



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

To: Commissioners
From: Erin Gordon, Candidate Registrar
Date: September 18, 2024
Re: John DeVeau – Assessment of Penalties for Failure to File Reports

John DeVeau was a traditionally financed unsuccessful primary candidate in 2020 for the legislature. Since January 2021, Mr. DeVeau has been required to file semiannual campaign finance reports, because his reported campaign balance exceeds \$100. He should have filed a 2024 January Semiannual Report (due 1/16/2024) and a 2024 July Semiannual Report (due 7/15/2024) but he filed neither. Commission staff recommends assessing two penalties of \$500 for failing to file these two campaign finance reports, for a total penalty of \$1,000.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Duty of former candidates to file semiannual reports. After an election, a candidate with a campaign surplus or deficit greater than \$100 is required to file semiannual reports with the Commission. The reports are due each January 15th and July 15th. 21-A M.R.S. § 1017(3-A)(E). The Commission's eFiling system calculates a "cash balance" for each candidate based on the contributions and expenditures the candidate has reported. This reported cash balance is shown on the cover sheet of each campaign finance report PDF. After an election, if a candidate's reported cash balance exceeds \$100, the Commission staff assigns the candidate semiannual reports to be filed until the candidate has spent down the surplus. Candidates are required to dispose of their surplus within four years of the election for which the contributions were received. § 1017(8)

Penalties for failing to file reports. The Commission may assess a civil penalty for failing to file a report required in chapter 13, subchapter 1 of the Election Law. § 1020-A(8-A). This subchapter includes the requirement for former candidates to file semiannual reports under § 1017(3-A)(E). The maximum penalty that may be assessed for not filing a post-election semiannual report is \$1,000 per report. § 1020-A(5-A)(C). Also, a candidate who fails to file a required campaign

finance report after the Commission has sent the candidate certain written notifications is guilty of a class E crime. § 1020-A(8).

Penalties for filing a campaign finance report late. If a candidate files a late campaign finance report containing *no* contributions or expenditures, the Commission may assess a penalty of up to \$100. § 1004-A(1). When a candidate files a report late that contains contributions or expenditures, the Commission sends a notice to the candidate that a preliminary penalty is owed, and the candidate may request a waiver due to mitigating circumstances. § 1020-A(2) & (6). The amount of the penalty is set by a formula which takes into consideration a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures, whichever is greater, the number of prior violations within a two-year period, and the number of days the report is late. § 1020-A(4-A).

Referral to Attorney General. Subsection 4 of the Commission’s investigations statute states that “The commission shall refer any apparent violations of this chapter to the Attorney General for prosecution.” § 1003(4).

DISCUSSION

Mr. DeVeau served as his own campaign treasurer for his 2020 primary election campaign. He filed three reports in 2020. Both the 11-Day Pre-Primary Report and the 42-Day Post-Primary Report were filed late, and the Commission assessed routine late-filing penalties, which Mr. DeVeau paid. His last report filed in 2020 indicated he had a cash balance of \$1,316.10.

During 2021, 2022, and 2023, Mr. DeVeau was required to file semiannually, because his reported cash balance was \$1,316.10 and the law requires that his balance be whittled down below \$100 before the filing obligations cease. He routinely contacted Commission staff during that period to indicate that he had “no change” and requested assistance in filing “no activity” reports. To be helpful during a busy filing deadline, Ms. Gordon filed those reports on his behalf through July of 2023.

Ahead of the 2024 January Semiannual deadline (January 16, 2024), Commission staff contacted the remaining candidates from the 2020 cycle to advise them that they were required by statute to finish disposing of their surplus funds by the end of the calendar year. During the first half of

January, Ms. Gordon communicated with Mr. DeVeau by both phone and email about the filing deadline; he attested once again that there was “no change” and she requested verbal confirmation of the campaign bank account balance before filing another “no activity” report on his behalf. (The Commission staff routinely asks former candidates to confirm their actual campaign surplus to ensure accurate reporting.) When Mr. DeVeau did not provide that information, Ms. Gordon instructed him to file his report and make the confirmation of accuracy himself; she also provided him his username and password.

When Mr. DeVeau failed to file the 2024 January Semiannual, staff sent him notices of his failure to file by email and certified mail, return receipt requested:

- First notice: January 22, 2024 (Commission staff believes it received the mail receipt but did not retain it)
- Second notice: February 7, 2024 (signed mail receipt dated 2/8/2024 is attached to this memo)
- Final notice: July 17, 2024 (signed mail receipt dated 7/22/2024 is attached).

