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JUN 15 2026

Angela D. Caesar, Clerk
U.S. District & Bankruptcy Courts
for the District of Columbia

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SCHAEFER FOR CONGRESS
CA48 2026

Petitioner

v.

FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

Respondent

Case: 1:26-cv-02117

Assigned To : Unassigned

Assign. Date : 6/15/2026

Description: Pro Se Gen. Civ. (F-DECK)

COMPLAINT FOR
DECLARATORY RELIEF

COMES NOW SCHAEFER FOR CONGRESS CA48 2026, a political
action committee, by its Treasurer, candidate Mike Schaefer, alleging as follows:

JURISDICTION:

1. This is a federal question case which involves all civil actions arising under
the laws of the United States. 28 USC 1331.

2. This case arises under Federal Declaratory Judgment Act empowering courts
to issue declaratory judgment defining the rights, duties, obligations of parties in a
dispute, a real and substantive dispute between parties having legal interests.

3. The general federal-question jurisdiction is applicable only when plaintiff sues

under a federal statute that creates a right of action in federal court. Williams v. United Airlines, 500 F3d 1019, 1021-22(CA9 2007), a whistleblower protection program(WPP) case. WPP had established detailed administrative scheme for investigation and resolution of claims brought by airline employees. This case has no relevance to FEC disputes because (a)no such detailed administrative scheme exists to resolve within the FEC disputes, and (b)the FEC policy-wise is dysfunctional due to half year without a functioning Commission, no quorum.

PARTIES:

3. *Petitioner* is a political action committee maintained at US Bank, existing to receive and disburse all funds involved in the 2026 political campaign of Mike Schaefer for US House of Representatives, Ca. 48, the candidate serving as Treasurer thereof and as such obligated to comply with all laws/rules of defendant.

4. *Respondent* is the agency of the United States entrusted with administration of financial issues and accounts relative to candidacies for US House and US Senate, as well as the Presidency. FEC is currently unable to make any decisions as it lacks a quorum to function, able to demand and threaten but not enforce. This leaves the Federal Courts as America's default jurisdiction in such cases.

COUNT I: WHOSE MONEY IS IT ANYWAY?

Current FEC rules, Exhibits #1 and #2, establish that "When candidates

1 making contributions to their campaigns, they must be reported” but “an individual
 2 running for US House or Senate or US President becomes a candidate and must
 3 Register and file reports when he or she raises or spends more than \$5,000”
 4

5 There is a serious case or controversy demanding decision.

6
 7 **A. Petitioner believes**, given the no-limits ability of corporations to donate
 8 to FEC regulated-candidates, and historic no-limits ability of candidates to self-fund,
 9 the only public interest existing is WHO IS FUNDING THE CAMPAIGN, i.e.
 10 WHAT SPECIAL INTERESTS MOTIVATED CANDIDATE DISCRETION.
 11

12 That is relevant as to corporation funding and individuals with their personal *issues*
 13 to promote. Would Jeffrey Epstein donate a fortune to interest President Trump
 14 in granting him a pardon(if the felon were still alive)? Of course so. We need to
 15 know of the \$. But how much personal funds Donald Trump or Mike Schaefer put into
 16 their campaigns has no relevance to the public’s evaluation of what’s going on.
 17
 18 IT IS PRESUMED, as a matter of common law, and we need a statute stating this,
 19 that any candidate using his or her personal funds to promote *himself or herself*,
 20 is motivated by self-survival, self-employment, staying aboard the gravy-train.
 21
 22 That is obvious without reporting. And the reporting requirement(as to candidates)
 23 is nothing but Congressional scheme to intimidate and “chill” candidacies that
 24 may threaten those who hold the power and are fighting to keep their Golden Ring.
 25
 26

27 **B. Respondent believes** whatever the President’s appointed Commission
 28

Members believe, and for now that means a candidate is irrelevant and need not bother to even register with the FEC until he or she “raises or spends more than \$5,000 in contributions or expenditures”. But, God Forbid, if any of the funds raised come from candidates personal savings or paycheck(perhaps because nobody or few non-candidates are opening-their-checkbooks), Internet advises that “only about 1.31% of US population gives more than \$200 to federal candidates, parties or political action committees” suggesting that any candidates most successful fundraising comes from talking to himself or herself. There are tons of personal loans, gifts, by the candidate to the candidate. Respondent demands that the public needs to know this, and it is NO DIFFERENT than George Soros or the Koch Brothers each of whom generally give over \$500 million to their liberal(Soros) or conservative(Koch) favorite candidates or causes.

