



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

## **Agenda**

**February 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**

Note: this meeting will be conducted in person and streamed on the Commission's YouTube channel. A link to the channel may be found at [www.maine.gov/ethics](http://www.maine.gov/ethics).

### **1. Ratification of the Minutes of the January 30, 2023 Meeting**

#### **2. Complaint against Robert Sezak**

Rep. Shelley Rudnicki filed a complaint alleging her 2022 general election opponent, Robert Sezak, paid \$7,341 to a vendor for four mailings that were never sent. She suggests the vendor used Mr. Sezak's funds for communications in other legislative districts. In response, Mr. Sezak and the vendor provided statements from the U.S. Postal Service documenting its receipt of four mailings of 2,250 pieces and samples of actual mail received within Mr. Sezak's district.

*Staff recommendation: the staff recommends taking no further action on this matter.*

#### **3. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Maine AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education PAC**

On October 28, 2022, the Maine AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education PAC was required to file a 24-Hour Report for a \$4,500 donation it made to the House Democratic Campaign Committee. The 24-Hour Report was not filed until December 21, 2022. The preliminary penalty is \$4,860. The PAC requests a waiver because the PAC was confused about the spending threshold and there was minimal harm to the public.

*Staff recommendation: the staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$750.*

#### **4. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Maine United Auto Workers Council PAC**

The Maine United Auto Workers Council PAC was required to file two 24-Hour Reports on November 1 and 5, 2022 for two \$2,500 donations made to the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee. Both reports were filed on December 22, 2022. The combined preliminary penalties total \$4,900. The PAC requests a waiver of the penalties, explaining that the PAC believed 24-Hour Reports were required only for donations to candidates.

*Staff recommendation: the staff recommends reducing the combined preliminary penalty to \$1,000.*

#### **5. Maine Clean Election Act Program – Revenue and Candidate Participation**

The Commission staff will provide an overview of revenue to the Maine Clean Election Act program and candidate participation.

**6. Reconsideration of Penalty – Hon. Mark Lawrence**

At the Commission’s January 30, 2023 meeting, the Commission assessed a \$500 penalty against the 2022 re-election campaign of Sen. Mark Lawrence because it had not filed a 24-Hour Report for a reported November 2, 2022 expenditure of \$5,000. This was the second of two \$5,000 expenditures the campaign reported making to the vendor. Sen. Lawrence has notified agency staff that the November 2, 2022 payment was a duplicate entry, and only one \$5,000 payment was made. He requests that the Commission reconsider the \$500 penalty.

**7. Investigation of 2022 Legislative Campaign**

The Commission staff seeks authorization of the Commission to investigate three charges made to the campaign checking account of a Maine Clean Election Act candidate which the candidate describes as unauthorized, and any other reporting or other violations arising out of the candidate’s 2022 campaign.

**Other Business**

**Executive Session (if necessary)**

**ADJOURNMENT**