



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

Agenda

February 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Note: the Commission members will be meeting in person and the meeting will be streamed on the Commission's YouTube channel. Due to the current high transmission rate of COVID-19, members of the public are invited to watch the YouTube stream, rather than attending in person. Please visit www.maine.gov/ethics for the link to access the YouTube channel.

1. Ratification of the Minutes of the January 26, 2022 Meeting

2. Complaint – Reporting of Contributors by The Dinner Table PAC

Michael G. Hein filed a complaint arguing that the Dinner Table PAC did not correctly disclose the employment information for five of its contributors in the PAC's January 2022 quarterly report. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends taking no action on the complaint.*

3. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalties – Mainers for Local Power PAC

The Mainers for Local Power PAC was late in filing 24-Hour Reports for two transactions in the last week before the November 2, 2021 election. The preliminary penalties total \$398,500. The PAC acknowledges that the two reports were inadvertently filed late due to an oversight. It filed ten 24-Hour Reports on time and the amount of the two transactions reported late represent a small amount of the PAC's financial activity leading up to the election that it had disclosed on time. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends reducing the preliminary penalties to a total of \$5,000.*

4. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalties – No on 3: Right to Food is Wrong for Maine PAC

In October 2021, No on 3: Right to Food is Wrong for Maine registered as a political action committee in opposition to a constitutional amendment on the November 2, 2021 election ballot. The PAC was late filing three 24-Hour reports due on October 26 and 27. The PAC entered the three transactions in the Commission's eFiling system, believed it had filed the reports, but did not finish the filing process. The preliminary penalties total \$932. The PAC's treasurer requests a waiver due to her inexperience as a treasurer and in using the Commission's electronic filing system. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends reducing the penalties to \$750.*

5. Staff Update on Investigation of ALEC CARE Software

In July 2021, the Center for Media and Democracy filed a complaint alleging that the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has provided campaign software to legislative candidates in Maine who are members of ALEC and that the software amounts to an illegal campaign contribution. ALEC responded that the software is for the purpose of helping legislators manage their relationships with their constituents. The Commission staff will update the Commission on developments since the January 26, 2022 meeting.

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