Respondent FEC is wrong. There is a major difference in the fundings, **one** involves only self-preservation, more than any other issue, **the other** involves lawful (non-bribery) attempts to influence how the Congress votes on any issue. Respondent’s rules are a violation of Constitutional due process and equal protection. Candidates have a right to privacy in what they do with their personal funds spent wholly on a strictly personal issue, like giving to the Church of their Choice, or trying to keep their day-job, **their** power, **their** many perks, the prestige of it all. Senator Jon Ossoff of Georgia has \$81,146,109 in his 2026^{campaign} for a \$174,000 yr. job.

1 America needs to know what private interests influence the Senator's action.

2 America has no reasonable need to know how much of this comes from himself.

3
4 This Court must discover and amplify that difference, and remove from the
5 regulation and terror by defendant FEC of men and women who seek merely
6 to serve and promote what they believe---and mandate disclosure ONLY of those
7 private interests who weigh-in on the candidate's thought process and seek influence.
8

9 Candidate personal cash has -0- influence. Special interests/friends 100% influence.

10
11 Respondent is dealing with apples and oranges, sees no difference. Agency does the
12 bidding of the Congress, not of the public interest as it must.

13 **COUNT II. ELECTRONIC FILING CANNOT ELIMINATE HARD COPY FILING**

14
15 There are some candidates who are clueless as to the internet. Petitioner
16 files electronically with some courts, sends emails, reads daily on-screen news.
17
18 But is clueless as to mandated FEC filing. His timely first submissions are noted
19 on line as 'received' but not filed, and he is exposed to unknown financial sanctions.
20
21 He contacts professionals who did filings for his winning 2022 campaign for
22 Ca. Board of Equalization. Response: "\$175 hour rate, am meeting deadlines now,
23 get back to you later". Is the public interest served by plaintiff spending perhaps
24 \$2000 electronically filing report of his \$250.00 sole contribution from a Nevada
25 friend to his California election, plus some \$55,000 of personal cash he invested
26 seeking a new job with similar pay to his present termed-out Dec. 2026 state post?
27
28

No. The public should know when noncandidate funds reach “more than \$5,000” (the hurdle when crossed required “registration” with defendant).

And every candidate has a constitutional right to file “the old way”, physical document forms as petitioner submitted, so is of-record but not “filed”, and overdue. “Good faith attempt” is all government can expect of its citizens and others. If Mr. Schaefer wants to drive a shift-stick and not automatic, it’s his business. Same with how he transmits information to government. If electronic filing saves defendant money, then a fee can be added for paper filers. But government cannot treat its reasonable public filings as “my way or the highway”. Court must say so.

COUNT III. PAC MONEY TRULY PROTECTED TO SERVE ITS PURPOSES?

Petitioner expects to be able to use 100% of his PAC funds on campaign related costs, and when account closes, the funds can be given (a)to charity, (b)to pay all campaign-related bills, (c)returned to donors. Not on personal fun.

Respondent, if learning candidate’s PAC receiving a garnishment from the candidates alma-mater for unpaid student loans, or whatever personal obligation of candidate, with a Court order stating the internet public records disclosing candidate personal contribution and the law permitting return-of-funds-to-contributors(i.e. candidate one of them), FEC if asked by the PAC bank what to do would have no objection as to what the PAC bank account did with candidate-donations to it. FEC must have authority to advise, when asked, that 100% funds in a PAC cannot

1 be used for personal obligations of the candidate, so long as the funds are in the
 2 account and held for present or future election engagements.

3
 4 The Court must affirm that PAC funds are barred from personal use
 5 of candidate balances, both candidate's contributions and non-candidate contributions.
 6
 7 Until such funds, if any, are returned to donors including, if appropriate, candidate.

8 **WHEREFORE**, petitioner prays for Judgment of Declaratory Relief, as follows:

9 1. There is a difference between candidate self-funding and the public's funding.

