

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

February 3, 2015

DAVID HORAN, TREASURER MARILINDA GARCIA FOR CONGRESS PO BOX 821 SALEM, NH 03079

Response Due Date 03/10/2015

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00552364

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  $\underline{6}$  item(s):

**1.** Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act (see attached).

An individual or a political committee other than an authorized committee or qualified multi-candidate committee may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,600 per election. An authorized committee may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,000 per election. A qualified multi-candidate committee and all affiliated committees may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$5,000 per election. The term "contribution" includes any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office. (52 U.S.C. § 30116(a) and (f) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a) and (f)); 11 CFR § 110.1(b), (e) and (k))

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.

Excessive contributions may be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive portions are properly redesignated or reattributed. Guidelines for

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each option are provided below.

For reattributions, excessive contributions from individuals can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount is properly reattributed to another person. Please note that reattributions only apply to excessive contributions from individuals. An excessive contribution is considered properly reattributed if (1) the contributors provide the committee with written documentation, signed by each contribution, authorizing a reattribution and indicating the amount of the contribution to be attributed to each contributor; or (2) the committee reattributes by presumption the excessive portion of the contribution if the contribution was made on a written instrument from a joint account and was signed by only one of the account holders. In this case, the treasurer must notify the contributors in writing within 60 days of receiving the contribution that the committee intends to reattribute the excessive portion and must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(k)(3)(ii)(B))

For redesignations, the funds can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount is properly redesignated for a different election. excessive contribution is considered properly redesignated if (1) the committee obtains 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) your committee redesignates by presumption the excessive portion of the contribution for another 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 within 60 days of the treasurer's receipt of the The notification must give the contributor an opportunity to contribution. request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(5)(ii)(B)) Please note that you cannot presumptively redesignate an excessive contribution from a multi-candidate committee. Also, a contribution can only be redesignated to a previous election to the extent that the contribution does not exceed the committee's net debts outstanding for that election. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(3)(i))

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or redesignations are not met within 60 days of receipt of the contribution, the excessive amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR § 103.3(b)(1).

If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your

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corrective action immediately in writing and provide photocopies of any refund checks and/or letters reattributing or redesignating the contributions in question. Refunds are reported on Line 20(a), (b), or (c), as applicable, of the Detailed Summary Page and on a supporting Schedule B of the report covering the period in which they are made. Redesignations and reattributions are reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period in which the authorization for the redesignation and/or reattribution is received. (11 CFR \$ 104.8(d)(2), (3) and (4))

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of excessive contributions, your prompt action to refund, redesignate, and/or reattribute the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

**2.** Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to be from limited liability corporation(s) (LLC) (see attached). 11 C.F.R. §110.1(g) allows the receipt of contributions from LLCs providing the LLC is treated as a partnership for tax purposes, and has not elected to be treated as a corporation by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Both LLCs that claim corporate status and those that publicly traded would be treated as corporations for FECA purposes.

Please amend your report to clarify if the LLCs in question are treated as partnerships. If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with clarifying information. If you have received prohibited contributions, you must make a refund. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(1)) The refund must be made within 30 days of the treasurer becoming aware of the illegality of the contribution. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(2))

If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of any refund checks. Refunds must be reported on a Schedule B supporting Line 20(a) of the report covering the period in which the refund was made. (11 CFR § 104.8(d) (4))

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, your prompt action to refund the prohibited amount will be taken into consideration.

**3.** Your report discloses transfer(s) of joint fundraising receipts from "Friends

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of Winning Women". You must provide a memo Schedule A disclosing your share of gross receipts. Contributions from original contributors whose total contributions to your committee have exceeded \$200 during the election cycle must be itemized on this schedule. The itemization should include the full name, mailing address and zip code of the person, along with the name of his/her employer, the date of the contribution, his/her occupation, the election designation and the election cycle-to-date amount of contributions made by this person. In addition, the memo schedule should itemize your committee's share of all contributions from political committees, regardless of amount. Please amend your report by providing the omitted memo schedule(s). (11 CFR § 102.17(c)(8)(i)(B))

**4.** Your report discloses memo Schedule A's totaling \$1000 for "Victory Trust 2014" which appears to be your committee's share of the gross contributions received from a joint fundraising committee. However, the original contributor is reported as memo text and not as an individual memo entry. Please amend your report to show the original contributor as a memo entry. (11 CFR \$102.17(c)(8)(i)(B))

**5.** Schedule A of your report indicates that your committee may have failed to file one or more of the required 48-hour notices regarding "last minute" contributions received by your committee after the close of books for the 12 Day Pre General Report (see attached). A principal campaign committee must notify the Commission, in writing, within 48 hours of any contribution of \$1,000 or more received between two and twenty days before an election. These contributions are then reported on the next report required to be filed by the committee. To ensure that the Commission is notified of last minute contributions of \$1,000 or more to your campaign, it is recommended that you review your procedures for checking contributions received during the aforementioned time period. The failure to file 48-hour notices may result in civil money penalties or legal enforcement action. (11 CFR § 104.5(f))

If any contribution of \$1,000 or more was incorrectly reported, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information.

6. Your committee filed a 48-hour notice disclosing a "last minute" contribution from Melissa Stevens on 10/20/2014. This contribution does not appear on a Schedule A of this report. Please amend your report to include this contribution or provide an explanation of this apparent discrepancy. (11 CFR § 104.3(a)(4)(i))

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- Your report disclosed a category of financial activity that appears to be disclosed on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. For your information and consideration when preparing future filings, contributions from individuals should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule A, supporting Line 11(a)(i) of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the Form 3 instructions for each line when determining the proper categorization(s) for your next filing. (11 CFR § 104.3(a) and (b))

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.

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) 694-1171.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Grainger Campaign Finance Analyst Reports Analysis Division

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## Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions Marilinda Garcia for Congress (C00552364)

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Howes, Melissa	10/29/14	\$2,600.00	G2014
Howes, Melissa	10/29/14	\$2,600.00	G2014
MacLeod, John	8/20/14	\$2,600.00	G2014
MacLeod, John	10/24/14	\$759.95	G2014
MacLeod, John	10/30/14	-\$750.00	G2014
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Norton, Arthur	9/29/14	\$500.00	G2014
Norton, Arthur	9/30/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Norton, Arthur	10/17/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Norton, Art	10/17/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Petrone, Augusta	9/19/14	\$1,111.00	G2014
Petrone, Augusta	9/30/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Petrone, Augusta	10/20/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Petrone, Augusta	11/3/14	\$278.00	G2014

## **Excessive Contributions from Individuals**

# **Contributions from Possible Prohibited Entities**

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Alex Vailas, LLC	10/22/14	\$500.00	G2014

# Missing 48-Hour Notices Marilinda Garcia for Congress (C00552364)

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Slayton, Marina	10/16/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Winsor, Curtin	10/16/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Norton, Art	10/17/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Petrone, Joseph	10/20/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
LaBelle, Amy	10/23/14	\$1,850.00	G2014
Pelkey, Steve	10/23/14	\$2,500.00	G2014
Snider, Tina	10/28/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Benson, Denise	10/29/14	\$2,600.00	G2014
Howes, Melissa	10/29/14	\$2,600.00	G2014
Howes, Melissa	10/29/14	\$2,600.00	G2014
Leines, Wendy	10/29/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Lovering, Richard	10/31/14	\$1,000.00	G2014
Antonio, Louis	11/1/14	\$1,000.00	G2014