



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20543

November 19, 2003

RQ-2

Gerald M. Bimburg, Treasurer  
Harris County Democratic Party  
2404 Labranch  
Houston, TX 77004

**Response Due Date:**  
**December 19, 2003**

Identification Number: C00161067

Reference: October Quarterly Report (7/01/03-9/30/03)

Dear Mr. Bimburg:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above.** An itemization of the information needed follows:

-The beginning cash balance of this report should equal the ending balance of your 2003 July Quarterly Report. Please clarify this discrepancy and amend any subsequent report(s) that may be affected by this correction.

-The totals listed on Lines 6(c), 11(a)(iii), 11(d), 19 and 20, Column B of the Summary and Detailed Summary Page(s) appear to be incorrect. Please be advised that you should add the "Calendar Year-to-Date" total from your previous report to the current "Total This Period" figure from Column A to derive the correct Column B totals. Please amend your report and any subsequent reports that may be affected by this correction.

-Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose 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, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

## HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Page 2

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))

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 request 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 shall 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 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.

-Your report does not disclose any payments for salary or wages on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 11 CFR §100.24 defines as Federal Election Activity, services provided by an employee of a State, district or local party committee who spends more

## HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Page 3

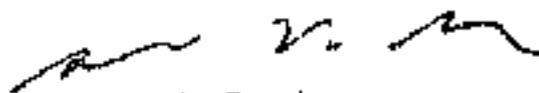
than 25 percent of their time during that month on activities in connection with a Federal election. You are advised that payments for salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25 percent of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must be made with Federal funds only. Please provide clarification regarding the lack of payments for salary and wages disclosed by your committee.

-Your report does not include a Schedule H1 to disclose the ratio for the allocation of certain costs. Schedule H1 must be filed with the first report each year for State, District and Local party committees, and with the first report filed in the two-year election cycle for Separate Segregated Funds and Non-connected committees. For State, District and Local party committees, all shared administrative, generic voter drive and exempt activity costs incurred during the two-year cycle must be allocated according to this ratio, unless the federal account elects to pay a higher percentage of its cost. For Separate Segregated Funds and Non-connected committees, all shared administrative and generic voter drive costs must be allocated according to this ratio unless the federal account elects to pay a higher cost. 11 CFR §106.7(d)(2), (d)(3) and 11 CFR §§104.10(b)(1) and 106.6(c)

Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered. Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. 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.

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 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1153.

Sincerely,



Alissa V. Sagri  
Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

