



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

To: Commission
From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Date: February 15, 2023
Re: Request by Hon. Mark W. Lawrence for Reconsideration of \$500 Late-filing Penalty

In 2022, State Senator Mark W. Lawrence was a candidate for re-election. The Commission staff's understanding is that the financial reporting for the campaign was handled by his campaign manager and treasurer. At the Commission's January 30, 2022 meeting, the Commission assessed a penalty of \$500 against Sen. Lawrence for not filing a 24-Hour Report in connection with the second of two \$5,000 expenditures to Erickson Communications that were reported by the campaign.

Following the Commission's meeting, on January 30-31, Senator Lawrence spoke with Candidate Registrar Lorrie Brann and confirmed that the second reported \$5,000 expenditure was a duplicate entry. In other words, no 24-Hour Report was required because there was no second payment. The Commission staff has confirmed this by reviewing the October and November bank statements for the campaign account.

Sen. Lawrence asks for reconsideration of the \$500 penalty. The staff recommends granting the request.



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January 30, 2023

Sent via USPS mail and email

Hon. Mark Lawrence
52 Wildbrook Lane
Eliot, ME 03903

Re: Commission Determination of Final Penalty

Dear Senator Lawrence:

At its meeting on January 30, 2023, the members of the Maine Ethics Commission considered your request for a waiver of violation and penalty for a late-filed 24-Hour Report. The preliminary penalty was \$5,000.

The Commission considered the campaign's responses and found the campaign in violation of filing a late campaign finance report; it decided to reduce the preliminary penalty to \$500.00. Please pay this penalty within 30 days of your receipt of this letter by submitting a check or money order payable to "Treasurer, State of Maine," or by visiting www.maine.gov/ethics and clicking on Penalty Payment.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (207) 287-4727.

Sincerely,

Lorrie J. Brann
Candidate Registrar

Mark W. Lawrence
52 Wildbrook Lane
Eliot, ME 03903
(207) 475-4975 (cell)

February 15, 2022

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Notice of Violation and Penalty for Late-Filed 24-Hour Report

Dear Jonathan,

I write regarding the above-referenced Notice of Violation and Penalty for Late-Filed 24-Hour Report.

Subsequent to the Commission's decision I had the opportunity review in detail our campaign account.

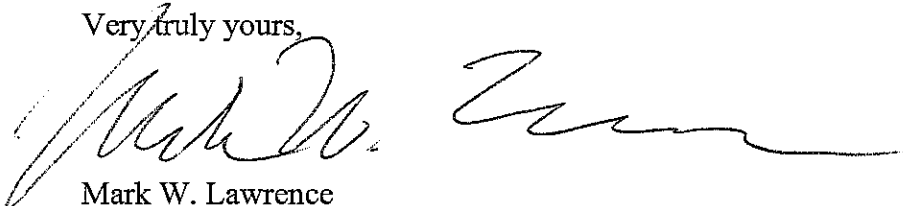
I discovered that we only had one expenditure of \$5,000.00 after the pre-general election report. My campaign manager mistakenly reported two \$5,000.00 such expenditures.

Therefore, I ask the Commission to respectfully consider reversing the second fine that was assessed against our campaign.

I have supplied the Ethics office with bank records for each month of my campaign so that the single expenditure could be verified.

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark W. Lawrence', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark W. Lawrence

MWL/hs