



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RQ-2

December 10, 2023

CHRISTEL SLAUGHTER, TREASURER
GARRET GRAVES FOR CONGRESS
PO BOX 64845
BATON ROUGE, LA 70896

Response Due Date
01/16/2024

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00558486

REFERENCE: OCTOBER QUARTERLY REPORT (07/01/2023 - 09/30/2023)

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. 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 \$3,300 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.

GARRET GRAVES FOR CONGRESS

Page 2 of 6

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.

GARRET GRAVES FOR CONGRESS

Page 3 of 6

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).

GARRET GRAVES FOR CONGRESS

Page 4 of 6

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 supporting Line 12 of your report discloses transfers from Transportation Trust Fund that appear to be received through joint fundraising efforts. However, Transportation Trust Fund is not disclosed as a joint fundraising representative on your Statement of Organization. Please amend your Statement of Organization to disclose the joint fundraising representative as an authorized committee of the candidate or amend your report to provide clarifying information. (11 CFR §102.2(b)(1)(i) and 11 CFR §102.17(b)(2))

4. Commission Regulations require that a committee discloses the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in an election cycle. (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 and occupation entries appear on your report and are not considered acceptable: "DEVIERNO LAW / INFORMATION REQUESTED," "INFORMATION REQUESTED / INFORMATION REQUESTED," "KINDER MORGAN / INFORMATION REQUESTED," "LEMOINE GROUP / INFORMATION REQUESTED," "LOUISIANA SUGAR CANE LEAGUE / INFORMATION REQUESTED," "MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS / INFORMATION REQUESTED," "SCHNEIDERS / INFORMATION REQUESTED," "SELF-EMPLOYED / SELF-EMPLOYED," "SOUTH LOUISIANA BANK / INFORMATION REQUESTED."

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)(i)(B) for examples of acceptable statements regarding the requirements of federal law.

GARRET GRAVES FOR CONGRESS

Page 5 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.

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 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) 694-1440.

GARRET GRAVES FOR CONGRESS

Page 6 of 6

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Harkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Patrick Harkins
Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst

448

**Apparent Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions
Garret Graves for Congress (C00558486)**

Apparent Excessive Contributions from Committees

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association ROCKPAC	4/6/23	\$5,000.00	P2024
NSSGA ROCKPAC	9/29/23	\$1,000.00	P2024

Apparent Excessive Contributions to Other Committees

Recipient Name	Date	Amount	Election
Brandon For Congress NY22	6/30/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Brandon For Congress NY22	9/19/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Desposito For New York	3/22/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Desposito For New York	9/19/23	\$1,500.00	P2024
John James For Congress, Inc.	3/22/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
John James For Congress, Inc.	9/19/23	\$1,500.00	P2024
Kean For Congress Inc	3/22/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Kean For Congress Inc	9/19/23	\$1,500.00	P2024
Ken Calvert For Congress Committee	3/22/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Ken Calvert For Congress Committee	9/19/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Kiggans For Congress	3/22/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Kiggans For Congress	9/19/23	\$1,000.00	P2024
Lori Chavez-Deremer For Congress	3/22/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Lori Chavez-Deremer For Congress	9/19/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Marc For Us Inc.	3/22/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Marc For Us Inc.	9/19/23	\$1,500.00	P2024
Van Orden For Congress	3/22/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Van Orden For Congress	9/19/23	\$1,500.00	P2024
Yvette4Congress	9/29/23	\$2,500.00	P2024