



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

Agenda

September 29, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Note: the meeting will be conducted in person. Members of the public may attend in person or watch the streaming of the meeting on the Commission's YouTube channel. Please visit www.maine.gov/ethics for the link to access the YouTube channel.

1. Ratification of the Minutes of the August 23, 2021 Meeting

2. Complaint against Candidates and the American Legislative Exchange Council

The Center for Media and Democracy has filed a complaint against legislative candidates in Maine and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) alleging that ALEC made contributions of valuable campaign software to the candidates that violated restrictions on contributions. The two candidates identified in the complaint acknowledge that they had access to the software as part of their ALEC membership but state that they have never used the software for campaigning or any other purpose.

3. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Lobbyist Anya Fletcher

Lobbyist Anya Fletcher, the registered lobbyist for Environment Maine, was six minutes late filing her monthly lobbyist report due at 11:59 p.m. on June 15, 2021 due to an interruption in her internet service as she was filing her report. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends not waiving the preliminary \$50 penalty.*

4. Request for Investigation – Missing Address in Advertisements by Mainers for Fair Laws

The Commission received a request to investigate whether advertisements by the Mainers for Fair Laws PAC did not include the PAC's address, as required by the Election Law. The PAC acknowledges that the addresses are missing from the ads. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends the assessment of a penalty in the range of \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the violation.*

5. Investigation Report and Recommended Penalty – Working Families PAC

Political Committee and Lobbyist Registrar Michael Dunn continued his review of the leadership PAC of former State Representative Diane Russell. Mr. Dunn found that during 2013-2018 the PAC engaged in a large amount of financial activity which it did not disclose in campaign finance reports, including \$16,047.64 in expenditures. The PAC also made payments to Rep. Russell's 2016 primary election campaign for State Senate that exceeded the \$375 limit by \$285. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends assessing a penalty of \$285 for making an over-the-limit contribution.*

OFFICE LOCATED AT: 45 MEMORIAL CIRCLE, AUGUSTA, MAINE
WEBSITE: WWW.MAINE.GOV/ETHICS

PHONE: (207) 287-4179

FAX: (207) 287-6775

6. Enhanced Compliance Reviews of Leadership PACs

The Commission will discuss continuing the program of enhanced compliance reviews of political action committees.

7. 2021 Law Changes

In 2021, the Maine Legislature amended laws within the Commission's jurisdiction (campaign finance, personal income reporting by officials, and lobbyist disclosure). Most of the law changes take effect on October 18, 2021, except that new restrictions on contributions by businesses, labor organizations and nonprofits will take effect January 1, 2023.

Other Business

Executive Session (*if necessary*)

ADJOURNMENT