



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

To: Commissioners
From: Martha Currier, Assistant Director
Date: September 10, 2024
Re: Maine Republican Party – Waiver Requests

During the last 13 days before an election, registered state party committees must file special campaign finance reports (within 24 hours) of large transactions that would not otherwise be publicly disclosed until after the election. The Maine Republican Party is seeking waivers for two late 24-Hour Reports. On June 3, 2024, the Maine Republican Party received a \$7,808 contribution and was required to file a 24-Hour Report by June 4 but did not do so until July 22. On June 4 the state party received a \$38,839.80 contribution and was required to file a 24-Hour Report by June 5 but did not do so until June 10.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

24-Hour Reports. During the 13 days before an election state party committees are required to report any single contribution of \$5,000 or more received or single expenditure of \$1,000 or more made within 24 hours. 21-A M.R.S. § 1017-A (4-A) (E). If the party is late in filing the 24-hour report, the statutory amount of the preliminary penalty is determined by the amount of the transaction, the number of prior violations within a two-year period, and the number of days late. 21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A (4-A). The Commission may grant a full or partial waiver if it determines that the report was late due to mitigating circumstances defined in statute or is disproportionately high relative to certain factors. 21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A (2).

DISCUSSION AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The statutory formula for calculating late-filing penalties for the late 24-Hour Reports are outlined below:

Report Name	Activity Amount	Due Date	Days Late	Penalty Rate	Penalty
24-Hour Report	\$38,839.80	6/5/2024	5	2%	\$3,883.95
24-Hour Report	\$7,808	6/4/2024	48	4%	\$14,991.36

State Party Treasurer, Tiffany Gilda-Gaspar, seeks a waiver on behalf of the party because she is an inexperienced treasurer who started the position in March 2024. While her time as treasurer is limited, the Maine Republican Party is an experienced political committee that has extensive experience in filing campaign finance reports with the Commission and should already have measures in place to ensure timely compliance. This party committee moves millions of dollars every election cycle and should be held to a higher standard than a newly formed political action committee with novice filers.

As treasurer, she has received correspondence from Commission staff including a May 28, 2024, email sent to all PACs and state party committees outlining the 24-hour and independent expenditure reporting obligations for the June 2024 primary election.

Commission staff do not think the Maine Republican Party had any intent to deceive the public and believe this error was likely an administrative oversight; however, even oversight errors may result in penalties. Violations of the 24-hour reporting requirements can be serious matters, as these reports play an important role in informing the electorate about how money is changing hands in the critical days just before an election. The law does not differentiate between what reporting errors constitute a mitigating circumstance, and instead leaves those decisions to the Commissioners.

It is rare that one of the two major state parties' files a campaign finance report late. The last time a state party committee requested a waiver for late 24-Hour Reports was in 2015 when the Maine Republican Party had five late reports. At that time, the Commission reduced the preliminary penalties from \$37,400 to \$5,000. Given the circumstances outlined in this memo, Commission staff recommend that this penalty be reduced to \$1,500 per report, for a total penalty of \$3,000.



Chairman
Vice Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary
National Committeewoman
National Committeeman
Executive Director

Hon. Joel Stetkis
Hon. Jonathan Kinney
Tiffany Dilda-Gaspar
Barbara Campbell Harvey
Lauren E. LePage
David M. Whitney
Jason Savage

August 5, 2024

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request a waiver of our current 24 hour report ethics penalties. I have just recently taken over this position and was not aware of some notifications that my team was not also able to see, and since then, we have constructed a plan to prevent this in the future. This was a complete under sight, and our team, including myself have adjusted the additional ones we were in error with in a prompt manner and resubmitted as well as personally communicated to rectify the situation.

Again, I sincerely apologize for our under sight and have made measures to ensure this not happening in the future, as our ethics reporting has always been, to the best of my knowledge, submitted in a timely fashion and accurate.