In the meantime, on the deadline for the 2024 July Semiannual Report, Ms. Gordon sent a detailed reminder to Mr. DeVeau about the report and the requirement for him to dispose of all surplus funds by the end of the calendar year. She again included his user credentials for the eFiling site. Mr. DeVeau did not file that report and Ms. Gordon sent the following notices of his failure to file:

- First notice: July 18, 2024 (signed mail receipt dated 7/22/2024 is attached)
- Final notice: July 31, 2024 (envelope returned “unclaimed/unable to forward.”)
- Agenda notice: September 4, 2024 (signed mail receipt dated 9/7/2024 is attached).

On August 1, Mr. DeVeau replied to the July 15 email, asking about what contributions to other candidates he might make with his surplus funds. Ms. Gordon answered promptly, but as of today our records do not show that Mr. DeVeau has logged into his eFiling portal at all since late 2020.

Generally, all the mail notices were also shared with Mr. DeVeau as attachments to emails sent to two email addresses for him that are on file with the Commission. None of the emails have been returned to the Commission as undeliverable.

After this enforcement proceeding commenced, Director Wayne sent two communications to Mr. DeVeau as well. On September 6, 2024, Mr. Wayne sent him a letter explaining the reasons behind our penalty recommendations by email, regular mail, and certified mail, return receipt requested. Later that day, Mr. DeVeau replied by email, stating “Thank you for the clarification.” Mr. DeVeau’s September 6, 2024, reply confirms that he is aware the Commission will be considering whether to assess penalties totaling \$1,000 at its September 25, 2024 meeting. On September 16, Mr. Wayne sent the candidate another email reminding him of his opportunity to mitigate the recommended penalties by filing the overdue campaign finance reports. Mr. DeVeau has not done so. As of today, Commission staff has received no communications from Mr. DeVeau since his September 6 email. On September 5, 2024, Mr. Wayne also attempted to telephone Mr. DeVeau at the phone number on file for his 2020 campaign, but the number is no longer in service.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Commission staff initiated this enforcement proceeding because of Mr. DeVeau’s continued failure to file reports. Although staff had filed reports on his behalf in the past, Ms. Gordon clearly informed him in January that she would not be filing the report unless he could confirm his account balance with his bank; if he chose not to take that step, she advised that he could file another “no activity” report himself.

Statute requires that candidates dispose of their surplus balances within four years of their election. Staff routine is to advise candidates with remaining surpluses at the start of that fourth year, to give them two final reports to show their final expenditures. The legislature and citizens of Maine expect that candidates will report the status of their remaining funds accurately and regularly. By avoiding his responsibilities, Mr. DeVeau is depriving the public of that information.

Pursuant to 21-A M.R.S. § 1062-A(8-A), staff recommends assessing two penalties of \$500 (for a total of \$1,000) against Mr. DeVeau for not filing the semiannual reports due January 16, 2024, and July 15, 2024. He has received actual notice of these potential penalties, as confirmed by his Sept. 6 email and a signed mail receipt. In the event that Mr. DeVeau files those two reports prior to the September 25, 2024 meeting, Commission staff recommends assessing smaller late-filing penalties under § 1004-A(1) or § 1062-A, depending on whether those reports contain any contributions or expenditures.

Maine Election Law, Title 21-A

§ 1003. Investigations by commission

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4. Attorney General. Upon the request of the commission, the Attorney General shall aid in any investigation, provide advice, examine any witnesses before the commission or otherwise assist the commission in the performance of its duties. The commission shall refer any apparent violations of this chapter to the Attorney General for prosecution.

§ 1004-A. Penalties

The commission may assess the following penalties in addition to the other monetary sanctions authorized in this chapter.

1. Late campaign finance report. A person that files a late campaign finance report containing no contributions or expenditures may be assessed a penalty of no more than \$100.

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§ 1017. Reports by candidates

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3-A. Other candidates. A treasurer of a candidate for state or county office other than the office of Governor shall file reports with the commission and municipal candidates shall file reports with the municipal clerk as follows. Once the first required report has been filed, each subsequent report must cover the period from the end date of the prior report filed.

A. In any calendar year in which an election for the candidate's particular office is not scheduled, when any candidate or candidate's political committee has received contributions in excess of \$500 or made or authorized expenditures in excess of \$500, reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on July 15th of that year and January 15th of the following calendar year. These reports must include all contributions made to and all expenditures made or authorized by or on behalf of the candidate or the treasurer of the candidate as of the end of the preceding month, except those covered by a previous report.

B. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 11th day before the date on which an election is held and must be complete as of the 14th day before that date. If a report was not filed under paragraph A, the report required under this paragraph must cover all contributions and expenditures through the 14th day before the election.

C. If the candidate has an opponent who is on the ballot or who is a declared write-in candidate, any single contribution of \$1,000 or more received or any single expenditure of \$1,000 or more made after the 14th day before any election and more than 24 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of any election must be reported within 24 hours of that contribution or expenditure. The candidate or treasurer 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.

D. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 42nd day after the date on which an election is held and must be complete for the filing period as of the 35th day after that date.

D-1. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 42nd day before the date on which an election is held and must be complete as of the 49th day before that date, except that this report is not required for candidates for municipal office, unless required by the municipality. Certified candidates and participating candidates, as defined under section 1122, subsections 1 and 6, respectively, are not required to file a report on the 42nd day before a primary election pursuant to this section.

E. Unless further reports will be filed in relation to a later election in the same calendar year, the disposition of any surplus or deficit in excess of \$100 shown in the reports described in paragraph D must be reported as provided by this paragraph. The treasurer of a candidate with a surplus or deficit in excess of \$100 shall file reports semiannually with the commission within 15 days following the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters of the State's fiscal year, complete as of the last day of the quarter, until the surplus is disposed of or the deficit is liquidated. The first report under this paragraph is not required until the 15th day of the period beginning at least 90 days from the date of the election. The reports will be considered timely if filed electronically or in person with the commission on that date or postmarked on that date. The reports must set forth any contributions for the purpose of liquidating the deficit, in the same manner as contributions are set forth in other reports required in this section.

F. Reports with respect to a candidate who seeks nomination by petition must be filed on the same dates that reports must be filed by a candidate for the same office who seeks that nomination by primary election.

...

8. Disposition of surplus. A candidate or treasurer of a candidate registered under section 1013-A or qualified under sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355 shall dispose of a surplus exceeding \$100 within 4 years of the election for which the contributions were received by:

A. Returning contributions to the candidate's or candidate's authorized political committee's contributors, as long as no contributor receives more than the amount contributed;

B. A gift to a qualified political party within the State, including any county or municipal subdivision of such a party;

C. An unrestricted gift to the State. A candidate for municipal office may dispose of a surplus by making a restricted or unrestricted gift to the municipality;

D. Carrying forward the surplus balance to a political committee established to promote the same candidate for a subsequent election;

D-1. Carrying forward the surplus balance for use by the candidate for a subsequent election;

E. Transferring the surplus balance to one or more other candidates registered under section 1013-A or qualified under sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355, or to political committees established to promote the election of those candidates, provided that the amount transferred does not exceed the contribution limits established by section 1015;

F. Repaying any loans or retiring any other debts incurred to defray campaign expenses of the candidate;

G. Paying for any expense incurred in the proper performance of the office to which the candidate is elected, as long as each expenditure is itemized on expenditure reports; and

H. A gift to a charitable or educational organization that is not prohibited, for tax reasons, from receiving such a gift.

The choice must be made by the candidate for whose benefit the contributions were made.

...

§ 1020-A. Failure to file on time

1. Registration. A candidate that fails to register the name of a candidate, treasurer or political committee with the commission within the time allowed by section 1013-A, subsection 1 may be assessed a forfeiture of \$100. The commission shall determine whether a registration satisfies the requirements for timely filing under section 1013-A, subsection 1.

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.

3. Municipal campaign finance reports. Municipal campaign finance reports must be filed, subject to all the provisions of this subchapter, with the municipal clerk on forms prescribed by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The municipal clerk shall send any notice of lateness required by subsection 6 and shall notify the commission of any late reports subject to a penalty.

4. [Repealed]

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.

5. [Repealed]

5-A. Maximum penalties. Penalties assessed under this subchapter may not exceed:

A. Five thousand dollars for reports required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraph B, C, D, E or H; section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraph B, C, D, D-1 or F; and section 1017, subsection 4, except that if the dollar amount of the financial activity that was not timely filed or did not substantially conform to the reporting requirements of this subchapter exceeds \$50,000, the maximum penalty is 100% of the dollar amount of that financial activity;

A-1. Five thousand dollars for reports required under section 1019-B, subsection 4, except that if the dollar amount of the financial activity that was not timely filed or did not substantially conform to the reporting requirements of this subchapter exceeds \$50,000, the maximum penalty is 100% of the dollar amount of that financial activity;

B. Five thousand dollars for state party committee reports required under section 1017-A, subsection 4-A, paragraphs A, B, C and E, except that if the dollar amount of the financial activity that was not timely filed or did not substantially conform to the reporting requirements of this subchapter exceeds \$50,000, the maximum penalty is 100% of the dollar amount of that financial activity;

C. One thousand dollars for reports required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraphs A and F and section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraphs A and E; or

D. Five hundred dollars for municipal, district and county committees for reports required under section 1017-A, subsection 4-B.

