

RESPONSE TO AUDIT FINDINGS: HALL FOR CONGRESS (January 1, 2015- December 31, 2016):

Finding 1: Receipt of Contributions in Excess of the Limit

While it is true that committee at the time of receipt of contributions did not do presumptive redesignation letters for all contributions received, the committee and the Treasurer were pro-active in verifying upon contribution receipts if contributions were from Federally Permissible Funds and from allowable sources. No contribution was deposited into the committee account without having discussed with Professional Fundraising Firm that contributions were from Federally Permissible Funds and from allowable sources. We reviewed regulations with Fundraisers as they were hired, and instructed volunteer fundraisers re: rules & regulations. Fundraisers were required to contact the contributors to verify information for each and every contribution that was questionable. Later, Audit Staff identified those when they conducted audit and many others where they had questions. After ascertaining that committee did not have presumptive redesignation letters for those identified, committee and fundraisers obtained such letters for the vast majority of those in question.

Finding 2: Use of General Election Contributions for Primary Expenditures

The candidates in the election in 2016 knew they would be facing each other in both a Primary Election and General Election from the start of the campaigns after filing closed. Many decisions were made to order Stationery for what was expected to be very costly and very contested elections for both elections, for signs that were placed throughout the district, for literature that was to be used for the whole campaign, both Primary and General. Offices were opened and set-up with equipment and supplies also knowing that there would be two elections. The cost of those expenditures to pay for the Stationery, the signs, the literature, the equipment and the supplies in the setting up of those offices were for sums greater than the amount identified by Audit Staff/or at least equal to the amount in question.