Warmest Regards,
Tiffany Dilda-Gaspar
Treasurer
Maine Republican Party

Paid for and authorized by the Maine Republican Party, Tiffany Dilda Gaspar, Treasurer. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee. Maine Republican Party, 9 Higgins Street, Augusta, ME 04330 (207)622-6247
www.mainegop.com



Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine
Website: www.maine.gov/ethics
Phone: 207-287-4179
Fax: 207-287-6775

24-HOUR REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

2024 CAMPAIGN YEAR

COMMITTEE		TREASURER	
Maine Republican Party 9 HIGGINS STREET AUGUSTA, ME 04330 PHONE:(207) 907-9514 EMAIL: TIFFANY@MAINEGOP.COM		TIFFANY DILDA-GASPAR 9 HIGGINS STREET AUGUSTA, ME 04330 PHONE:(207) 622-6247 EMAIL: TIFFANY@MAINEGOP.COM	
REPORT	DUE DATE	REPORTING PERIOD	
24-Hour Report of Contributions	06/05/2024	06/04/2024-06/04/2024	

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY SUMMARY

CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES	
1. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS / LOANS	\$38,839.80
2. TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$0.00
3. TOTAL DEBTS	\$0.00

I, TIFFANY DILDA-GASPAR, CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS TRUE, ACCURATE, AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

REPORT FILED BY: TIFFANY DILDA-GASPAR
REPORT FILED ON: 6/10/2024 3:47:06 PM
LAST MODIFIED:
COMMITTEE ID: 764

24-HOUR CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

- 1 = Individual

2 = Candidate/ Spouse/ Domestic Partner

3 = Commercial Source

4 = Nonprofit Organization

5 = Political Action Committee

6 = Political Party Committee

7 = Ballot Question Committee

8 = Other Candidate/ Candidate Committee
- 9 = Candidate / Candidate Committee

10 = General Treasury Transfer

11 = Transfer from Previous Campaign

12 = Contributors giving \$50 or less

13 = Contributors giving \$100 or less

14 = Contributors giving \$200 or less

15 = MCEA Payment

16 = Financial Institution

DATE RECEIVED	CONTRIBUTOR	OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER	CONTRIBUTOR/ CONTRIBUTION TYPE	AMOUNT
6/4/2024	House Republican Fund P.O. Box 5629 Augusta, ME, 00000-4332		5 Monetary (Itemized)	\$38,839.80
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS / LOANS				\$38,839.80



Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine
Website: www.maine.gov/ethics
Phone: 207-287-4179
Fax: 207-287-6775

24-HOUR REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

2024 CAMPAIGN YEAR

COMMITTEE		TREASURER	
Maine Republican Party 9 HIGGINS STREET AUGUSTA, ME 04330 PHONE:(207) 907-9514 EMAIL: TIFFANY@MAINEGOP.COM		TIFFANY DILDA-GASPAR 9 HIGGINS STREET AUGUSTA, ME 04330 PHONE:(207) 622-6247 EMAIL: TIFFANY@MAINEGOP.COM	
REPORT	DUE DATE	REPORTING PERIOD	
24-Hour Report of Contributions	06/04/2024	06/03/2024-06/03/2024	

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY SUMMARY

CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES	
1. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS / LOANS	\$7,808.00
2. TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$0.00
3. TOTAL DEBTS	\$0.00

I, TIFFANY DILDA-GASPAR, CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS TRUE, ACCURATE, AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

REPORT FILED BY: TIFFANY DILDA-GASPAR
REPORT FILED ON: 7/22/2024 7:36:57 AM
LAST MODIFIED:
COMMITTEE ID: 764

24-HOUR CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

- 1 = Individual

2 = Candidate/ Spouse/ Domestic Partner

3 = Commercial Source

4 = Nonprofit Organization

5 = Political Action Committee

6 = Political Party Committee

7 = Ballot Question Committee

8 = Other Candidate/ Candidate Committee
- 9 = Candidate / Candidate Committee

10 = General Treasury Transfer

11 = Transfer from Previous Campaign

12 = Contributors giving \$50 or less

13 = Contributors giving \$100 or less

14 = Contributors giving \$200 or less

15 = MCEA Payment

16 = Financial Institution

DATE RECEIVED	CONTRIBUTOR	OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER	CONTRIBUTOR/ CONTRIBUTION TYPE	AMOUNT
6/3/2024	Sean Spicer, Rigwill LLC 2308 Mount Vernon Ave Alexandria, ME, 22301		3 Monetary (Itemized)	\$7,808.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS / LOANS				\$7,808.00

