

Matthew Johnson, Treasurer
Citizens for Joe Miller
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Fairbanks, AK 99701-4665

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June 28, 2017

Via Certified Mail

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Re: Citizens for Joe Miller, FEC Identification Number C00522730:
(1) RFAI dated 5/24/17 (Amended October Quarterly Report, 7/1/16 - 9/30/16);
and
(2) RFAI dated 5/24/17 (Amended 12 Day Pre-General Report, 10/1/16 -
10/19/16).

To Whom it May Concern:

We are in receipt of the above-referenced Federal Election Commission's ("FEC's") two Requests for Additional Information ("RFAs") dated 5/24/17 (hereinafter, "the two RFAs"), which we have numbered 1 and 2. These letters were sent by Mr. Scott Traum of the FEC's Reports Analysis Division. We were instructed to file our responses with your office, and that you provide copies to the FEC. This letter responds to the requests therein.

RFAI Number 1 relates to the Amended October Quarterly Report and asks "why" the amended report showed an increase in receipts of \$11,902.72, and an increase in disbursements of \$17,812.37.

RFAI Number 2 relates to the Amended 12 Day Pre-General Report and asks "why" the amended report showed an increase in disbursements of \$34,315.17.

1. Mr. John Nelson was treasurer of Citizens for Joe Miller during the 2016 U.S. Senate Campaign. Mr. Nelson was a campaign volunteer during the 2016 campaign. He has suffered several recent family tragedies, leading to his resignation as treasurer, but was able to recently email us his responses to your questions, which appear below. Although I was an advisor in the 2016 campaign, I only became treasurer of Citizens for Joe Miller in April of this year, well after the conclusion of the 2016 U.S. Senate campaign, and after the time frame covered by the two RFAs. Therefore, I directed the two RFAs to Mr. John Nelson, the treasurer during all relevant times and sought his input.

2. I have reviewed his responses, as well as documents available to me from the campaign, and have concluded that none of the omissions described in the two RFAs were committed intentionally by Mr. Nelson or by anyone else on the campaign. Nor was anyone on the

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campaign aware of any such omissions.

3. In summary, the matters set out below about how the campaign was thrown together at the last minute, using campaign software which was virtually impossible to navigate, made timely accurate reporting difficult, if not impossible for Mr. Nelson.

We knew that we had to file FEC reports on time, and knew that if we identified errors that we would need to file amendments. This was done. This follows the prudent man's efforts to follow the instructions by the FEC to: (1) file on time, and then, (2) amend as necessary.

We believed that the amended reports were completed as quickly as possible, to the best of our ability and as accurately as possible.

4. In general, we should point out that the Alaska 2016 U.S. Senate Campaign was extraordinarily unique in a number of ways. With little advance warning, Candidate Joe Miller was asked to be the Alaska Libertarian Party's ("ALP's") nominee just two short months before the general election on November 8, 2016. This marked the shortest competitive U.S. Senate campaign in Alaskan history, perhaps national history. The intensity of the grassroots excitement and enormous volunteer effort propelled candidate Miller to a second place finish, defeating the Democratic Party Nominee, and securing the highest vote percentage of any Libertarian Party candidate for federal office in United States history.

5. The Murkowski Campaign, along with the state and national Republican Party, recognized the real threat that Candidate Joe Miller posed to the incumbent and subsequently inundated our campaign with tactics designed to divert resources away from the campaign. The Murkowski Campaign coordinated with the Alaska Republican Party ("ARP"), providing an enormous amount of funding to the ARP so it could run defamatory attacks against Candidate Miller.

Additionally, the ARP made multiple complaints against the candidate directly, his business, and the campaign, all with the design of slowing the success of the upstart challenge to the incumbent, further diverting campaign time and resources. The campaign, composed almost exclusively of volunteers, handled this and other challenges exceptionally well in the midst of an intense eight weeks of non-stop election activity.

6. Mr. Nelson provided the following in response to the two RFAs:

I was asked to assist on the [campaign] in the capacity [of] "Treasurer" [.] I agreed to assist as a volunteer filing reports with the Federal Election Commission. Having never done this before I decided to get some additional help. I asked my sister, Naomi Sweetman, if she would be willing to assist in the role as Assistant Treasurer, as this was much [too] daunting of a task for one person to undertake. Naomi agreed to help me and we both worked on [the] campaign as "Volunteers." Neither of us knew at the time what was involved, but we were willing to help.

With less than 60 days from the General Election, we had no time to waste. There were only a few paid staff members working on the campaign, but a bunch of volunteers who pitched in to assist on this Grassroots Campaign.

With the limited resources, and limited help, we went to work. There was no accounting/reporting software program in place and the processes the Campaign had were rudimentary. We discovered there was a software program by Aristotle that was used for campaigns in the past, which we decided to resurrect and use. We reached out to some of the previous campaign workers and discovered they had used a professional paid service to enter the data and compile the FEC reports.

