

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

February 10, 2015

CHELSEA BONNECAZE, TREASURER CLAITOR FOR CONGRESS 7520 PERKINS ROAD, SUITE 170 BATON ROUGE, LA 70808

Response Due Date 03/17/2015

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00554253

REFERENCE: 30 DAY POST-GENERAL REPORT (10/16/2014 - 11/24/2014)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action. Additional information is needed for the following <u>3</u> item(s):

**1.** While it is permissible for a person to make a contribution for the runoff election prior to the general election, the recipient committee must employ an acceptable accounting method to distinguish between general and runoff election contributions. (11 CFR § 102.9(e)) This runoff election amount must be maintained in the committee's account.

Since the candidate did not participate in the runoff election, any contribution received for the runoff election must be returned to the donors or redesignated to the primary if your committee has net debts outstanding for the primary or general elections. To redesignate a contribution the committee must either (1) obtain signed written documentation from the contributor(s) authorizing the redesignation of the contribution for another election provided that the new designation does not exceed the limitations on contributions made with respect to that election, or (2) redesignate the contribution by presumption to the primary or general elections, for undesignated contributions made after the general but before the runoff election, provided that the new designation does not exceed the limitations on contributions made with respect to that election. In this case, the treasurer must notify the contributor of the redesignation in writing. The notification must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. A contribution can only be redesignated to a previous election to the extent that the contribution does not exceed net debts outstanding for that election. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(3)(i) and (5)(ii)(C))

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Any subsequent report(s) filed with the Commission must disclose the refund or redesignation of any runoff election contribution. Refunds or redesignations must be done within 60 days after the 2014 General Election.

Although the Commission may take further legal action, your prompt action to refund these contributions will be taken into consideration.

2. Your report fails to provide proper election designations for contributions disclosed on Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i). Authorized committees should indicate the election for which the contribution was designated. If no election is designated, the contribution is applied to the next election for the federal office the candidate is seeking after the contribution date. Please be advised that incorrect election designations may result in excessive or impermissible contributions. Please amend your report to clarify the following election designation: G2100. (11 CFR §§ 110.1(b) and 110.2(b))

**3.** Your report discloses a negative ending cash balance of \$7,144.55. This suggests that you have overdrawn your account, made a mathematical error, or incurred a debt. If your committee has incurred a debt or obligation, please itemize this debt on Schedule D, show a zero balance on Line 8 of the Summary Page and include the amount on Line 10. If the negative ending cash balance is a result of an overdraft, it may constitute a prohibited bank contribution unless it is made on an account that has automatic overdraft protection with usual and customary interest rates and a definite repayment schedule. Please file an amendment to your report to accurately disclose your financial activities. (52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(8) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 434(b)(8)) and 11 CFR § 104.3(d))

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. 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. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.

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.

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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) 694-1161.

Sincerely,

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Christopher Whyrick Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst Reports Analysis Division

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