



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

March 30, 2005

Betty Presley, Treasurer
San Bernardino County
Republican Central Committee
13911 Park Avenue, Suite 204
Victorville, CA 92393

**Response Due Date:
April 29, 2005**

Identification Number: C00014092

Reference: October Quarterly Report (7/1/04-9/30/04)

Dear Ms. Presley:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above.** An itemization of the information needed follows:

-Your calculations for Line 32, Columns A and B appear to be incorrect. FEC calculations disclose these amounts to be \$46,646.49 and \$78,193.60, respectively. Please provide the corrected totals on the Detailed Summary Page.

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Voter Information." Please be advised that 11 CFR §100.24(b) defines as Federal Election Activity, Voter identification, Generic Campaign and Get-out-the-vote activities conducted in connection with an election in which one or more candidates for Federal office appear on the ballot. Furthermore, the costs for these types of Federal Election Activity must either be paid with federal funds or allocated between federal and Levin funds. It appears that you have allocated these costs between federal and non-federal funds. Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for Federal Election Activity costs is not permissible and must be returned. 11 CFR §§300.32 and 300.33

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately or provide clarifying information regarding this activity. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this apparent prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

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-Schedule H4 of your report discloses a payment(s) for Voter Registration activity. 11 CFR §100.24(b) defines as Federal Election Activity, voter registration activity during the period beginning on the date that is 120 calendar days before the date that a regularly scheduled Federal election is held, and ending on the date of the election. Furthermore, the costs for this type of Federal Election Activity must either be paid with federal funds or allocated between federal and Levin funds. It appears that you have allocated these costs between federal and non-federal funds. Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment(s) is not permissible and must be returned. 11 CFR §§300.32 and 300.33

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Your report does not disclose any payments for salary or wages on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 11 CFR §100.24 defines as Federal Election Activity, services provided by an employee of a State, district or local party committee who spends more than 25 percent of their time during that month on activities in connection with a Federal election. You are advised that payments for salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25 percent of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must be made with Federal funds only. Please provide clarification regarding the lack of payments for salary and wages disclosed by your committee.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Staff Salaries" and "Staff Wages." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

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-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a)(i) discloses \$1,536.71 in disbursements to S.B. County Rep Central Comm State for "Transfer of Funds to State". You are advised that 11 CFR §102.5 prohibits a non-federal account from financing activity in connection with federal elections. Please provide clarifying information regarding these transactions including the date(s) when the original activity was conducted by the non-federal account. In addition, if any of the disbursements disclosed were made to influence the election or defeat of specific federal candidates, the disbursements should be allocated accordingly and disclosed as either in-kind contributions on Schedule B supporting Line 23, independent expenditures on Schedule E supporting Line 24, or as coordinated expenditures on Schedule F supporting Line 25. 11 CFR §§104.3(b)(3) and 106.1

Although the Commission may initiate legal action regarding the activities conducted by your non-federal account, any clarifying information that you can provide will be taken into consideration.

-On Schedule H3 supporting Line 18(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, Lines i), ii), iii), iv)c) and v)c) for the transfer-in from the non-federal account do not add up to the \$14,162.89 transfer received on 9/13/04. Please amend your report to correct this discrepancy. 11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17

-On Schedule H4, your allocated activity or event year-to-date total calculations for the Administrative category are incorrect. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for administrative, voter drive and exempt activity costs are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year for each separate category. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for fundraising and direct candidate support activities are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year within a specific event. These should be calculated by adding the latest disbursement for a category or event to the previous event year-to-date total for that category or event. This running event year-to-date total should be disclosed after each disbursement is listed. Please amend your report and any subsequent reports that may be affected by this correction.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses \$16,024.78 in apparent allocated operating expenditures as "memo" entries that do not appear to correspond with any itemized transaction(s). Please be advised, a memo entry is used to disclose additional information about an itemized transaction and the amount of a memo entry is not included in the total receipts or disbursements for the report. Please amend your report to provide clarifying information regarding these disbursements.

-On Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have failed to include the purpose for several joint expenditures to various vendors. Note that the activity or event identifier is not considered an adequate description of purpose. Please amend your report to include this missing information.

-Your report discloses limited payments for administrative expenses. Administrative expenses are payments made for the purpose of operating a political committee including, but not limited to, rent, utilities, salaries, telephone service, office equipment and supplies. Each state, district or local party committee utilizing separate federal and non-federal accounts is required to allocate any administrative expenses (excluding salary) between the accounts according to a fixed percentage selected on FEC Schedule H1. A Schedule H1 must be filed with the first FEC FORM 3X filed at the beginning of each calendar year. Payments for salary and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time on Federal election activities or on activities in connection with a Federal election must be made from a federal account and disclosed on a Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 11 CFR §106.7

Any goods or services provided to your committee by a person, except volunteer activity (i.e., a person's time), would be considered an in-kind contribution from that person, and would be subject to the disclosure requirements of 2 U.S.C. §434(b)(3) and 11 CFR §104.13, and the limitations and prohibitions of 2 U.S.C. §§441a and 441b.

Clarification regarding administrative expenses should be provided during each two year election cycle beginning with the first report filed in the non-election year. Please provide the necessary information regarding administrative expenses incurred by your committee and/or amend your report to disclose such expenses according to the referenced provisions of the Act and Commission Regulations.

-On Schedule A supporting Line 18 you disclose transfers from your non-federal account which appear to be identical to the transfers disclosed on Schedule H3. Be advised that transfers from your non-federal account should only be disclosed on Schedule H3 supporting Line 18(a). Please amend your report to clarify this discrepancy.

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses activity which is 100% federal. For future reporting, please be advised that any activity which is financed entirely by the federal account (including administrative expenses), should

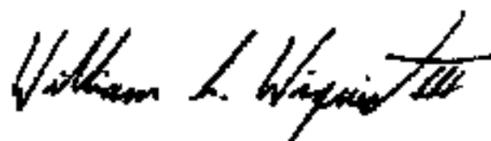
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be reported on Schedule B supporting Line 21(b). 11 CFR §§106.6 and 106.7

Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.** Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1394.

Sincerely,



William S. Wiquist
Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

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