



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

Amended Agenda (09/29/2020)
September 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Note: the meeting will be conducted through Zoom video conferencing and streamed to YouTube for the public to access. Please visit www.maine.gov/ethics for the link to access the YouTube channel. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the Commission's office will not be open to the public.

1. Ratification of Minutes of the June 24, 2020, August 11, 2020 and September 18, 2020 Meetings

2. Complaint – 2018 Facebook Ads – Hon. Sara Gideon

Dr. Demi Kouzounas submitted a request to investigate six 2018 Facebook advertisements featuring messages by the Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, Sara Gideon. Dr. Kouzounas asks the Commission to consider whether the ads amounted to an unreported contribution by the Gideon Leadership PAC to the Speaker's 2018 re-election committee. Speaker Gideon responds that the ads do not mention elections or voting, and do not refer to her as a candidate in the 2018 general election. Rather, they were distributed statewide to support her work as Speaker through communicating official statements, press releases, and updates prepared by legislative staff. Speaker Gideon states that the political action committee of the House Democratic caucus paid for the ads and disclosed the costs in campaign finance reports.

Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends taking no further action on this item.

3. Complaint against Hon. Harold "Trey" Stewart

Mr. Rommy Haines of Fort Fairfield filed a complaint alleging that in 2018-2019 State Rep. Trey Stewart of Presque Isle directed the Star City PAC to reimburse him for tires, vehicle maintenance, and clothing in violation of Maine law. The PAC reported these expenses as related to Rep. Stewart's work in Augusta and campaign travel around the state. Since December 2018, Rep. Stewart has served as the assistant leader of the House Republican caucus.

4. Complaint against Annalee Rosenblatt and Dan Warren

The Scarborough Town Democratic Committee filed a complaint alleging that the Republican nominee in House District 29, Annalee Rosenblatt, paid for a mailing critical of her opponent that did not include the required "paid for" disclaimer statement. Ms. Rosenblatt responds that the mailing was sent by her former campaign treasurer after he resigned from her campaign, and she did not know about the mailing.

Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends taking no further action on the complaint.

5. Complaint re: Telephone Calls and Text Messages in State Senate, District 13

The Lincoln County Democratic Committee requests that the Commission investigate telephone calls and text messages financed by an unknown source intended to influence the race in State Senate District 13 between Sen. Dana L. Dow and Rep. Chloe S. Maxmin. The committee argues the paid calls should have included a disclaimer statement and other disclosures required of a push poll and may require the filing of an independent expenditure report.

Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends authorizing the staff to conduct an investigation.

6. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Don’t Tread on Maine PAC *(Withdrawn - 09/29/2020)*

On August 25, 2020, the Don’t Tread on Maine PAC was required to file a 42-Day Post-Primary Report. The report was filed on August 27, 2020, and disclosed expenditure activity of \$1,350. The PAC requests a waiver of the \$54 preliminary penalty.

Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends not waiving the \$54 penalty.

Other Business

Executive Session *(if necessary)*

ADJOURNMENT