E. [Repealed]

6. Request for a commission determination. If the commission staff finds that a candidate or political committee has failed to file a report required under this subchapter, the commission staff shall mail a notice to the candidate or political committee within 3 business days following the filing deadline informing the candidate

or political committee that a report was not received. If a candidate or a political committee files a report required under this subchapter late, a notice of preliminary penalty must be sent to the candidate or political committee whose registration or campaign finance report was not received by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date, informing the candidate or political committee of the staff finding of violation and preliminary penalty calculated under subsection 4-A and providing the candidate or political committee with an opportunity to request a determination by the commission. Any request for a determination must be made within 14 calendar days of receipt of the commission's notice. A candidate or political committee requesting a determination may either appear in person or designate a representative to appear on the candidate's or political committee's behalf or submit a sworn statement explaining the mitigating circumstances for consideration by the commission. A final determination by the commission may be appealed to the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7 and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80C.

7. Final notice of penalty. If a determination has been requested by the candidate or political committee and made by the commission, notice of the commission's final determination and the penalty, if any, imposed pursuant to this subchapter must be sent to the candidate and the political committee.

If a determination is not requested, the preliminary penalty calculated by the commission staff is final. The commission staff shall mail final notice of the penalty to the candidate and treasurer. A detailed summary of all notices must be provided to the commission.

8. Failure to file report. The commission shall notify a candidate who has failed to file a report required by this subchapter, in writing, informing the candidate of the requirement to file a report. The notice must be sent by certified mail. If a candidate fails to file a report after 2 notices have been sent by the commission, the commission shall send a final notice by certified mail informing the candidate of the requirement to file and that the matter may be referred to the Attorney General for criminal prosecution. A candidate who fails to file a report as required by this subchapter after the commission has sent the notices required by this subsection is guilty of a Class E crime.

8-A. Penalties for failure to file report. The penalty for failure to file a report required under this subchapter may not exceed the maximum penalties as provided in subsection 5-A.

9. List of late-filing candidates. The commission shall prepare a list of the names of candidates who are late in filing a report required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraph C or D or section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraph B or C within 30 days of the date of the election and shall make that list available for public inspection.

10. Enforcement. A penalty assessed pursuant to this section that has not been paid in full within 30 days after issuance of a notice of the final determination may be enforced in accordance with section 1004-B.



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

2020 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

FOR PRIVATELY FINANCED CANDIDATES

COMMITTEE		TREASURER
Mr. John DeVeau 61 Pioneer Avenue Caribou, ME 04736 PHONE: (207) 484-8993 EMAIL: jdeveau915@gmail.com		Mr. John DeVeau 61 Pioneer Avenue Caribou, ME 04736 PHONE: EMAIL: johndeveau149@usa.com
REPORT	DUE DATE	REPORTING PERIOD
42-Day Post-Primary Report	08/25/2020	07/01/2020 - 08/18/2020

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY SUMMARY

RECEIPTS	TOTAL FOR THIS PERIOD	TOTAL FOR CAMPAIGN
1. CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION (SCHEDULE A)	\$0.00	\$2,390.07
1A. CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION(SCHEDULE A) <i>For party candidates, general election contributions will only appear on this line after the primary.</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
1B. CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION RAISED PRIOR TO PRIMARY (Not shown on Schedule A of this report)	\$0.00	\$0.00
2. OTHER CASH RECEIPTS (INTEREST, ETC)	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. LOANS (SCHEDULE C)	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$0.00	\$2,390.07
EXPENDITURES		
5. EXPENDITURES (SCHEDULE B)	\$0.00	\$1,073.97
6. LOAN REPAYMENTS (SCHEDULE C)	\$0.00	\$0.00
7. TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$0.00	\$1,073.97
CASH SUMMARY		
8. CASH BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	\$1,316.10	
9. PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS THIS PERIOD (LINE 4)	\$0.00	
10. MINUS TOTAL PAYMENTS THIS PERIOD (LINE 7)	\$0.00	
11. CASH BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD	\$1,316.10	
OTHER ACTIVITY		
12. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS (SCHEDULE A-1)	\$0.00	\$0.00
13. TOTAL LOAN BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD (SCHEDULE C)	\$0.00	
14. TOTAL UNPAID DEBTS AT END OF PERIOD (SCHEDULE D)	\$0.00	
FOR PARTY CANDIDATES ONLY: CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION RAISED PRIOR TO PRIMARY ELECTION (INCLUDED IN LINE 1A AFTER PRIMARY ELECTION)		

