



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

May 13, 2005

Ken Sagar, Treasurer
Iowa Democratic Party
5661 Fleur Drive
Des Moines, IA 50321

**Response Due Date:
June 13, 2005**

Identification Number: C00035600

Reference: 30 Day Post-General Report (10/14/04-11/22/04)

Dear Mr. Sagar:

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:

-Schedule A of your report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) and 11 CFR §110.1(c) prohibit a state, district or local party committee (combined) from receiving any contribution from a person or non-multicandidate political committee in excess of \$10,000 per calendar year.

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information.

If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount. The funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt, (1) the excessive amount was properly reattributed to another person, such as a joint account holder, by obtaining signed written authorizations from each person making the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR 110.1(k)(3), and (2) the treasurer informs the person making the contribution that he or she may request the return of the excessive portion of the contribution if it is not intended to be a joint contribution. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

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-Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR §104.7(b)(1))

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2))

The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your

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procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

-Schedule A supporting Line 12 discloses a transfer(s)-in from the "DNC". Schedule B supporting Lines 21(b) and 30(b) reflects payments for "banners^ tshirts^ signs stickers, bumper stickers^ signs^ lapel stickers^, T-Shirts, t shirts for campaign, and yard signs. Please be advised that a state or local party committee may pay for campaign materials (such as pins, posters, bumper stickers and yard signs) that are distributed by volunteers in connection with activity on behalf of the party's nominees in a general election. Payments for this type of activity are exempt from the definition of a contribution or expenditure if certain conditions are met. The conditions are that no public advertising may be used, including distribution by direct mail (mailings by a commercial vendor or from commercial lists); all funds used for the activity must be permitted under the Act; none of the funds used may have been designated for a particular candidate; and finally, payments for the activity may not be made from transfers-in from the national committee to specifically fund the activity. For further guidance, please refer to 11 CFR §§100.87 and 100.147 and to the Campaign Guide for Party Committees.

Please clarify the nature of the transfer(s)-in and subsequent payments for the aforementioned disbursement(s). If the activity disclosed on your report does not meet the definition of "exempt" activity as described above and if any portion of the expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified candidates, that amount must be disclosed on Schedule B, E or F supporting Line 23, 24 or 25 of the Detailed Summary Page as appropriate.

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) B of your report to clarify the following description(s): "bus tour robo calls, bus trip exepsnes, campaign paraphanelia, camp paraphanelia, casual labor, college bus tour expense, college bus tour expenses, consulting and expenses, contract services, eleciton day exp, electin day exp, election day exp, electiond ay exp, election day expense, election day expenses, election expenses per diem, election expenses reimbursement, electiono day exp, election outreach expenses, election outreach program, field staff expense, field staff per diem, gotv, gotv expenses, gotv outreach, office supplies, office supplies and mileage, paid phone program, per diem costs, per diem expense field, per diem expenses for election, press supplies, printing field materials walk sheets, supplies for election day, and supplies reimb press". For further

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guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Please amend your report by providing the mailing addresses for each disbursement itemized on Schedule(s) B supporting Line(s) 21(b) and 30(b).

-Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) totaling \$53,561.37 for **"captioning for fundraiser, fundraisng exp, fundraising consulting fees, fundraising exp, fundriasing costs, jj dinner printing, media buy, postage, and printing for fundraiser"**. Expenditures and disbursements for public communications (as defined under 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s).

Further, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

-Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) for **"ad, banners, signs, campaign lit, campaign paraphanelia, camp paraphanelia, delivering gotv materials, Direct mail production & postage, election outreach expenses, election outreach program, fundraisng exp, fundraising equip rental, fundraising exp, fundriasing costs, fundriasing costs, mail program, media production, paid phone program, phone program, phones, postage, printing, radio ads, reimb for postage, voter file update, and women for kerry cards"** which is categorized as Federal Election Activity and therefore, may require the disclosure of the candidate(s) this activity should be attributed to. Expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s).

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Further, please be advised that public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

-Schedule B supporting Lines (21(b) and 30(b)) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "banners signs, banners^ tshirts^ signs stickers, campaign lit, campaign paraphanelia, camp paraphanelia, printing field materials walk sheets, printing slate cards, printing^ slate cards, and slate cards," which appears to meet the definition of Federal Election Activity ("FEA") and may also meet the conditions of exempt party activity as defined under 11 CFR §§100.80, 100.87, 100.89 and 11 CFR §§100.140, 100.147 and 100.149. Please be advised that activity which simultaneously constitutes both exempt activity and FEA must be paid for as an FEA activity.

If this apparent exempt activity represents Get-out-the-vote activity conducted in connection with an election in which one or more candidates for Federal office appear on the ballot, it is considered to be Federal Election Activity. If this apparent exempt activity represents Voter Registration activity during the period that begins on the date that is 120 calendar days before the date that a regularly scheduled Federal election is held and ends on the date of the election, it is considered to be Federal Election Activity. 11 CFR §100.24

If this apparent exempt activity is a public communication(s) (as defined under 11 CFR §100.26) that refers to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and promotes, supports, attacks or opposes any candidate for Federal office, it meets the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s).

Further, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a

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Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b).

Please amend your report to clarify (1) whether the activity disclosed meets the conditions of exempt party activity and (2) the type of FEA this activity represents or provide clarifying information as to why it does not meet the definition of FEA. In addition, please properly disclose this activity if necessary.

-On Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have failed to include all of the purposes of disbursements for joint expenditures (**the Administrative category**) 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.

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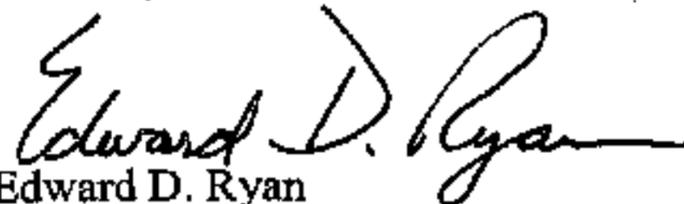
-Please clarify all expenditures made for "catering for event, catering for fundraiser, and meal exp fundraising" on Schedule(s) B. If a portion or all of these expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified federal candidates, this amount should be disclosed on Schedules B, E, F supporting Lines 23, 24, and 25 and include the amount, name, address and office sought by each candidate. 11 CFR §§104.3(b) and 106.1

-Your report disclosed a category of financial activity that has been reflected on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. Contributions from other political committees (such as PACs) should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule A, supporting Line 11(c), not Line 11(a)(i), of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the instructions for each line when determining the proper categorization(s) for your next filing.

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) 694-1144.

Sincerely,



Edward D. Ryan
Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

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Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Boswell for Congress	04/13/04	\$1,000.00	2004 Amended May Monthly
Boswell for Congress	07/05/04	\$600.00	2004 August Monthly
Cmte-Boswell	09/01/04	\$25,000.00	2004 October Monthly
Cmte-Boswell	10/09/2004	\$182.05	2004 12 Day Pre-General
Cmte-Boswell	10/18/2004	\$90,000.00	2004 30 Day Post-General
Cmte-Boswell	10/27/2004	\$30,372.00	2004 30 Day Post-General

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