



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

Agenda

September 25, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Note: this meeting will be conducted in person and streamed on the Commission's YouTube channel. A link to the channel may be found at www.maine.gov/ethics.

1. Ratification of the Minutes of the July 24, 2024 Meeting

2. Request for Penalty Waiver – Maine Republican Party

The Maine Republican Party was required to file two 24-Hour Reports by June 4 and 5, 2024. The party filed the reports 48 and 5 days late respectively. The two preliminary penalties total \$38,839.80. The party requests a waiver due to an administrative oversight. *Staff recommendation: reducing the penalty to \$1,500 per filing for a total penalty of \$3,000.*

3. Request for Penalty Waiver – Friends of Maine Hospitals PAC

The Friends of Maine Hospitals was required to file a 24-Hour Report by June 8, 2024. The PAC filed the report 45 days late. The preliminary penalty is \$900. The party requests a waiver due to inexperience of a staff member and other factors. *Staff recommendation: reducing the penalty to \$500.*

4. Request for Penalty Waiver – Local 349 PAC Fund

The Local 249 PAC Fund filed a timely 42-Day Post-Primary Report on July 22, 2024 with no activity, and then submitted an amended report with significant contributions on September 11, 2024, which staff found to be substantially non-compliant with the campaign finance reporting laws. The PAC was notified of a preliminary penalty as if the entire report was filed 50 days late on September 11. The preliminary penalty is \$1,369. The PAC requests a waiver due to a communication error. *Staff recommendation: reducing the penalty to \$500.*

5. Request for Penalty Waiver – Maine Labor Climate PAC

The Maine Labor Climate PAC was required to file a 60-Day Pre-General Independent Expenditure Report by September 6, 2024. The PAC filed the report 2 days late. The preliminary penalty is \$534.44. The PAC requests a waiver due to a misunderstanding of the filing deadlines. *Staff recommendation: reducing the penalty to \$400.*

6. Request for Penalty Waiver – Bright Future Maine PAC

The Bright Future Maine PAC was required to file a 2-Day Pre-Primary Independent Expenditure Report by May 30, 2024. The PAC filed the report 71 days late. The preliminary penalty is \$6,411.30. The PAC requests a waiver due to unfamiliarity with the eFiling website. It

attempted to file the report on time but used the wrong transaction type. *Staff recommendation: reducing the penalty to \$375.*

7. Penalty for Failure to File Campaign Finance Reports – 2020 Candidate John DeVeau

John DeVeau was a 2020 legislative candidate. Because he had a campaign surplus over \$100, he has been required to file semiannual reports each January 15th and July 15th. In spite of multiple communications from Commission staff, Mr. DeVeau did not file reports due January 16 and July 15, 2024. *Staff recommendation: assessing two penalties of \$500, for a total of \$1,000. In the event that Mr. Deveau files the two reports before the Commission meeting, the staff recommends smaller penalties for late filing.*

8. Investigation – May 2024 Referendum in St. George, Maine

Commission staff reports back on its investigation to date of an anonymous postcard mailing to influence a May 2024 referendum in St. George.

Executive Session (if necessary)

Other Business

ADJOURNMENT