I, John DeVeau, CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS TRUE, ACCURATE, AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

REPORT FILED BY: John DeVeau
REPORT FILED ON: 11/9/2020 12:11:19 PM
LAST MODIFIED:
COMMITTEE ID: 353490

From: [Gordon, Erin](#)
To: [John DeVeau](#)
Subject: RE: UPCOMING REPORT: 2024 January Semiannual Report
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024 1:08:00 PM

Thank you, what is your campaign bank account balance?

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar

From: John DeVeau <jdeveau915@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 1:08 PM
To: Gordon, Erin <Erin.Gordon@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: UPCOMING REPORT: 2024 January Semiannual Report

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Yes, please file a no change report.

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024, 11:03 AM Gordon, Erin <Erin.Gordon@maine.gov> wrote:

Hello,

If you would like me to file a "no activity" report on your behalf, please reply to this email and confirm your campaign bank account balance.

To follow up with another email, you are required by statute to dispose of the remainder of surplus funds by the end of this calendar year. After this January report, there will be two more reports in which you can show your final expenditures.

Thank you,

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar

From: John DeVeau <jdeveau915@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 10:45 AM
To: Gordon, Erin <Erin.Gordon@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: UPCOMING REPORT: 2024 January Semiannual Report

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Erin,

Nothing has changed.

Happy New Year.

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024, 10:05 AM Gordon, Erin <Erin.Gordon@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning candidates,

You are receiving this email because you have been assigned the 2024 January Semiannual Report. This report covers the time period from July 1 through December 31, 2023 and must be filed **no later than 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, 2024.**

If you have any questions about reporting or believe you are receiving this email in error, please reply as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Erin Gordon, Candidate Registrar
House Districts 1-76 | Senate Districts 1-17
Aroostook, Hancock, Knox, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset,
Waldo, Washington
(207) 287-3651 | erin.gordon@maine.gov

Lorrie Brann, Candidate Registrar
House Districts 77-151 | Senate Districts 18-35
Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Kennebec, Lincoln, Oxford,
Sagadahoc, York
(207) 287-4727 | lorrie.j.brann@maine.gov

Gordon, Erin

From: Gordon, Erin
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:06 AM
To: John DeVeau
Cc: Currier, Martha
Subject: RE: Surplus Funds and Final Reports

Good morning,

Legislative candidates, both house and senate, can accept up to \$475 from an individual. Log in at www.mainecampaignfinance.com and file your two reports to show you had no activity, and then any expenditures you make from now through the end of the year will be entered and reported on the 2025 January Semiannual Report.

Thank you

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar

From: John DeVeau <jdeveau915@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 6:34 AM
To: Gordon, Erin <Erin.Gordon@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Surplus Funds and Final Reports

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Erin,

To date nothing has changed with my balance.

Could you tell me what limits there may be for donations to house and senate candidates?

On Mon, Jul 15, 2024, 10:13 AM Gordon, Erin <Erin.Gordon@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning John,

I am writing to remind you that, as a 2020 candidate, you are required to finish disposing of your surplus funds by the end of this year, 12/31/24. Your final report must be the 2025 January Semiannual Report and should show an ending balance of less than \$100. The full statutory guidelines can be found on our website, but some of the easiest ways to get rid of the surplus are either to make a charitable donation or a contribution to another candidate active in the 2024 election.

https://www.maine.gov/ethics/sites/maine.gov.ethics/files/inline-files/pdf/disposition_surplus_funds.pdf

You have not yet filed the 2024 January Semiannual Report and today's 2024 July Semiannual Report. Your last filed report was last year's 2023 July Semiannual; it showed an ending balance of \$1,316.10. Now is a great time to ensure your reported balance more or less matches what is actually in your campaign bank account before logging in to catch up on those unfiled reports.

Access your campaign finance reporting account online at www.mainecampaignfinance.com using the following credentials:

(username) JDeVeau04

(password) Sandwich24

For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile device for this website.

