe In Treating Others With Respect, Amended Statement of Organization at 2 (July 10, 2024), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/667/202407109652762667/202407109652762667.pdf>.

² Compl. at 4 (Nov. 6, 2024).

³ *Id.* at 2.

MUR 8344 (Arizona Republicans Who Believe In Treating Others With Respect)

EPS Dismissal Report

Page 2 of 3

1 Complaint, prior to it being filed with the Commission, the Committee worked with its vendor to
2 nonetheless increase the size of the disclaimer on the billboards.⁴ The Committee therefore requests
3 that the Commission dismiss the Complaint.⁵

4 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement
5 Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and
6 assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These
7 criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity
8 and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the
9 electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in
10 potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for
11 Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating and the
12 actions that the Committee took to increase the size of the disclaimer on the billboards, we
13 recommend that the Commission dismiss the Complaint, consistent with the Commission's
14 prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper ordering of its priorities and use of agency
15 resources.⁶ We also recommend that the Commission close the file effective 30 days from the date
16 the certification of this vote is signed (or on the next business day after the 30th day, if the 30th day
17 falls on a weekend or holiday) and send the appropriate letters.

⁴ Committee Resp. at 2 (Dec. 12, 2024). The Committee provides invoices to show that it paid its vendor \$116,117.18 to run the advertisements on the billboards. *Id.* at 1; *id.* Ex. 1 (vendor invoices).

⁵ *Id.* at 3.

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

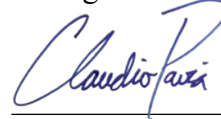
MUR 8344 (Arizona Republicans Who Believe In Treating Others With Respect)
EPS Dismissal Report
Page 3 of 3

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

February 27, 2025

Date


BY:



Claudio J. Pavia
Deputy Associate General Counsel



Wanda D. Brown
Assistant General Counsel



Gordon King
Attorney