



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

## **Agenda**

**May 26, 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 March 31, 2021 Meeting**

### **2. Complaint – Sanford Democratic Committee**

The Commission received a complaint against the Sanford Democratic Committee asserting that the committee should have filed campaign finance reports during 2020 because it had received an in-kind contribution of office space. The committee responds that it did not receive or pay for the office space and has not met the \$1,500 financial threshold to file reports.

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

### **3. Late Major Contributor Report – Liberty Initiative Fund and We the People PAC**

During October-November 2020, Liberty Initiative Fund – Maine PAC made contributions to We the People PAC totaling \$115,000 to promote a citizen initiative concerning eligibility to vote in state elections. Because the contributions totaled more than \$100,000, We the People PAC was required to notify Liberty Initiative Fund – Maine PAC in writing of its duty to file a Major Contributor Report with the Commission. The report was not filed until April 2021 after an inquiry by the Commission staff. The Commission will consider whether either PAC violated the major contributor disclosure law.

### **4. Compliance Review of 2020 Leadership PACs**

At its November 18, 2020 meeting, the Commission directed its staff to move forward with an enhanced compliance review of 2020 leadership PACs. The Commission's Political Committee and Lobbyist Registrar, Michael Dunn, conducted the reviews. Mr. Dunn will provide the first of two reports on the results of his reviews. The presentation is intended to be informational, and the Commission staff is recommending no action by the Commission.

### **5. Results of Investigation – Working Families PAC and Diane Russell**

The Working Families PAC is the leadership PAC of Diane Russell, a former State Representative and candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 2018. The PAC has not filed five campaign finance reports due since October 2020. Following the 2018 primary election, Ms. Russell was required to file campaign finance reports semiannually until she resolved a large campaign debt. She did not file a campaign finance report due January 15, 2021.

*Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends findings of violation and assessing penalties totaling \$5,000 against the PAC and Ms. Russell.*

### **Other Business**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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