Thank you,

Erin Gordon

Candidate Registrar

Maine Ethics Commission

(207) 287-3651 | www.maine.gov/ethics

135 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0135

45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, ME

From: [John DeVeau](#)
To: [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Cc: johndeveau149@usa.com; [Currier, Martha](#); [Gordon, Erin](#)
Subject: Re: Ethics Follow-Up Penalty Notice
Date: Friday, September 6, 2024 1:10:41 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for the clarification.

On Fri, Sep 6, 2024, 9:28 AM Wayne, Jonathan <Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. DeVeau,

I was unable to reach you by phone yesterday at the number our office has for you. I have attached a letter clarifying the penalties under consideration by the Ethics Commission and how you can reduce them. If you have questions, please contact Candidate Registrar Erin Gordon at 287-3651 or erin.gordon@maine.gov. Thank you.

Jonathan Wayne

Executive Director

Maine Ethics Commission

135 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

287-4179

From: Wayne, Jonathan
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 10:30 AM
To: John DeVeau <jdeveau915@gmail.com>
Cc: Currier, Martha <Martha.Currier@maine.gov>; Gordon, Erin <Erin.Gordon@maine.gov>; Aube, Julie <Julie.Aube@maine.gov>
Subject: Reducing Proposed Penalties (Username and Password Included)

Mr. DeVeau,

If you file the campaign finance reports due in January 2024 and July 2024, you will be able to significantly reduce the penalties proposed by the Ethics Commission staff that are scheduled for the Commission's September 25 meeting.

Your username and password are included in the email below from Candidate Registrar Erin Gordon.

Ms. Gordon will not file the reports for you, but she will provide you with telephone advice about how to file them if you need that.

Thank you.

Jonathan Wayne
Executive Director
Maine Ethics Commission
135 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
287-4179

From: Gordon, Erin
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 10:14 AM
To: John DeVeau <jdeveau915@gmail.com>; johndeveau149@usa.com
Subject: Surplus Funds and Final Reports

Good morning John,

I am writing to remind you that, as a 2020 candidate, you are required to finish disposing of your surplus funds by the end of this year, 12/31/24. Your final report must be the 2025 January Semiannual Report and should show an ending balance of less than \$100. The full statutory guidelines can be found on our website, but some of the easiest ways to get rid of the surplus are either to make a charitable donation or a contribution to another candidate active in the 2024 election.

https://www.maine.gov/ethics/sites/maine.gov.ethics/files/inline-files/pdf/disposition_surplus_funds.pdf

You have not yet filed the 2024 January Semiannual Report and today's 2024 July Semiannual Report. Your last filed report was last year's 2023 July Semiannual; it showed an ending balance of \$1,316.10. Now is a great time to ensure your reported balance more or less matches what is actually in your campaign bank account before logging in to catch up on those unfiled reports.

Access your campaign finance reporting account online at www.mainecampaignfinance.com using the following credentials:

(username) [redacted]

(password) [redacted]

For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile device for this website.

Thank you,

Erin Gordon

Candidate Registrar

Maine Ethics Commission

(207) 287-3651 | www.maine.gov/ethics

135 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0135

45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, ME



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

January 22, 2024

John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, ME 04736

Re: Delinquent Campaign Finance Report – Due January 16, 2024

Dear Mr. DeVeau:

Our records show that you have not filed your January Semiannual Report. You are required to file this report due to a remaining cash balance from a previous election. State law [21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A] requires a penalty be assessed for late reports based on the amount of financial activity conducted during the filing period, on the number of calendar days a report is filed late, and on the candidate's filing record. *If you raised or spent money during the filing period, you could be subject to civil penalties, which are accruing on a daily basis.* Once you have filed your report, our office will calculate the penalty and will notify you of the amount of the penalty. **We urge you to file your report as soon as possible.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Gordon'.

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar

Gordon, Erin

From: Gordon, Erin
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:32 AM
To: John DeVeau
Subject: First Notice: 2024 January Semiannual Report UNFILED
Attachments: DeVeau, John - non filer.pdf

Good morning,

Please find attached, a copy of the notice of your unfiled 2024 January Semiannual Report. This report was due January 16, 2024. Log into eFiling as soon as possible and file your report.

Thank you,

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar
Maine Ethics Commission
(207) 287-3651 | www.maine.gov/ethics
135 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0135
45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, ME



STATE OF MAINE
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135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

February 7, 2024

Sent by US Mail, Certified US Mail, and email

John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, Maine 04736

Re: SECOND NOTICE – Delinquent Campaign Finance Report – Due January 16, 2024

Mr. DeVeau:

You have not filed your January Semiannual Report. You are required to file this report because you have an outstanding campaign balance from 2020.

