



Final Audit Report of the Commission on the Committee for Charlotte/Charlotte DNC Host Committee (April 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012)

Why the Audit Was Done

The Commission audits each host committee or municipal fund that represents a city where a publicly financed nominating convention was held. The audit seeks to determine whether the committee has materially complied with the prohibitions and disclosure requirements of the election law.¹

Future Action

The Commission may initiate an enforcement action, at a later time, with respect to any of the matters discussed in this report.

About the Committee (p. 2)

The Committee for Charlotte/Charlotte DNC Host Committee (CFC), headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, is a committee responsible for hosting the 2012 Democratic National Convention. For more information, see the chart on the Committee Organization, p. 2.

Financial Activity (p. 2)

• Receipts		
○ Contributions to Defray Convention Expenses		\$ 24,428,337
○ Loans Received		13,000,000
○ Refunds, Rebates, Returns of Deposits		31
○ Other Income ²		(2,709)
Total Receipts		\$ 37,425,659
• Disbursements		
○ Convention Expenditures		\$ 32,532,958
○ Transfers to Affiliated Committees		8,783
○ Loan Repayments Made		4,000,000
○ Other Disbursements		93,592
Total Disbursements		\$ 36,635,333

Commission Findings (p. 3)

- Recordkeeping for In-Kind Contributions (Finding 1)
- Disclosure of Disbursements (Finding 2)

¹ 11 CFR §9008.54.

² This amount was a result from loss on investments.

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Part I

Background

Authority for Audit

This report is based on an audit of the Committee for Charlotte/Charlotte DNC Host Committee (CFC), undertaken by the Audit Division of the Federal Election Commission (the Commission) as mandated by Section 9008.54 of Title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations. That section states the Commission shall conduct an examination and audit of each host committee registered under 11 CFR §9008.51.

Scope of Audit

This Audit examined:

1. the receipt of contributions from prohibited sources;
2. the disclosure of contributions and other receipts;
3. the disclosure and nature of disbursements;
4. the disclosure of debts and obligations;
5. the completeness of records;
6. the consistency between reported figures and bank records; and
7. other committee operations necessary to the review.

Inventory of Committee Records

The Audit staff routinely conducts an inventory of committee records before it begins the audit fieldwork. CFC records were materially complete and the fieldwork began immediately.

Audit Hearing

CFC declined the opportunity for a hearing before the Commission on the matters presented in this report.

Part II

Overview of Committee

Committee Organization

Important Dates	
• Date of Registration	February 16, 2011
• Audit Coverage	April 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012
Headquarters	Charlotte, North Carolina
Bank Information	
• Bank Depositories	Two
• Bank Accounts	Three Accounts
Treasurer	
• Treasurer When Audit Was Conducted	Harvey Gantt
• Treasurer During Period Covered by Audit	Harvey Gantt
Management Information	
• Attended Commission Campaign Finance Seminar	No
• Who Handled Accounting and Recordkeeping Tasks	Paid Staff

Overview of Financial Activity (Audited Amounts)

Cash-on-hand @ April 1, 2011	\$ 0
Receipts	
○ Contributions to Defray Convention Expenses	24,428,337
○ Loans Received	13,000,000
○ Refunds, Rebates, - of Deposits	31
○ Other Income	(2,709)
Total Receipts	\$ 37,425,659
Disbursements	
○ Convention Expenditures	32,532,958
○ Transfers to Affiliated Committees	2,783
○ Loan Repayments Made	4,000,000
○ Other Disbursements	93,592
Total Disbursements	\$ 36,635,333
Cash-on-hand @ December 31, 2012	\$ 790,326

Part III

Summaries

Commission Findings

Finding 1. Recordkeeping for In-Kind Contributions

The Audit staff identified 23 in-kind contributions provided by corporations, commercial vendors, and individual contributors totaling \$2,878,882 that lacked the required supporting documentation. In response to the Preliminary Audit Report recommendation, CFC provided some internally developed supporting documentation for a portion of its in-kind contributions, but the reported amounts still remained unverified and the finding unresolved. In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, a CFC representative stated that he was trying to obtain and provide additional in-kind documentation.

The Commission approved a finding that CFC failed to maintain appropriate documentation to support reported in-kind contributions totaling \$2,878,882. (For more detail, see p. 4.)

Finding 2. Disclosure of Disbursements

The Audit staff identified 43 disbursements totaling \$12,580,995 that were either missing or did not adequately provide required disclosure information. In response to the Preliminary Audit Report recommendation, CFC filed amended disclosure reports that materially corrected the disbursement disclosure errors. The Draft Final Audit Report also acknowledged that CFC amended its reports and materially corrected the disbursement disclosure errors.

