



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

## **Agenda**

**October 29, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.**

Note: the meeting will be conducted in person. Members of the public may attend in person or watch the streaming of the meeting on the Commission's YouTube channel. Please visit [www.maine.gov/ethics](http://www.maine.gov/ethics) for the link to access the YouTube channel.

### **1. Ratification of the Minutes of the September 29 and October 15, 2021 Meetings**

### **2. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Protect Maine Elections PAC**

Protect Maine Elections is a political action committee that registered on September 9, 2021 in support of a citizen initiative to reduce the influence of foreign governments in ballot question campaigns in Maine. The PAC was one day late submitting its initial campaign finance report because one of the PAC leaders had difficulty filing the report. The preliminary penalty is \$1,004.

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

### **3. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Dirigo Partners**

The Dirigo Partners consulting firm mistakenly used the wrong form to file a total of six monthly lobbying reports performed for three clients during February - July 2021. The incorrect forms did not include the details of compensation earned by the firm for those clients and the bills lobbied. After reporting the mistake to the Commission, Dirigo Partners filed the correct reports. The Commission staff notified the firm of late-filing penalties totaling \$2,500, and Dirigo Partners is requesting a waiver.

*Staff recommendation: the staff recommends reducing the penalties to a total of \$300.*

### **4. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Candidate Robyn Stanicki**

In July 2020, Robyn Stanicki ran unsuccessfully in the Democratic primary election for State Senate, District 11. Because she had more than \$100 in campaign funds left over after the primary, Ms. Stanicki was required to file semiannual campaign finance reports every January 15<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> until she disposed of her excess campaign cash. She filed the campaign finance report due July 15, 2021 fifty-seven days late due to health and family issues. She requests a waiver of the \$637.50 preliminary penalty.

*Staff recommendation: the staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$250.*

### **5. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Mary-Anne LaMarre**

On August 31, 2021, Ms. Mary-Anne LaMarre requested a waiver of the requirement to file monthly lobbyist reports because the legislative session had ended. Under the Commission's reporting procedures, she was required to file a report of her lobbying activities during August no later than September 15, 2021. She did not believe a report was due on September 15 and filed it

seven days late. Ms. LaMarre requests a waiver of the \$100 penalty for the late report because she believed that the Non-Session Waiver Request would exempt her from filing that report.

*Staff recommendation: the staff recommends not reducing the \$100 penalty.*

#### **6. Completion of Audits of 2020 Maine Clean Election Act Candidates**

Jennifer Connors of the Runyon Kersteen Ouellette accounting firm will present a summary of the audits of 2020 Maine Clean Election Act candidates.

#### **Other Business**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**