State law [21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A] requires a penalty be assessed for late reports based on the amount of financial activity conducted during the filing period, on the number of calendar days a report is filed late, and on the candidate's filing record. *If you raised or spent money during the filing period, you could be subject to civil penalties, which are accruing on a daily basis.* Once you have filed your report, our office will calculate the penalty and will notify you of the amount of the penalty. **We urge you to file your report as soon as possible.**

Continued failure to file your report could result in a penalty for failure to file your report, and/or referral to the Office of the Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar



STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

July 17, 2024

Sent by US Mail, Certified US Mail, and email

Mr. John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, Maine 04736

Re: FINAL NOTICE – Delinquent Campaign Finance Report – Due January 16, 2024

Mr. DeVeau:

You have not filed your 2024 January Semiannual Report. You were required to file this report because you have an outstanding campaign balance from 2020. (21-A M.R.S. § 1017 (3-A)(E)).

A person who fails to file a report as required by law within 30 days of the filing deadline is guilty of a Class E crime. (21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A(8)). In addition, the Commission may assess a civil penalty for failure to file a campaign finance report of \$5,000 or the amount of financial activity not reported, whichever is greater. (21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A(8-A)).

Failure to file your report by August 2, 2024, will result in this matter appearing on the next public meeting agenda of the Ethics Commission.

Sincerely,

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar

Gordon, Erin

From: Gordon, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 4:36 PM
To: John DeVeau; johndeveau149@usa.com
Subject: Final Notice - Failure to File January Semiannual
Attachments: DeVeau - Final Notice non filer.pdf

Good afternoon Mr. DeVeau,

Please see attached, a letter of final notice of failure to file.

Thank you,

Erin Gordon

Candidate Registrar

Maine Ethics Commission

(207) 287-3651 | www.maine.gov/ethics

135 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0135

45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, ME



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04333-0135

July 18, 2024

Mr. John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, ME 04736

Re: Delinquent Campaign Finance Report – Due July 15, 2024

Dear Mr. DeVeau:

Our records show that you have not filed your July Semiannual Report. You are required to file this report due to a remaining cash balance from a previous election. State law [21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A] requires a penalty be assessed for late reports based on the amount of financial activity conducted during the filing period, on the number of calendar days a report is filed late, and on the candidate's filing record. *If you raised or spent money during the filing period, you could be subject to civil penalties, which are accruing on a daily basis.* Once you have filed your report, our office will calculate the penalty and will notify you of the amount of the penalty. **We urge you to file your report as soon as possible.**

Sincerely,

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar



STATE OF MAINE
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135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

July 31, 2024

Sent by US Mail, Certified US Mail, and email

Mr. John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, Maine 04736

Re: FINAL NOTICE – Delinquent Campaign Finance Report – Due July 15, 2024

Mr. DeVeau:

You have not filed your 2024 July Semiannual Report. You were required to file this report because you have an outstanding campaign balance from 2020. (21-A M.R.S. § 1017 (3-A)(E)).

A person who fails to file a report as required by law within 30 days of the filing deadline is guilty of a Class E crime. 21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A(8). In addition, the Commission may assess a civil penalty for failure to file a campaign finance report of \$5,000 or the amount of financial activity not reported, whichever is greater. 21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A(8-A).

Failure to file your report by **August 15, 2024**, will result in this matter appearing on the next public meeting agenda of the Ethics Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Gordon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar

Gordon, Erin

From: Gordon, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 12:57 PM
To: John DeVeau; johndeveau149@usa.com
Subject: Final Notice of Unfiled Report: 2024 July Semiannual
Attachments: DeVeau, John - non filer final notice.pdf

Mr. DeVeau,

Please see the attached letter, a final notice of your most recent unfiled report, the 2024 July Semiannual. Please note that you now have two reports outstanding that remain unfiled.

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar
Maine Ethics Commission
(207) 287-3651 | www.maine.gov/ethics
135 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0135
45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, ME



STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

Via Electronic and Certified Mail

September 4, 2024

Mr. John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, Maine 04736

Re: Failure to File 2024 January Semiannual and July Semiannual Reports

Dear Mr. DeVeau,

The purpose of this letter is to provide notice that the Commission will consider taking action on the above captioned matters at its public meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. As you are aware, candidates with campaign balances greater than \$100 are required to file semiannual reports with the Commission. 21-A M.R.S. § 1017 (2)(E).

