



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

## **Agenda**

**December 18, 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](http://www.maine.gov/ethics).

### **1. Ratification of the Minutes of the October 30 and November 4, 2024 Meetings**

#### **2. Request for Penalty Waiver – Hon. Scott Cyrway**

Rep. Scott Cyrway, a candidate for the Maine Senate, was required to file a 24-Hour Report on October 29, 2024. His treasurer, Allan Rowe, filed the report one day late. Mr. Rowe requests a waiver of a preliminary penalty of \$43.98. In the waiver request, Mr. Rowe stated that failing to file the report after entering the transactions was a one-time oversight. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends not reducing the preliminary penalty because it is already below the range of penalties usually assessed when a report is filed late.*

#### **3. Request for Penalty Waiver – Leo Kenney**

Leo Kenney, a candidate for the Maine Senate, was required to file a campaign finance report on October 25, 2024, eleven days before the general election. His treasurer filed the report one day late. Mr. Kenney requests a waiver of a preliminary penalty of \$835.37. In the waiver request, Mr. Kenney stated his treasurer was busy until late in the evening of October 25, but logged in and completed the report after midnight. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends reducing the preliminary penalty to \$300.*

#### **4. Request for Penalty Waiver – Kevin Freeman**

Kevin Freeman, a candidate for the Maine House of Representatives, was required to file a campaign finance report on October 25, 2024, eleven days before the general election. His treasurer, Shelly Mountain, filed the report one day late. Ms. Mountain requests a waiver of a preliminary penalty of \$184.43. In the waiver request, Ms. Mountain stated that she had entered all the data required in the report but neglected to complete the filing process. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends not reducing the preliminary penalty because it is already below the usual range of penalties assessed when a report is filed late.*

#### **5. Complaint – Communications Opposing Bar Harbor Referendum**

The Commission received a complaint concerning paid communications to voters opposing a referendum on the November 5, 2024 town ballot in Bar Harbor. Commission staff gathered preliminary information concerning the expenditures for the communications. *Staff recommendation: based on the preliminary information received, Commission staff recommends taking no action on the complaint.*

**6. Request for Penalty Waiver – Bright Future Maine PAC**

On November 2, 2024, Bright Future Maine received a \$10,000 contribution and was required to file a 24-Hour Report the next day. The PAC filed the report eight days late on November 11, 2024. The PAC requested a waiver of the \$2,800 preliminary penalty. *Staff recommendation: staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$1,000.*

**7. Request for Penalty Waiver – Cumberland County Republican Committee**

The Cumberland County Republican Committee was required to file an independent expenditure report on October 20, 2024, but filed the report five days late on October 25. The committee seeks a waiver of the \$382.50 preliminary penalty due to the inexperience of the committee treasurer and the committee's reliance on volunteers. *Staff recommendation: Commission staff recommends reducing the penalty to \$100.*

**8. Request for Penalty Waiver – FAM PAC**

The FAM PAC was required to file an independent expenditure report on October 13, 2024, but filed the report 12 days late. The preliminary penalty is \$365.40. The PAC requests a waiver because it initially thought all expenditures to support candidates were below the \$250 reporting threshold. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends not reducing the preliminary penalty because it is already below the range of usual penalties assessed against PACs when an independent expenditure report is filed late.*

**9. Memo – Supporter Pays for a Mailing**

The Commission staff prepared a memo at the request of the Commission giving further consideration to how campaign finance law should be applied when a political group orders a communication to voters and arranges for a supporter to finance it by paying the vendor directly.

**Executive Session (if necessary)**

**Other Business**

**ADJOURNMENT**