BCC Distribution List for May 28, 2024 Email

57fecteau@cua.edu; acepemail@gmail.com; Adam.obrien@spectrumhpc.com; ADMINASSIST@MAINEFOREST.ORG; aemills@verizon.net; ahouseunited.maine@gmail.com; al@tri-cor.com; alex@atlanticbrewing.com; alex@dinnertableaction.com; Alexander.L.Parenteau@gmail.com; aljeevbr@gmail.com; allisonmaryperkins@gmail.com; altte12ryan@msn.com; AMAHAN@MAINEDO.ORG; americasfuture@mbacg.com; amy@mainepeoplesalliance.org; amybouchard87@gmail.com; ann89pierce@gmail.com; annorney@gmail.com; annmarie618@gmail.com; ashley@dinnertableaction.com; asirois@uanet.org; avery.arena@gmail.com; awesthoff@MEHCA.ORG; baldaccialfondgolfpac@gmail.com; ballotaccess@nolabels.org; banks@dlcc.org; barbara.redmond4@gmail.com; bbutler@smart-nerc.org; becky@hospitalitymaine.com; benm@ccgreens.org; beth.giesler@wolakgroup.net; beth@portsidered.com; billybob518709@msn.com; billybob518709@msn.com; bmancilla@uaw.net; Bmillercnm@gmail.com; bonhep@hotmail.com; bonnie.lyoung@gmail.com; bossartedameian@gmail.com; BPARKE@MMTA.COM; bridget@mainepeoplesalliance.org; Bridget@MainePeoplesResourceCenter.org; brownth@maine.rr.com; bruceurturcotte@gmail.com; btffarrin@roadrunner.com; BUILDINGTHEMAINEHOUSE@GMAIL.COM; c.caffrey76@gmail.com; capecim@husson.edu; CAPEDEMS@GMAIL.COM; cavanhagerty20@gmail.com; cbrakey@hotmail.com; ccharris@midcoast.com; ccimino@bates.edu; cfines@emilyslist.org; cfpattavina@gmail.com; chair@lincolncountydemocrats.com; chair@mainecrs.com; chair@portlanddems.org; chairacr2022@gmail.com; charlesthurston91@yahoo.com; chastedt@aol.com; cillafj@tdstelm.net; cindy@johansen@gmail.com; cmclaughlin.naswme@socialworkers.org; cohenservicesllc2014@gmail.com; collin.beal@gic.com; colunifamily@gmail.com; committetoendsuperpacs@gmail.com; compliance@dlcc.org; COMPLIANCE@RSLC.GOP; craftsdate@gmail.com; craig.slavin@gmail.com; Craig@crgrins.net; craighickman@rocketmail.com; craignyl@maine.rr.com; crobichau@mechca.org; CRYSTALCRON@GMAIL.COM; cstratton@mainemad.com; csummers@maineenergymarketers.com; cumberlandcountydems@gmail.com; CURTIS@RETAILMAINE.ORG; 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freilinger42@me.com; gbeers@mccs.me.edu; gfontoob52@gmail.com; GLEAVITT@MAINEFA.ORG; gmchase314@gmail.com; gmrverd@gmail.com; gordo1952@gmail.com; gordon@husson.edu; gordon@husson.edu; grantta.spssd@gmail.com; greta.atchinson@gmail.com; grettawark@gmail.com; hampfam@megalink.net; happyhive55@gmail.com; harpswelldeems@gmail.com; hbsanborn@gmail.com; henry.beck@gmail.com; hermongop@gmail.com; hezjrp@gmail.com; hiscott@tds.net; hkemp@lpme.org; hnussman@gmail.com; HOKF@ACTBLUE.COM; hope@abcmaine.org; hplourde@maine.rr.com; INFO@DEFENDINGREALTHACTION.ORG; info@dinnertableaction.com; INFO@EQUALITYMAINE.ORG; info@lpme.org; info@mainedo.org; info@mainefamiliesforvaccines.com; info@mainesdccc.com; info@NAIFA-ME.ORG; info@protectmaineelections.com; info@sanfordgop.com; info@thepacforamericasfuture.org; IW496@MYFAIRPOINT.NET; j.wayne.kinney@gmail.com; jack@foodandmedicine.org; JAKE@MITCHELLTARDYJACKSON.COM; jalfond@gmail.com; jamesndearman@gmail.com; JamesPhinneyBaxter@GMail.com; janchapman1966@gmail.com; jane@maineyouthpower.org; jatsc567@yahoo.com; JAUSTIN@THEMHA.ORG; jbaines@lpme.org; jbn.duprie@gmail.com; jcp480@gmail.com; jdatducharms@reagan.com; jeffandkirsten@myfairpoint.net; jeffberlin100@gmail.com; jeffkew@gmail.com; JEFFMILLS@MAINE.EDU; jenn@baxterbrewing.com; JENNIFFER@BONARRIGOCOPA.COM; jeremykanek@gmail.com; jesse.waryck@gmail.com; jesse@mainepeoplesalliance.org; jesse@mainepeoplesresourcecenter.org; jessfay68@gmail.com; jgrinvalsky@nasrcc.org; jhinck1@maine.rr.com; JHINCK1@MAINE.RR.COM; jillwatson223@gmail.com; jimgop@yahoo.com; jihmaine@maine.rr.com; jleavitt@nasrcc.org; jmurphy@prehungdoorsllc.com; jnpopin@gmail.com; jnuttin@mainestreetssolutions.com; joannemasonkcdc@gmail.com; jodyjames37@gmail.com; johannaturner@yahoo.com; john.flynn@versantpower.com; john_suczynski@yahoo.com; john_w_lewis@yahoo.com; johndk@wabanakialliance.com; jon@jonconnor.org; jonathan.breed@avangrid.com; jobblom@yahoo.com; JPIERPOINT@REALTORS.ORG; jputnam-1@msn.com; jroche@mainebankers.com; jshedlock@lnerof.org; jstearman@mainebankers.com; jtimberlake_us@yahoo.com; juleschap48@yahoo.com; juliapevesque@gmail.com; justin.phillips@aristotle.com; JWS1936@GMAIL.COM; kaitlin.lacasse@gmail.com; Kamden@smithsfarm.com; karlsaba@hotmail.com; kathleen.newman@cmpco.com; KathyDownes1952@gmail.com; katrinarformaine@gmail.com; kcdcmaine@gmail.com; keefk@hermon.net; Kellyfjames@gmail.com; Ken@KLBProductions.com; kerryannmckim@gmail.com; kevinbreen@mac.com; kgpurdy55@gmail.com; kim@commondreams.org; kipp.maloney@nfib.org; KPASCHAL@REALTORS.ORG; kristencoutier@yahoo.com; ksimonis@mainecul.org; kwest@maineforest.org; Lgrondin@rjgrondin.com; lanavescott@yahoo.com; lancecolwell76@gmail.com; larrylockman22@gmail.com; laurel.libby@gmail.com; lebanonopchair@gmail.com; lichtenstein.erin@gmail.com; lily@mainesdccc.com; lisa.keim@hotmail.com; lisa.laliberte.goph@statefarm.com; lisa.margulies@ppnse.org; lisa@MAINEAGENTS.NET; lonestarskier@yahoo.com; LOCKER@local327laborers.org; lsfeero@aim.com; Ltbiick@aol.com; luanne.collins@mseaseiu.org; LWIER@UAW.NET; lwtruman@gmail.com; LYNDA@MAINEAGENTS.NET; m.bowes@iuoelocal4.org; MAIL@BEW2327.ORG; MaineCCDC@gmail.com; mainefactpac@gmail.com; mainempac@outlook.com; Maineseas@aol.com; mainestrongpac@gmail.com; maineyouthpower@gmail.com; marc.malon@gmail.com; mark.brunton@mseaseiu.org; mark.carpenter@nfib.org; MARK.LANDRY@MSEASEIU.NET; mark.landry@mseaseiu.net; mary@batakis.com; matthea@mattheadaughtry.com; mattieformaine@gmail.com; mattmoonen207@gmail.com; MAUREEN@MAINECONSERVATION.ORG; MBELLIVEAU@defendourhealth.org; mcarey372@gmail.com; mcddevlin61@gmail.com; mdesenbergsbrc@gmail.com; mdliwer@maineenergymarketers.com; mdoucette@iwocal7.org; meaghan.lydon@gmail.com; MEANAPAC@GMAIL.COM; megan.rochelo@gmail.com; mpadgett@tidewater.net; mpock1@maine.rr.com; mrskgilles@gmail.com; MTLA@MTLA.ORG; MWelch@hardywolf.com; mwhill@fairpoint.net; mwincenbach@uanet.org; mwotrl@yahoo.com; nate@hospitalitymaine.com; nberrang@gmail.com; negan121@gmail.com; nick.weiss@thomas.edu; ninka12@yahoo.com; NoLabelsMaine24@nolabels.org; office@iuoelocal4.org; office@mainedo.org; OFFICE@RETAILMAINE.ORG; office@samofmaine.org; oneilldrm@gmail.com; outsourcing@aristotle.com; pamchase04@gmail.com; pchace@pbcrrx.com; pgsutton@hotmail.com; phoenix0698@gmail.com; pinkham213@gmail.com; pjdelgreco@maineco.org; plcahill@gvi.net; pmckee@kw.com; PORTLANDGREENS@GMAIL.COM; pvtcompliance@nrahq.org; pwoodcock@mainechamber.org; quackmcduck1977@yahoo.com; rb@drberube.com; rbartash@smart-nerc.org; rbristol@maine.rr.com; Rbristol@MAINEFA.ORG; rcaverly@mainecul.org; rcjcsccc@gmail.com; reitzeviper@yahoo.com; repguerier@gmail.com; republicansofmadison@gmail.com; Revivepac@outlook.com; rhndrcksn@gmail.com; richmondmegop@gmail.com; rick@rickbennett.org; rickasam@mf.net; rkoczuch@nrahq.org; robert3@baldaccigroup.com; ROGER.NRF@ROADRUNNER.COM; rose@maineyouthpower.org; rouillard@maine.rr.com; rossen@mccs.me.edu; rsjellison@msn.com; rtalbotross@gmail.com; rtaugher@smart-nerc.org; rykersonforkittery@gmail.com; rzitow@maine.rr.com; 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From: Currier, Martha

