



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

April 6, 2021

H. O'NEIL WILLIAMS, TREASURER  
DONALD M PAYNE JR FOR CONGRESS  
PO BOX 2406  
NEWARK, NJ 07114

**Response Due Date**  
**05/11/2021**

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00519355

REFERENCE: 30 DAY POST-GENERAL REPORT (10/15/2020 - 11/23/2020)

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 7 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 \$2,800 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 each option are provided below.

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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 contributor, 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. An 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 contribution. The notification must give the contributor an opportunity to 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 corrective action immediately in writing and provide photocopies of any refund checks and/or letters reattributing or redesignating the contributions in question.

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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 B of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act (see attached). The Act precludes an authorized or principal campaign committee from making a contribution to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,000 per election. (11 CFR §§ 102.12(c) and 102.13(c))

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

If the contribution made was excessive, you must notify the recipient committee and either request a refund or redesignate (if applicable) the amount in excess of \$2,000.

If requesting a refund, you also must inform the Commission in writing of such a refund and provide a photocopy of any refund request sent to the recipient committee. The refund must appear on Line 15 of the Detailed Summary Page and on a supporting Schedule A of the report covering the period in which the refund is received.

In regard to redesignations, you can authorize the recipient committee to redesignate the excessive portion of the contribution to another election provided the new designation does not exceed the limitations on contributions made with respect to that particular election. Also, the redesignation must be done within 60 days of the contribution being received by the recipient committee. A contribution can only be redesignated to a previous election provided the recipient committee has net debts outstanding for that election. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(3)(i)) If the above conditions for redesignations are not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded to your committee. See 11 CFR § 103.3(b)(3).

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Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the excessive contribution(s), your prompt action to either redesignate or obtain a refund of the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

**3.** Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions received after the **2020 general** election that are designated for the **2020 general**. These contributions may only be accepted to the extent that the committee has net debts outstanding from the **2020 general** election. For more information on how to calculate net debts outstanding, please see page 27 of the Campaign Guide for Congressional Candidates and Committees, which is available online at <https://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/candgui.pdf>. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(3)(i))

A contribution is considered made when the contributor relinquishes control over the contribution. A contributor shall be considered to have relinquished control over the contribution when it is delivered to the candidate, when it is delivered to an authorized committee of the candidate, or to an agent of an authorized committee of the candidate. A contribution that is mailed to any of the aforementioned recipients will be considered made on the date of the postmark. Envelopes should be retained for the committee's records. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(6))

If any contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information. If a contribution was made by the contributor before or on the date of the applicable election, please amend your report to indicate this using memo text, or provide this information in a Miscellaneous Document (Form 99 for electronic filers).

If a contribution exceeds the amount of net debts outstanding from the **2020 general** election, you may have to refund or redesignate the contribution.

The funds can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount was properly redesignated for a different election. An 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) the 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

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within 60 days of the treasurer's receipt of the contribution. The notification must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(5)(ii)(B))

If the foregoing conditions for redesignations are not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR § 103.3(b)(3).

If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide photocopies of any refund checks and/or letters 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 are reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period in which the authorization for the redesignation 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 or redesignate the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

4. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions from an organization(s) which is not a political committee registered with the Commission (see attached). In order for your committee to accept contributions from unregistered organizations, your committee should take steps to ensure that the contributor(s) used permissible funds to make the contribution(s) to avoid violating 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) and 30118 (formerly 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a(f) and 441b) or 11 CFR §102.5(b). Under 11 CFR §102.5(b), organizations which are not political committees under the Act and choose to contribute to federal committees must either: (1) establish a separate account which contains only those funds permitted under the Act, or (2) demonstrate through a reasonable accounting method that the organization has received sufficient funds subject to the limitations and prohibitions in order to make the contribution.

If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. In addition, please clarify whether the contribution(s) received from the referenced organization(s) is permissible.

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))

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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(b) or (c), as applicable, 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.

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 (to include loans, in-kind contributions, and advances) 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 Amazon PAC on 10/22/2020. 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))

7. Schedule A of your report discloses contributions earmarked through a conduit but fails to disclose required information for the conduit(s).

Please be reminded that when a committee receives an earmarked contribution(s) through an allowable conduit, each individual contribution must be itemized when the individual's total contributions to your committee aggregate over \$200 per election cycle. This itemization must include the full name, address, occupation, and employer of the individual contributor along with the date the contribution(s) was received by the conduit. Any un-itemized contributions received through the conduit must be included in your totals on Line 11(a)(ii) of the Detailed

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Summary Page.

In addition, information regarding the conduit or intermediary for each contribution must be itemized on Schedule A as a memo entry. The conduit's full name and address (and occupation and employer if the conduit is an individual) must also be provided, along with the date the contribution(s) was received by your committee and the total amount of earmarked contributions received from the conduit.

Please amend your report to disclose the proper format for earmarked contributions received from a conduit or intermediary. Please clearly indicate which conduit memo entry corresponds to each earmarked contribution. You can refer to the FEC Campaign Guide for Congressional Candidates and Committees for further guidance on how to report earmarked contributions through a conduit (11 CFR § 110.6(c)(2))

- Your report disclosed two categories of financial activity that appear to be disclosed on the wrong lines of the Detailed Summary Page. For your information and consideration when preparing future filings, contributions from other political committees, such as PACs, should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule A, supporting Line 11(c) of the Detailed Summary Page. Additionally, other disbursements, such as contributions to other political committees, should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule B, supporting Line 21 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. For information about the report review process or specific filing information for your committee type, please visit [www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees](http://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

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[www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/request-additional-information](http://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 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) 694-1167.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Stilla", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Denise Stilla  
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst



**Apparent Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions  
Donald M Payne Jr for Congress (C00519355)**

**Apparent Excessive Contributions from Individuals**

<b>Contributor Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Election</b>
Stewart, Jennifer	7/1/20	\$1,500.00	G2020
Stewart, Jennifer	11/1/20	\$1,500.00	G2020
Stewart, Jennifer	11/1/20	\$1,300.00	G2020

**Apparent Excessive Contributions from Committees**

<b>Contributor Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Election</b>
IBEW PAC Voluntary Fund	8/7/20	\$5,000.00	G2020
IBEW PAC Voluntary Fund	10/30/20	\$5,000.00	G2020

**Apparent Excessive Contributions to Other Committees**

<b>Recipient Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Election</b>
Citizens for Waters	10/22/20	\$2,500.00	G2020
Defazio for Congress	10/22/20	\$2,500.00	G2020
Friends of Jahana Hayes	10/22/20	\$2,500.00	G2020
New Yorkers for Yvette D. Clarke	10/25/20	\$2,500.00	G2020

**Contributions from Possible Unregistered Organizations**

<b>Contributor Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Election</b>
Friends of Ronald L. Rice	10/30/20	\$500.00	G2020

**Missing 48-Hour Notices**  
**Donald M Payne Jr for Congress (C00519355)**

<b>Contributor Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Election</b>
Carpenters Legislative Improvement Committee	10/16/20	\$5,000.00	G2020
National Association of Realtors PAC (R.P.A.C)	10/23/20	\$3,000.00	G2020
American Federation of Teachers COPE	10/26/20	\$2,500.00	G2020
POWERPAC of the Edison Electric Institute	10/30/20	\$1,000.00	G2020