



Sean J Cooksey

Chairman

Federal Elections Commission

1050 First Street, NE

Washington, DC 20463

Dear Chairman Cooksey,

I am writing in support of your consideration to review the request for changes under Title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations. As a former federal candidate, I thought I had a strong handle on FEC reporting. I was completely surprised by the complexity of federal reporting requirements in my new position as Executive Director of the South Dakota Democratic Party. The current system places undue burdens both in reporting as well as financial on smaller party organizations.

As a small state party, we have both limited staff and financial resources. I spend hours each day logging financial data, receipts and revenue in order to keep accounting cost down for our party. Even with the work that I do for FEC reporting, we still pay an accounting firm the equivalent of a full-time staff person. If we were to bring our accounting firm on full-time, it would cost us three months' worth of revenue to cover the cost.

While this current request would not address all of my concerns regarding the complexity of FEC reporting, any streamlining of the process would be welcome improvement. We would love to use more volunteers to fill in the staffing gap. Clarity and simplicity regarding FEC rules and the use of volunteers would be a welcome change. Your consideration of the proposed changes from Chair Martin and the Minnesota DFL are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

*Dan Ahlers*

Dan Ahlers

Executive Director

South Dakota Democratic Party