The Commission approved a finding that CFC did not adequately disclose the required information for disbursements totaling \$12,580,995. (For more detail, see p. 6.)

Part IV

Commission Findings

Finding 1. Recordkeeping for In-Kind Contributions

Summary

The Audit staff identified 23 in-kind contributions provided by corporations, commercial vendors, and individual contributors totaling \$2,878,882 that lacked the required supporting documentation. In response to the Preliminary Audit Report recommendation, CFC provided some internally developed supporting documentation for a portion of its in-kind contributions, but the reported amounts still remained unverified and the finding unresolved. In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, a CFC representative stated that he was trying to obtain and provide additional in-kind documentation.

The Commission approved a finding that CFC failed to maintain appropriate documentation to support reported in-kind contributions totaling \$2,878,882.

Legal Standard

- A. Receipts and disbursements of municipal funds.** Municipal funds may accept goods or services from commercial vendors for convention uses under the same terms and conditions (including reporting requirements) set forth at 11 CFR 9008.9 for convention committees. Businesses (including banks), labor organizations, and other organizations and individuals may donate funds or make in-kind donations to a municipal fund to pay for expenses listed in 11 CFR 9008.52(b). 11 CFR §9008.53.
- B. Recordkeeping for goods and services from commercial vendors for promotional consideration.** Commercial vendors may sell, lease, rent or provide their goods or services to the national committee with respect to a presidential nominating convention at reduced or discounted rates, or at no charge. The convention committee shall maintain documentation showing:
 - the goods or services provided;
 - the date(s) on which the goods or services were provided;
 - the terms and conditions of the arrangement; and
 - what promotional consideration was provided. 11 CFR §9008.9(b)(4).
- C. Valuation of In-Kind Contributions.** The amount of an in-kind contribution shall be equal to the usual and normal value on the date received. 11 CFR §104.13(a)(1).
- D. Formal Requirements Regarding Reports and Statements.** Each political committee shall maintain records with respect to the matters required to be reported which shall provide in sufficient detail the necessary information and data from which the filed reports may be verified, explained, clarified, and checked for accuracy and completeness. 11 CFR §104.14(b)(1).

- E. Recordkeeping Requirements for Receipts.** The treasurer of a political committee shall keep an account of:
- All contributions received by or on behalf of the committee;
 - The name and address of any person who makes a contribution in excess of \$50, together with the date and amount of the contribution; and
 - The occupation and name of employer of any individual whose contributions aggregate more than \$200 during a calendar year, together with the date and amount of any such contributions. 11 CFR §102.9(a).
- F. Preserving Documents.** Committees must preserve these records for 3 years after a report is filed. 11 CFR §102.9(c).

Facts and Analysis

A. Facts

The Audit staff identified 23 in-kind contributions totaling \$2,878,882 that lacked the required supporting documentation. The in-kind contributions consisted of goods and services provided by commercial vendors, corporations, and individuals. Approximately half of the in-kind contributions totaling \$1,557,053 originated from one corporation.

Documentation supporting the amount of in-kind contributions reported were receipt and disbursement databases and a few internal tracking forms that stated the amount of the contribution, the line item to be utilized in its recording, and in one case, a contract reference.³ However, no internal computational worksheets or documentation from contributors was provided that would allow for verification of the amounts reported. Also, in-kind contributions having some promotional consideration were not specifically identified or valued. During fieldwork, the Audit staff asked CFC representatives for additional in-kind documentation. CFC stated it was available and would be provided, but no additional documentation was sent.

B. Preliminary Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

At the exit conference, the Audit staff discussed and provided a list of in-kind contributions for which CFC had not provided supporting documentation. CFC representatives acknowledged the missing support for in-kind contributions and stated they would locate and provide the required documentation.

The Preliminary Audit Report recommended that CFC obtain and provide documentation to support the in-kind contributions.

C. Committee Response to Preliminary Audit Report

In response to the Preliminary Audit Report recommendation, CFC provided in-kind contribution documentation. The in-kind documentation consisted of four internally generated "tracking forms,"⁴ totaling \$1,264,477, and an internal draft schedule that

³ The contractual information did not provide the type information needed to verify the amounts reported.

⁴ This tracking form provided mostly information that was similar to the information found in CFC's database. The information consisted of the following: donor information, a description of the item or service provided, the proposed value, a budget line item, and a place for different committee signatures. All tracking forms were unsigned.

totaled \$2,121,206. In addition, a CFC representative stated that he was trying to work with former staff to provide additional in-kind documentation, but ultimately he said additional documentation could not be located.

