



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

**Agenda**  
**May 27, 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](http://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 March 10, 2020 Meeting**

**2. Request to Investigate Polling by Collins for Senate**

Mr. John Jamieson has filed a complaint alleging that in 2017 U.S. Senator Susan Collins violated Maine Election Law by receiving polling services from her federal campaign committee for the purpose of deciding whether to run for Governor that exceeded the \$1,600 limitation applicable for the 2018 election cycle. Sen. Collins responds that her committee's expenditures for the polling were for a federal campaign purpose and she did not violate Maine law.

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

**3. Request for Waiver of Penalty – Maine Street Solutions – Protect Schools**

Maine Street Solutions – Protect Schools is a ballot question committee (BQC) that opposed the March 3, 2020 people's veto referendum to repeal an expansion of vaccine requirements. On February 5, 2020, the BQC received a contribution of \$250,000. The BQC was required to send a notice to the contributor within five days that the contributor must file a major contributor report, but the BQC was one day late in providing the notice to the contributor. The preliminary penalty for providing the notice late was \$25,000 (ten percent of the contribution). The BQC requests a waiver of the penalty because the delayed notice resulted from a misunderstanding of the deadline and the one-day delay resulted in no public harm.

*Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$2,000.*

**4. Request for Waiver of Penalty – Eliza Donoghue**

Eliza Donoghue, the lobbyist for Maine Audubon, was required to file a monthly lobbyist report on February 18, 2020 covering the month of January. She attempted to file the report on the afternoon of February 11, but the Commission's e-filing system did not record the report as being filed that day. After returning from vacation, she saw reminder emails and filed the report on February 24. Ms. Donoghue requests a waiver of the \$100 late-filing penalty because she made a good faith effort to file the report.

*Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$50.*

*(continued on next page)*

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## **5. Findings of Violation and Penalties against Unregistered Candidates**

The Commission may consider findings of violations and potential penalties against candidates who have failed to register with the Commission. This matter may be continued until the Commission's June 24 meeting.

## **Other Business**

**Executive Session** (if necessary)

**ADJOURNMENT**