



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

May 19, 2020

KATHY BROWN, TREASURER
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
5118 N. 56TH STREET SUITE 115
TAMPA, FL 33610

Response Due Date
06/23/2020

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00431643

REFERENCE: YEAR-END REPORT (07/01/2019 - 12/31/2019)

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 4 item(s):

1. Commission Regulations require that a committee discloses 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 (initials for first or last name are not acceptable), complete mailing address, occupation, and name of employer. (11 CFR § 100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

The following employer name and occupation entries appear on your report and are not considered acceptable: "McDaniel Trader / trade."

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)) See 11 CFR § 104.7(b)(1)(B) for examples of acceptable statements regarding the requirements of federal law.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Page 2 of 6

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 requests 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 should 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 amend your report to provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

2. Schedule A of your report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. Please be advised that 52 U.S.C. §30116(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.

Alternatively, the funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt you (1)

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Page 3 of 6

transferred the excessive amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action promptly by providing the date and method of your remedy (refund, transfer to a non-federal account and/or reattribution) for each contribution. The committee should retain for its records copies of refund checks, transfers to nonfederal account, and/or letters reattributing the contributions in question. In addition, any reattributions should be reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period during which the authorization for the reattribution is received. Any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of an excessive contribution(s), prompt action by your committee to seek reattribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

3. Schedule A of your report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. Please be advised that 52 U.S.C. §30116(f) and 11 CFR §110.2(d) prohibit a state, district or local party committee (combined) from receiving any contribution from a multicandidate political committee in excess of \$5,000 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 you (1) transferred the excessive amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions transfers to a non-federal account were not met

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Page 4 of 6

within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded. (11 CFR §103.3(b)(1) and (3))

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action promptly by providing the date and method of your remedy (refund or transfer to a non-federal account) for each contribution. The committee should retain for its records copies of refund checks and transfers to nonfederal account for the contributions in question. In addition, any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

4. Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i) of the Detailed Summary Page discloses an anonymous contribution(s) of \$1,632. Please be advised that an anonymous cash contribution is limited to \$50. Any amount in excess of \$50 may not be used for federal election purposes. (11 CFR §110.4(c)(3)) If this contribution(s) consisted of amounts not in excess of \$50, please disclose them on Line 11(a) (ii) of the Detailed Summary Page. Otherwise, please transfer-out the amount in excess of \$50 to an account not used to influence federal elections.

- Your report discloses certain categories of financial activity that have been reflected on the wrong lines of the Detailed Summary Page. For your information and consideration when preparing future filings, contributions from political action committees and transfers from affiliated committees should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule(s) A, supporting Line(s) 11(c) and 12 of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the instructions for each line when determining the proper categorization(s) for your next filing. (52 U.S.C. §30104(b) and FORM 3X Instructions)

- Schedule H4 discloses activity which is paid for with 100% non-federal funds. For future filings, please be advised that any activity which is financed entirely by the federal account (including administrative expenses), should be reported on Schedule B supporting Line 21(b). Any activity which is 100% non-federal and permissibly financed entirely by the non-federal account, should not be disclosed on the FEC Form 3X (11 CFR §104.17)

For your information and consideration when preparing future filings, state, district and local party committees that make expenditures and disbursements in connection with both federal and non-federal elections for activities that are not federal election activities pursuant to 11 CFR §100.24 may use only funds subject to the prohibitions and limitations of the Act, or they may allocate such expenditures and disbursements between their federal and their non-federal accounts. (11 CFR §106.7(b))

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Page 5 of 6

State, district and local party committees may pay administrative, generic voter drive and exempt activity expenses from their federal account, or allocate between their federal and non-federal accounts according to a fixed percentage selected on FEC Schedule H1, except for activity directly attributable to a clearly identified candidate. Such expenses must be paid from the federal account only. (11 CFR §106.7(c)(2))

Schedule H2 is used by all political committees to report the allocation ratios of their joint federal and non-federal fundraising events and direct candidate support programs. Schedule H2 is filed with each report that discloses a disbursement for allocated activity. Schedule H3 is used by all political committees to report transfers received by the federal account from the non-federal account(s) to pay the non-federal share of allocable expenses.

Any expenditures made on behalf of both federal and non-federal candidates (including in-kind contributions, independent expenditures and coordinated expenditures) must be allocated between your committee's federal and non-federal accounts. Schedule H4 is used by all political committees to report payments for allocable expenses. (11 CFR §106.1(a))

For your next filing, please refer to the instructions for each line and schedule when determining the proper categorization(s).

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.**

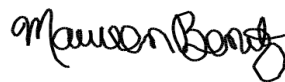
Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. For information about the report review process or specific filing information for your committee type, please visit www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees. For more information about Requests for Additional Information (RFAI), why you received a letter, and how to respond, please visit www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/request-additional-information. Should you have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Page 6 of 6

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) 694-1147.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Benitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maureen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Benitz".

Maureen Benitz
Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

Apparent Impermissible, Excessive, and Prohibited Contributions**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (C00431643)****Apparent Excessive Contributions from Individuals**

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Jockin, Sarah	11/7/19	\$5,000.00	2019 Year-End
Jockin, Sarah	11/14/19	\$5,125.00	2019 Year-End

Apparent Excessive Contributions PAC to PAC

Recipient Name	Date	Amount	Report
Vern Political Action Committee	11/13/19	\$10,000.00	2019 Year-End