10
 11 There FEC has set an 'over \$5,000' threshold to trigger registration, that amount,
 12 or whatever amount the Congress decides as the threshold, must apply only to
 13 *non-candidate funding*. Candidate funding and expenditures is protected by
 14 privacy laws. There is a presumption that candidate-self-funding carries with it
 15 no inappropriate motivations, the candidate cannot corrupt himself/herself. Such
 16 finding overrules the FEC's interest, if any, in what the candidate does with
 17 **personal** financial support, or why the candidate is running or seeks to achieve.
 18
 19 Candidates cannot be required to register or file reports unless and until the
 20 minimum, currently \$5,000, **from noncandidate sources**, comes into the campaign.
 21

22
 23 2. Paper filing is traditional, electronic filings welcome but supplemental.

24
 25 It is artificial for FEC to prohibit paper submission of documents where over \$50,000
 26 is involved. If it costs the FEC more to process paper submission, a reasonable fee
 27 is without legal objection. To only accept electronic filings unfairly prejudices
 28

those without electronic abilities, forces such candidates to hire professional assistance which in some case may exceed 100% of the nonpersonal donations to report. FEC staff can easily maintain electronic record keeping by itself converting submitting paper documents to electronic form, and if fee is consistent with extra costs involved, that is unobjectionable. All agencies of the United States must make it easier, and at minimum cost to comply.

3. Political Action Committees, with accounts at any financial institution, bank or securities firm, are special protected entities, protected from assault by unpaid creditors of any candidate while funds are in fiduciary status. Should candidate contributed-funds be returned to the candidate as donor-thereof, at that time the use thereof is unrestricted. The public's interest in having political monies protected from outside disruption, by opponents, by creditors, outweighs any individual creditor's interest.

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays JUDGMENT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF consistent with petitioners presentations, plus costs and such further relief as appears just in the premises.

Dated: June 11, 2026

Respectfully,

Mike Schaefer, Treasurer
SCHAEFER FOR CONGRESS etc.
Appearing Pro Se

VERIFICATION: Undersigned declares under penalty of perjury the foregoing to be true of his personal knowledge & belief, he being competent to personally testify if called upon to do so.

Executed June 11, 2026 at San Diego, Ca.

Mike Schaefer, Treasurer

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PLAINTIFF NOTICE OF
FINANCIAL INTEREST;

Plaintiff certifies that, other than named parties herein, it is not aware of
of any other persons, associates of persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or
other entities having any kind of interest that could be substantially affected by
outcome of this proceeding.

DATED: June 11, 2026

Mike Schaefer, Treas.
SCHAEFER FOR CONGRESS CA48 2026
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FEC RECORD: REPORTING

Voluntary filing with the FEC

April 29, 2026

Federal candidates and political committees are required to register and begin reporting their financial activity to the FEC once they cross certain thresholds. However, many individuals and organizations choose to voluntarily register with the FEC prior to crossing these thresholds. This article summarizes the registration thresholds and basic registration requirements, and suggests steps voluntary filers can take to avoid receiving non-filer notices from the FEC. For additional information, please contact the FEC's Information Division at 800-424-9530 (option 6) or info@fec.gov [mailto:info@fec.gov].

Individuals running for federal office

Generally, an individual running for a seat in the U.S. House or Senate or for the office of U.S. President becomes a candidate and **must register with the FEC** and file financial reports when he or she raises or spends **more than \$5,000 in contributions or expenditures**.

Within 15 days after reaching that threshold, the candidate must designate a principal campaign committee. This designation is made by filing either a Statement of Candidacy (**Form 2** [https://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/policy-guidance/fecfrm2.pdf]) or a letter with the same information. (A candidate required to file electronically cannot designate a principal campaign committee with a written letter but must instead file Form 2 electronically.)

Within 10 days after it has been designated by the candidate, the principal campaign committee must register with the FEC by filing a Statement of Organization (**Form 1**

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HOW TO REPORT

Candidate contributions

When candidates use their personal funds for campaign purposes, they are making contributions to their campaigns. Unlike other contributions, candidate contributions are not subject to any limits. They must, however, be reported.

Note: Receipts that are intended as contributions (rather than loans) from the candidate may not later be converted into loans. Receipts intended as loans are disclosed on Line 13(a) or 13(b) of Form 3.

Reporting on candidate forms

House and Senate committees report contributions received from the candidate on Form 3, Line 11(d). A contribution from the candidate is itemized on Schedule A, supporting Line 11(d), when it:

- Exceeds \$200 or
- Aggregates over \$200 when added to other contributions received from the candidate during the election cycle.

To itemize a candidate contribution, the committee discloses:

- The candidate's name
- Mailing address
- Employer
- Occupation