With the limited time and resources, Naomi and I were stuck entering the data and generating the reports, all of which was new for us. Naomi and I began sorting through regulations and FEC procedures to familiarize ourselves with the process, realizing much to our chagrin, the nature of the task for which we volunteered for. As with ALL of our work, Naomi and I applied the “Prudent Man’s” efforts to enter the data, produce and file the FEC reports as accurately, and correctly as possible.

We made numerous calls to the FEC, we were told that the most critical issue was to “file the reports before the deadline” they stated. We were told by the FEC on numerous occasions that we could “always go back and amend the reports, anytime we needed.” But they reiterated the importance of “filing on time.” By this time, my role on the campaign had transitioned to a glorified data entry person, where I gather[ed] the information from multiple volunteers, payment sources, and began entering in data into the Aristotle program, and complet[ed] the tasks of filing the reports on time.

I assigned Naomi to be the person to take the point with regards to following FEC procedures and working with Aristotle’s call-in technical support line, in order to get their program to report the data accurately. Both Naomi and I quickly discovered that we were faced with a huge learning curve on using the Aristotle 360 software program that was NOT intuitive, nor user friendly. We were further burdened with not only data entry, but getting the reports to be produced correctly. We found the process cumbersome and Aristotle’s call-in support line was questionable at best. They directed us to an on-line knowledge database that was archaic, and time consuming. We didn’t have weeks to spend learning how to use the software, as both Naomi and I still had full time jobs and much of our work was spent on evenings and weekends. We were stuck using the after-hours call in support line and communicating via email.

I worked with the volunteers and campaign staff workers in collecting the contribution information, expenses and entering in data into the Aristotle 360 software program, while Naomi worked with Aristotle to get their software

program to produce accurate reports. All while the clock continued to count down from one reporting deadline to the next. . . We further struggled with getting the Aristotle 360 Software program to report correctly, all the while, under the gun to get the reports file on time!

We came across multiple compounding issues on the Aristotle 360 Software Program, that we tediously worked through, to generate accurate reports that met FEC reporting requirements. Both Naomi and I found this process overwhelming.

As for example, which is specific and addresses the FEC's request for clarification; Some data which FEC required us to report as "loans" to the campaign, A loan, that would be reported in one reporting period which would later be reimbursed in a future reporting, we could not get the Aristotle 360 program to report it correctly. We continually found ourselves reaching out to Aristotle asking for their assistance in how do we get the program to report the data accurately. They told us to "call the FEC and ask how they want it reported." We would respond with "I am certain that the FEC wants us to report it correctly, but they are not experts with your software, so we need you to help us produce a report that is correct." Only to get response from Aristotle Support like "We will make the report look any way you want" and our responding to Aristotle Support with, "No, we want it to report exactly the way the FEC requires," we demanded. This is clearly evident in the email thread that we went back and forth with Aristotle Support on, They even went as far as admitting that they could produce the report any way we wanted in the email.

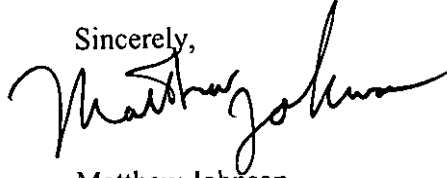
We repeatedly called and emailed the support staff at Aristotle on how to enter the data correctly, to produce an accurate report, only to discover later that Aristotle instructed us to enter the data incorrectly. In one instance, they had to have their compliance department involved AND they had to go into our data program and manipulate our data to get it to report correctly.

To further complicate the issue, there were numerous channels where contributions were received (i.e., Square, Rally, contributions made on the web, by mail, hand delivered envelopes and credit cards processing done by volunteers). It was extremely laborious in sorting through and entering in the data. . . we were continually under the gun of having a short time before the election and being overload[ed] with data to enter, and struggling with Aristotle to file reports. Again, we still continued to use best efforts to file the reports on time as accurately as possible.

Due to Family emergencies and personal matters, it was imperative that myself and my sister step down earlier this year from volunteering on the Campaign, and we resigned our positions as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, as our mother was ill. She has since passed away, after a long fight against cancer.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this explanation. Do not hesitate to contact me with any requests for additional information

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being more prominent and the last name "Johnson" following in a similar style.

Matthew Johnson
Treasurer

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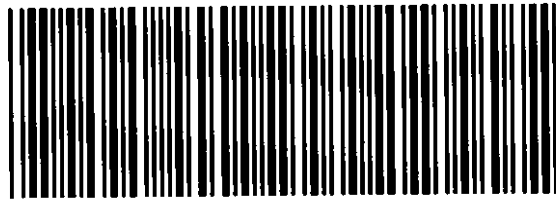
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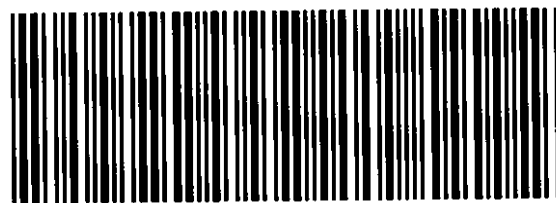
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