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:36 AM

Subject: Ethics Reporting Notice: 24-Hour and 1 Day-Day Reporting Periods

Importance: High

You're receiving this message because you are affiliated with a Maine [PAC](#), [BQC](#), or [party committee](#).

The June Primary is right around the corner and that means that you have two additional reporting responsibilities with the Maine Ethics Commission.

From tomorrow May 29 through June 10 please keep in mind the following reporting requirements:

24 Hour Reporting Period:

- **ANY contribution or loan of \$5,000 or more**
- **ANY expenditure or debt of \$1,000 or more**
- **MUST be reported with in 24 hours of the transaction occurring**

1-Day Independent Expenditure Reporting Period:

- **ANY single expenditure of more than \$250 per candidate**
- **MUST be reported on an Independent Expenditure Report within ONE DAY of the expenditure occurring.**

To file these reports you must:

- (1) add the triggering transactions into the eFiling system; then the system will
- (2) generate the report; that you
- (3) need to file.

Remember, you must add the transaction **and** file the report for your filing responsibilities to be met.

Bonus – independent expenditures no longer require a signed affidavit to be submitted to the Commission due to a 2023 change in the law.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Martha

Martha Currier

Assistant Director

Maine Ethics Commission

135 State House Station | Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-3024 (direct) | (207) 287-4179 (main)

martha.currier@maine.gov | www.maine.gov/ethics



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

September 10, 2024

Ms. Tiffany Dilda-Gaspar
Maine Republican Party
9 Higgins Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Re: Late Filing of 24-Hour Report – House Republican Fund Contribution - **REVISED**

Dear Ms. Dilda-Gaspar:

Please disregard previous notices received regarding the above-captioned matter.

The Commission staff has made a finding the Maine Republican Party (“the committee”) was late in filing its 24-Hour Report for the contribution it received from the House Republican Fund. The report was due by 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2024, but was not filed until June 10, 2024. Under the Commission’s statutes, the late filing of a report triggers an enforcement process. (21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A). Based on the amount of financial activity in the report, the number of calendar days the report was late, and the history of violations from the committee, the Commission staff has determined a penalty of \$3,883.95 is owed.

If you disagree with the determination, the committee may make a written request that the Commission waive the violation or penalty in whole or in part. Any request for a waiver must be made within 14 calendar days of your receipt of this notice; it must be in writing and contain a full explanation of the reasons the committee filed late. Upon receipt, staff will schedule your appeal for the next public meeting of the Commission.

The Commission may waive the penalty if it determines the report was late due to mitigating circumstances, which are defined as (1) a valid emergency; (2) an error made by the Commission staff; or (3) relevant evidence the committee made a bona fide effort to file the report on time. Also, the Commission may waive the penalty if it is disproportionate to the level of experience of the person filing the report or the harm suffered by the public from the late disclosure.

If you want to pay the penalty, you can do so online at www.maine.gov/ethics by selecting the “Penalty Payment” button, or mail a check payable to “Treasurer, State of Maine” to us at the address above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Currier".