Commission staff will recommend the assessment of a \$100 penalty each for your failure to file the January and July Semiannual Reports due on respectively January 16 and July 15, 2024. 21-A M.R.S. § 1004-A (1). Once a person fails to file a report as required by law within 30 days of the filing deadline, they are guilty of a Class E crime. 21-A M.R.S. § 1062-A(8). The Commission is now in a posture to refer these matters to the Office of the Attorney General for criminal prosecution. 21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A(8-A). Additionally, the Commission may assess additional civil penalties for failure to file a campaign finance report of \$5,000 or the amount of financial activity not reported, whichever is greater. 21-A M.R.S. § 1020-A(5-A)(A).

If you wish to submit a written response about this matter for the Commission to consider, please address it to Executive Director Jonathan Wayne at the address above or email jonathan.wayne@maine.gov. You will be provided an opportunity to address the Commission in-person or via Zoom at the September 25 meeting.

Sincerely,

Erin Gordon
Candidate Registrar

Gordon, Erin

From: Gordon, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 12:31 PM
To: John DeVeau; johndeveau149@usa.com
Subject: Notice of Agenda Item - Failure to File
Attachments: DeVeau, John - Failure to File.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see attached, a letter notifying you that you have been placed on the agenda for the September meeting of the Commission for failure to file two semiannual reports.

Erin Gordon

Candidate Registrar

Maine Ethics Commission

(207) 287-3651 | www.maine.gov/ethics

135 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0135

45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, ME



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

September 6, 2024

By Email, Regular and Certified Mail

Mr. John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, Maine 04736

Dear Mr. DeVeau,

I am following up on Erin Gordon's September 4, 2024 penalty notice and other correspondence urging you to file two campaign finance reports due January 16 and July 15, 2024 in connection with your 2020 campaign for the Maine House of Representatives. The unfiled reports will be considered by the Ethics Commission at its September 25, 2024 meeting in Augusta. You are encouraged to participate in the meeting by zoom or in person, or by submitting written comments.

At the present time, the Ethics Commission staff intends to recommend two penalties totaling \$1,000 for failing to file the reports.¹ You can avoid these large penalties by filing the reports, but the Commission will likely consider assessing smaller penalties because the reports were filed after the deadlines.²

To complete financial reporting for your 2020 campaign, we encourage you to spend your 2020 campaign surplus by contributing it to candidates, party committees or nonprofit organizations, or through other allowed uses that Ms. Gordon can describe to you. Please contact Ms. Gordon at 287-3651 or erin.gordon@maine.gov if you have any questions about this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Wayne".

Jonathan Wayne
Executive Director

¹ 21-A M.R.S. §§ 1017(3-A)(E) and 1020-A(5-A)(C), 8 & 8-A.

² 21-A M.R.S. §§ 1004-A(1) and 1020-A(2), (4-A) & (6).

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, ME 04736



9590 9402 6754 1074 5142 82

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7008 0150 0002 2776 7286

PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, ME 04736



9590 9402 6754 1074 5141 52

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7008 0150 0002 2776 7408

PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

B. Received by (Printed Name)

John DeVeau

C. Date of Delivery

7/23/24

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☒ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Insured Mail
- ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

B. Received by (Printed Name)

John DeVeau

C. Date of Delivery

7/23/24

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
S, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Insured Mail
- ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

B. Received by (Printed Name)

John DeVeau

C. Date of Delivery

7/23/24

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

JUL 26 2024

Maine Ethics Commission

3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☒ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Insured Mail
- ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)

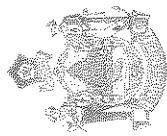
- ☐ Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7008 0150 0002 2776 7415

PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

Domestic Return Receipt



COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
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John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, ME 04736

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RETURN TO SENDER
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UNABLE TO FORWARD

UNC BC: 04333 *3084-02157-01-42



SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

John DeVeau
61 Pioneer Avenue
Caribou, ME 04736



9590 9402 7926 2305 3210 22

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7022 3330 0000 4376 1362

PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agent <i>John DeVeau</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Addressee
B. Received by (Printed Name) <i>John DeVeau</i>	C. Date of Delivery <i>8/7/24</i>
D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If YES, enter delivery address below:	

3. Service Type <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail® <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Collect on Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail (over \$500)	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority Mail Express® <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail™ <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail Restricted Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Confirmation™ <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery
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Domestic Return Receipt