



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

## **Agenda**

**March 31, 2021 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 the Minutes of the February 24 and March 8, 2021 Meetings**

### **2. Complaint – Telephone Surveys concerning State Senate Candidates**

In September 2020, the Lincoln County Democratic Committee filed a complaint with the Commission concerning telephone calls made to voters in State Senate District 13. The committee contended the calls were a push poll that violated disclosure requirements in Maine Election Law. Two political action committees acting for the Senate Republican caucus have responded that the calls were part of telephone survey and therefore were exempt from the disclosure requirements.

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

### **3. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Energy PAC for Maine**

On October 22, 2020, the Energy PAC for Maine made seven expenditures of \$1,000 or more as contributions to other political action committees. It was required to report these expenditures in a 24-Hour Report by October 23, 2020 but did not do so until December 14, 2020. The PAC requests a waiver of the \$8,840 preliminary penalty.

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

### **4. Late Notice to Major Contributor by Clean Energy Matters PAC**

On November 18, 2020, the Clean Energy Matters PAC received a contribution of \$813,000 from Avangrid relating to an initiative that was submitted to the Secretary of State on September 16, 2020. The Commission staff believes the contribution required the PAC to provide notice to Avangrid of its obligation to file a Major Contributor Report with the Commission by November 23, 2020. The PAC contends that no notice was required because the PAC had provided a similar notice in connection with a previous contribution by Avangrid. The PAC requests a waiver of the \$50,000 preliminary penalty.

*Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$5,000.*

### **Other Business**

### **Executive Session (if necessary)**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

PHONE: (207) 287-4179

FAX: (207) 287-6775