Martha Currier
Assistant Director

Committee Name: Maine Republican Party

Prior Violations: 1

Report Name	Activity Amount	Due Date	Days Late	Penalty Rate	Penalty
24-Hour Report (HRF CON)	\$38,839.80	6/5/2024	5	4%	\$7,767.95

The penalty for late filing of a required report is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the filing period, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days the report is filed late, as follows:

For the first violation, 2%

For the second violation, 4%

For the third and each subsequent violation, 6%

A penalty begins to accrue at 11:59 p.m. on the day the report is due.

A required report sent by certified or registered United States mail and postmarked at least 2 days before the deadline is not subject to penalty.

Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a 2-year period that begins on January 1st of each even-numbered year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify the finding of a violation.

MAXIMUM PENALTIES

21-A M.R.S. Section 1020-A(5-A)

\$5,000 for Intendent Expenditure Reports, except if the financial activity reported late exceeds \$50,000, the maximum penalty is 100% of the amount reported late.



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

September 10, 2024

Ms. Tiffany Dilda-Gaspar
Maine Republican Party
9 Higgins Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Re: Late Filing of 24-Hour Report – Sean Spicer Contribution - **REVISED**

Dear Ms. Dilda-Gaspar:

Please disregard previous notices received regarding the above-captioned matter.

The Commission staff has made a finding the Maine Republican Party (“the committee”) was late in filing its 24-Hour Report for the contribution it received from Mr. Sean Spicer. The report was due by 11:59 p.m. on June 4, 2024, but was not filed until July 22, 2024. Under the Commission’s statutes, the late filing of a report triggers an enforcement process. (21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A). Based on the amount of financial activity in the report, the number of calendar days the report was late, and the history of violations from the committee, the Commission staff has determined a penalty of \$7,495.68 is owed.

If you disagree with the determination, the committee may make a written request that the Commission waive the violation or penalty in whole or in part. Any request for a waiver must be made within 14 calendar days of your receipt of this notice; it must be in writing and contain a full explanation of the reasons the committee filed late. Upon receipt, staff will schedule your appeal for the next public meeting of the Commission.

The Commission may waive the penalty if it determines the report was late due to mitigating circumstances, which are defined as (1) a valid emergency; (2) an error made by the Commission staff; or (3) relevant evidence the committee made a bona fide effort to file the report on time. Also, the Commission may waive the penalty if it is disproportionate to the level of experience of the person filing the report or the harm suffered by the public from the late disclosure.

If you want to pay the penalty, you can do so online at www.maine.gov/ethics by selecting the “Penalty Payment” button, or mail a check payable to “Treasurer, State of Maine” to us at the address above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Currier".

Martha Currier
Assistant Director

OFFICE LOCATED AT: 45 MEMORIAL CIRCLE, AUGUSTA, MAINE
WEBSITE: WWW.MAINE.GOV/ETHICS

PHONE: (207) 287-4179

FAX: (207) 287-6775

Committee Name: Maine Republican Party

Prior Violations: 0

Report Name	Activity Amount	Due Date	Days Late	Penalty Rate	Penalty
24-Hour Report (SS CON)	\$7,808.00	6/4/2024	48	2%	\$7,495.68

The penalty for late filing of a required report is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the filing period, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days the report is filed late, as follows:

For the first violation, 2%

For the second violation, 4%

For the third and each subsequent violation, 6%

A penalty begins to accrue at 11:59 p.m. on the day the report is due.

A required report sent by certified or registered United States mail and postmarked at least 2 days before the deadline is not subject to penalty.

Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a 2-year period that begins on January 1st of each even-numbered year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify the finding of a violation.

MAXIMUM PENALTIES

21-A M.R.S. Section 1020-A(5-A)

\$5,000 for Intendent Expenditure Reports, except if the financial activity reported late exceeds \$50,000, the maximum penalty is 100% of the amount reported late.

