



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

Amended Agenda (10/14/2020)
October 16, 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. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Lobbyist Jonathan Courtney

Jonathan Courtney is a registered lobbyist for two clients. He did not file monthly reports covering July 2020 by the August 17th deadline because he believed he had requested a non-session waiver in the first week of July. He filed the reports the morning after the deadline. The preliminary penalties for the two late reports total \$100, and he requests a waiver. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends reducing the penalties to a total of \$50.*

2. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Lobbyist Kerri Bickford

Kerri Bickford is a registered lobbyist for Pathways of Maine. She did not file monthly reports covering August 2020 by the September 15th deadline because she believed she had requested a non-session waiver in June. She filed the report the morning after the deadline. The preliminary penalty for the late report is \$50, and she requests a waiver. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends not waiving the \$50 penalty.*

3. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Maine Truck PAC

On July 1, 2020, the Maine Truck PAC made an expenditure of \$2,686.68 for the purchase of golf balls for a fundraiser occurring in September 2020. It was required to report this expenditure in a 24-Hour Report by July 2, 2020, but did not do so until August 14, 2020. The PAC requests a waiver of the \$2,203.08 preliminary penalty. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$500.*

4. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Hon. Mark Lawrence

State Senator Mark Lawrence is running for re-election to the Maine Senate, District 35. He was required to file a 42-Day Post-Primary Election Report on August 25, 2020. The campaign treasurer filed the report one day late. The preliminary penalty is \$529.50. The campaign has explained that the late filing was caused by the work and family obligations of the campaign manager and is requesting a waiver of the \$529.50 preliminary penalty. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$350.00.*

5. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Brian Redmond

Brian Redmond is a candidate for House District 148. He was required to file a 42-Day Post-Primary Election Report on August 25, 2020. The report was filed on September 1, 2020, seven days late. The preliminary penalty is \$84.00. He requests a waiver because he was on vacation without internet access during the week of the deadline.

Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends not waiving the \$84 penalty.

6. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Mark André

Mark André is a Maine Clean Election Act candidate for House District 110. He was required to file a 42-Day Post-Primary Election Report on August 25, 2020. The report was filed on August 26, 2020, one day late. The preliminary penalty is \$132.00. He requests a waiver due to his treasurer being unexpectedly called away for work.

Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends not waiving the \$132 preliminary penalty.

7. Update – Surveys in Maine Senate District 13

Two political action committees organized by the Republican caucus of the Maine Senate were responsible for the surveys of Senate District 13 voters discussed at the Commission’s September 30 meeting. The PACs assert the surveys were part of a telephone research polling intended to measure public opinion. The Commission will discuss next steps in the enforcement matter.

8. Complaint – Facebook Ad by Maine Prosperity Alliance PAC

The Lincoln County Democratic Committee has complained that a Facebook ad by the Maine Prosperity Alliance PAC should be viewed as an illegal contribution to Sen. Dana Dow because he participated in the video used in the PAC’s ad. The Maine Prosperity Alliance PAC responded that it used video footage of Sen. Dow that was available on a publicly available website. Sen. Dow responded that he did not coordinate with the PAC on the ad.

Other Business

Executive Session *(if necessary)*

ADJOURNMENT