The schedules and forms CFC provided did not include any documentation from the contributors, worksheet calculations, or any other details that would allow for verification of the in-kind contributions reported. In addition, \$757,676, still remains without supporting documentation. Because the documentation CFC provided did not allow for the verification of the in-kind contributions reported, along with the absence of documentation for the remaining in-kind contributions reported, this finding remains unresolved.

D. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report acknowledged that CFC provided in-kind contribution documentation, but stated the documentation was insufficient to resolve the finding.

E. Committee Response to the Draft Final Audit Report

In response to the Draft Final Audit Report, a CFC representative stated that he was trying to obtain and provide additional in-kind documentation.

Commission Conclusion

On September 17, 2015, the Commission considered the Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum in which the Audit staff recommended that the Commission adopt a finding that CFC failed to maintain appropriate documentation to support reported in-kind contributions totaling \$2,878,882.

The Commission approved the Audit staff's recommendation.

Finding 2. Disclosure of Disbursements

Summary

The Audit staff identified 43 disbursements totaling \$12,580,995 that were either missing or did not adequately provide required disclosure information. In response to the Preliminary Audit Report recommendation, CFC filed amended disclosure reports that materially corrected the disbursement disclosure errors. The Draft Final Audit Report also acknowledged that CFC amended its reports and materially corrected the disbursement disclosure errors.

The Commission approved a finding that CFC did not adequately disclose the required information for disbursements totaling \$12,580,995.

Legal Standard

- A. Reporting Expenditures.** When expenditures to the same person exceed \$200 in a calendar year, the committee must report the:
- Amount;
 - Date when the expenditures were made;

- Name and address of the payee; and
- Purpose (a brief description of why the disbursement was made- see below). 52 U.S.C. §30104(b)(5)(A) and 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3)(i).

B. Reporting Credit Card Transactions. A committee must itemize a payment to a credit card company if the payment exceeds the \$200 aggregate threshold for itemization. The committee must also itemize, as a memo entry, any specific transaction charged on a credit card if the payment to the actual vendor exceeds the \$200 threshold. The memo entry must include the name and address of the vendor, the purpose of the disbursement, and the amount of the disbursement. 11 CFR §102.9(b)(2) and 104.9.

C. Reporting Reimbursements to Individuals. When an individual who is not acting as a vendor advances his or her personal funds (or uses a personal credit card) to pay for goods or services on behalf of a political committee, the reimbursement must be reported as follows:

- **Nontravel Advances.** Report the individual as payee, and report the payments aggregating over \$200 to any one vendor as memo entries on Schedule B; and
- **Travel and Subsistence Advances.** If the total amount reimbursed is \$500 or less, the committee should report the individual as payee. If the total amount exceeds \$500 and payments to any one vendor used for the expenses total over \$200 for the calendar year, report the individual as payee, and report the payments aggregating over \$200 to any one vendor as memo entries on Schedule B. Each memo entry must include the name and address of the vendor, as well as the date, amount and purpose of the payment. 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3)(i) and 104.9.

Facts and Analysis

A. Facts

The Audit staff identified 43 disbursements totaling \$12,580,995 that were missing or did not adequately provide required disclosure information. The majority of disclosure errors, totaling \$12,319,532, involved inadequate purposes disclosed for payments to a single vendor. Additional information is provided in the table below.

Description	Number of Transactions	Dollar Value
Payments to corporations or other entities with inadequate or with no stated purpose disclosed.	38	\$12,490,987
Payment with an incomplete address disclosed.	1	\$48,365
Credit card payment with no memo entries disclosing payments made to the ultimate vendor	1	\$28,487
Small reimbursements with inadequate purposes and no memo entries disclosing payments made to the ultimate vendor.	3	\$13,156
	Total	\$12,580,995

B. Preliminary Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

At the exit conference, the Audit staff discussed the missing or inadequate disclosure items with CFC representatives and provided a schedule detailing these items. CFC representatives stated they would amend their reports in response to the Preliminary Audit Report.

The Preliminary Audit Report recommended that CFC amend its reports to correctly disclose these disbursements on Schedule B (Itemized Disbursements).

C. Committee Response to Preliminary Audit Report

In response to the Preliminary Audit Report recommendation, CFC filed amended disclosure reports that materially corrected the disbursement disclosure errors.

D. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report acknowledged that CFC amended its reports and materially corrected the disbursement disclosure errors.

E. Committee Response to the Draft Final Audit Report

CFC had no additional comments in response to the Draft Final Audit Report.

Commission Conclusion

On September 17, 2015, the Commission considered the Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum in which the Audit staff recommended the Commission adopt a finding that CFC did not adequately disclose the required information for disbursements totaling \$12,580,995.

The Commission approved the Audit staff's recommendation.