Commission Penalty Decisions - PACs, BQCs, Party Committees (2018 - present)

Committee Name	Requested Waivers of Late-Filing Penalties	Preliminary Penalty	Final Penalty	Commission Meeting Date
Waiver Requests				
Maine United Auto Workers PAC	Late January Quarterly	\$400.00	\$400.00	04/25/18
Maine Health Care Assoc. PAC	Late 24-Hour Report	\$2,760.00	\$500.00	08/29/18
Fecteau Leadership PAC	Late 24-Hour Report	\$400.00	\$400.00	08/29/18
New Mainers PAC	Late 24-Hour Report	\$10,000.00	\$1,000.00	03/06/19
Senate Democratic Campaign Committee	Late January Quarterly	\$1,010.50	\$750.00	04/24/19
Unite Portland PAC (<i>Municipal</i>)	Late IE Report	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.00	12/18/19
Unite Portland PAC (<i>Municipal</i>)	Late IE Report	\$2,052.16	\$750.00	12/18/19
Women's Leadership Fund PAC	Late IE Report	\$100.00	\$50.00	08/11/20
Maine Truck PAC	Late 24-Hour Report	\$2,203.08	\$500.00	10/16/20
Revive Hometown Maine PAC	Late October Quarterly	\$510.00	\$250.00	10/30/20
Mainers for Health and Parental Rights	Late 24-Hour Report	\$980.00	\$750.00	01/27/21
Kittery Democratic Committee	Late 11-Day Pre-General Report	\$500.00	\$100.00	02/24/21
Madison Republican Committee of Maine	Late 11-Day Pre-General Report	\$500.00	\$100.00	02/24/21
York Town Republican Committee	Late 11-Day Pre-General Report	\$500.00	\$100.00	02/24/21
Energy PAC for Maine	Late 24-Hour Report	\$8,840.00	\$750.00	03/31/21
Protect Maine Elections	Late Initial Report	\$1,004.00	\$750.00	10/29/21
Mainers for Local Power PAC	Late 24-Hour Report	\$300,000.00	\$25,000.00	02/28/22
Mainers for Local Power PAC	Late 24-Hour Report	\$98,500.00	\$10,000.00	02/28/22
No on 3: Right to Food is Wrong for Maine	Late 24-Hour Report (3)	\$932.00	\$300.00	02/28/22
Piscataquis County Republican Committee	Late January Semiannual Report	\$500.00	\$100.00	03/30/22
Waldo County Democratic Committee	2022 July Semiannual Report	\$181.21	\$60.40	09/28/22
Lincoln County Republican Committee	2022 July Semiannual Report	\$500.00	\$100.00	09/28/22
American Leadership Committee-Maine PAC	Late IE report Oct. Quarterly Report	\$679.88	\$679.88	11/30/22
Planned Parenthood Maine Action Fund	Late IE report	\$2,433.60	\$750.00	11/30/22
We the People PAC	Late IE report	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	11/30/22
We the People PAC	Late IE report	\$99.96	\$99.96	11/30/22
Steve LaFreniere	Late IE Report	\$1,090.00	\$200.00	12/21/22
York Voter Alliance	Late IE report	\$672.61	\$200.00	12/21/22
Androscoggin County Democratic Committee	Late 11-Day Pre-General Report	\$99.94	\$99.94	12/21/22
Aroostook County Republican Committee	Late 11-Day Pre-General Report	\$500.00	\$100.00	01/30/23
Aroostook County Republican Committee	Late 24-Hour Report	\$120.00	\$120.00	01/30/23
Maine AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education PAC	Late 24-Hour Report	\$4,860.00	\$750.00	02/28/23
Maine United Auto Workers Council PAC	Two Late 24-Hour Reports	\$4,900.00	\$1,000.00	02/28/23
American Leadership Committee-Maine PAC	Late 42-Day Post-General Report	\$55,654.00	\$2,500.00	05/31/23
We the People PAC	Late 11 day Pre-special election report	\$1,147.50	\$400.00	08/23/23
Star City PAC	Late 11 day Pre-special election report	\$370.50	\$150.00	08/23/23

Late Major Contributor Decisions				
Committee Name	Violation	Preliminary Penalty	Final Penalty	Commission Meeting Date
Waiver requests				
Mainers for Local Power PAC	Late Major Contributor (2)	\$53,431.15	\$2,500.00	03/10/20
Maine Street Solutions - Protect Schools BQC	Late Major Contributor	\$25,000.00	\$2,000.00	05/27/20
Clean Energy Matters PAC	Late Major Contributor Notice	\$50,000.00	\$2,500.00	03/31/21
We the People PAC	Late Major Contributor Notice	\$11,500.00	\$2,500.00	05/26/21
Mainers for Local Power PAC	Late Major Contributor Notice	\$13,786.32	\$2,500.00	08/23/21
Maine Energy Progress	Late Major Contributor Notice	\$25,768.87	\$3,000.00	11/29/23
Dorman Products	Late Major Contributor Report	\$15,000	\$5,000.00	11/29/23
Maine Automotive Right to Repair	Late Major Contributor Notices (6)	\$240,000.00	\$35,000.00	11/29/23
Genuine Parts Company	Late Major Contributor Report	\$50,000.00	\$5,000.00	01/31/24
Our Power	Two Late Major Contributor Notices	\$28,155	\$6,000.00	02/27/24
Citizens for a Bright Future	Late Registration, late filing, lack of disclaimer	\$3,866	\$300.00	05/29/24
Planned Parenthood Maine Action Fund	Late IE Report	\$734	\$400.00	05/29/24
Bangor Fire Fighters PAC Fund	Late to update their registration	\$250.00	\$0.00	05/29/24
Other Enforcement Decisions - Committees				
Committee Name	Violation	Preliminary Penalty	Final Penalty	Commission Meeting Date
Other Violations				
Sara Gideon Leadership PAC	Contributions Made in Name of Another		\$500.00	10/30/19
Working Families PAC	Failure to file 2020 October Quarterly; 11-Day Pre-General, 42-Day Post-General, and 2021 January Quarterly and April Quarterly campaign finance reports		\$3,750.00	05/26/21
Mainers for Fair Laws BQC	Missing Disclaimers in television ads		\$2,500.00	09/29/21
Working Families PAC	Over the limit contribution to Diane Russell senate campaign		\$285.00	09/29/21
American Leadership Committee-Maine PAC	Missing top three donors		\$10,000.00	11/30/22
Building the Maine House	Late 11-day Pre-Primary Report		\$0.00	07/24/24

**Memo to Commissioners re: Maine Republican Party Committee Waiver Request –
Text of Legal Authority Cited in Memo in order Referenced**

21-A M.R.S. § 1017-A (4-A) (E)

Chapter 13: Campaign Finance Reports

§ 1017-A. Reports of contributions and expenditures by party committees

4-A. Filing schedule. A state party committee shall file its reports according to the following schedule. All reports required under paragraphs A, B and C must be filed by 11:59 p.m. on the day of the filing deadline.

E. If a state party committee is required to file a report 11 days before an election pursuant to paragraph B or C, the committee shall report any single contribution of \$5,000 or more received or any single expenditure of \$1,000 or more made after the 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election within 24 hours of that contribution or expenditure. The committee is not required to include in this report expenditures for overhead expenses or compensation paid to an employee or other member of the campaign staff who has received payments at regular intervals that have been disclosed in previously filed campaign finance reports. As used in this paragraph, “overhead expenses” includes, but is not limited to, rent, utility payments, taxes, insurance premiums or similar administrative expenses.

21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A (4-A)

Chapter 13: Campaign Finance Reports

§ 1020-A. Failure to file on time

4-A. Basis for penalties. The penalty for late filing of a report required under this subchapter is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the filing period, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days late, as follows:

- A. For the first violation, 2%;
- B. For the 2nd violation, 4%; and
- C. For the 3rd and subsequent violations, 6%.

Any penalty of less than \$25 is waived.

Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a 2-year period that begins on January 1st of each even-numbered year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify the finding of a violation.

A report required to be filed under this subchapter that is sent by certified or registered United States mail and postmarked at least 2 days before the deadline is not subject to penalty.

21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A (2)

Chapter 13: Campaign Finance Reports

§ 1020-A. Failure to file on time

2. Campaign finance reports. A campaign finance report is not timely filed unless a properly signed or electronically submitted copy of the report, substantially conforming to the disclosure requirements of this subchapter, is received by the commission by 11:59 p.m. on the date it is due. Except as provided in subsection 7, the commission shall determine whether a report satisfies the requirements for timely filing. The commission may waive a penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines that the penalty is disproportionate to the size of the candidate's campaign, the level of experience of the candidate, treasurer or campaign staff or the harm suffered by the public from the late disclosure. The commission may waive the penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines the failure to file a timely report was due to mitigating circumstances. For purposes of this section, "mitigating circumstances" means:

- A. A valid emergency determined by the commission, in the interest of the sound administration of justice, to warrant the waiver of the penalty in whole or in part;
- B. An error by the commission staff;
- C. Failure to receive notice of the filing deadline; or
- D. Other circumstances determined by the commission that warrant mitigation of the penalty, based upon relevant evidence presented that a bona fide effort was made to file the report in accordance with the statutory requirements, including, but not limited to, unexplained delays in postal service or interruptions in Internet service.