



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

November 29, 2006

Drew Smith, Treasurer
Democratic Party of Arkansas
1300 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72201

**Response Due Date:
January 2, 2007**

Identification Number: C00024372

Reference: 12-Day Pre-General Report (10/1/06-10/18/06)

Dear Mr. Smith:

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:

-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.

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

26039280580

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.

-Schedule A supporting Line(s) 11(c) of your report discloses a receipt(s) from the "Mike Ross for Congress Committee," "Marion Berry for Congress," "Friends of Blanche Lincoln Campaign Comm" and "Mark Pryor for US Senate" which requires further clarification. For example, if this activity represents a transfer of funds, please indicate "transfer" on Schedule A supporting Line 11(c) of your report. If this activity represents a reimbursement for services provided to this committee, please indicate this on Schedule A supporting Line 15 of your report. Please amend your report to clarify the type of activity this receipt(s) represents.

-Schedule A of your report discloses transfers totaling \$16,667.00 from the AR Party Victory Fund (DNC), which is a joint fundraising committee affiliated with your committee. The Commission notes your memo text attached to this transaction which states, "The memo entries for these contributions were included in the committee's October Monthly report." The sum of the entries itemized on the memo Schedule A of the October Monthly Report (9/1/06-9/30/06), however, total only \$9,423.63.

Please be advised that a memo Schedule A must be provided to itemize your committee's share of the gross contributions received through the joint

fundraiser. The memo schedule should itemize each individual who has contributed an aggregate in excess of \$200 during the calendar year, and provide the amount of unitemized contributions received. In addition, the memo schedule should itemize your committee's share of all contributions from political committees, regardless of amount. 11 CFR §102.17(c)(8)(i)(B) Please clarify this discrepancy.

-On Schedule H2, you disclose the ratio for "Lunch with Govenors" to be the same as previously reported; however, it appears that this activity/event was not previously reported. Please amend your report to clarify this discrepancy. 11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17

-You have made disbursements for "door hangers-mail out" which appear to be exempt activities. In order for an activity to be classified as exempt, it must meet the following conditions: (1) For slate cards and sample ballots: it names at least three candidates running for election to any public office, it is not distributed through public political advertising (including broadcast media, newspapers, magazines, and billboards), the content is limited to the identification of each candidate, the office or position currently held, the office sought and party affiliation, and the costs allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds; (2) For campaign materials: the activity is conducted on behalf of the party's nominees in the general election, the materials are distributed by volunteers--not through public political advertising, the party committee does not use materials purchased by the national party committee or money transferred from the national committee to purchase materials, the party committee does not use funds designated for a particular federal candidate, a payment from a non-federal campaign to help pay for the materials does not exceed its allocated share of the expenses, and the costs allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds; (3) For voter drives: the activity is on behalf of the party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees, the activity does not involve the use of public political advertising such as television, radio, newspapers, magazines, billboards or direct mail, phone banks are operated by volunteers (although paid professionals may design the system, develop calling instructions and train supervisors), the party committee does not use funds transferred by the national party committee for voter drive activities, the party committee does not use funds designated for a particular federal candidate, and the cost allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds. 11 CFR §§100.80, 100.87, 100.89 and 11 CFR §§100.140, 100.147 and 100.149

If the activity disclosed on your report does not meet the definition of "exempt" activity as described above, any portion of the expenditures made

2603928582

on behalf of specifically identified candidates must be disclosed on Schedule B, E or F supporting Line 23 or 30(b), 24 or 25 of the Detailed Summary Page as appropriate. Please provide the Commission with a more detailed explanation of these activities.

-Please clarify all expenditures made for "chairs etc for tailgate party" and "Even Management Services" on Schedule H4. If a portion or all of these expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified federal candidates, this amount should be disclosed on Schedules B, E, or F supporting Lines 23, 24, or 25 and include the amount, name, address and office sought by each candidate. 11 CFR §§104.3(b) and 106.1

Alternatively, if the payment(s) on Schedule H4 is associated with fundraising activity conducted for your committee's federal and non-federal accounts, it must be allocated according to the funds received method and the ratio reflected on Schedule H2. Further, it must be categorized as a fundraising activity on Schedule H4. Please provide clarifying information regarding the nature of this transaction(s) and amend your report(s) as appropriate.

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "Contract Labor." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-On Schedule(s) H4 supporting Line(s) 21(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have not included the full name and/or mailing address for the payment made to Kevin Smith, Anders Reynolds, Easy Does it Inc., Senior Adult Center and James Valley. Please amend your report accordingly.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Postage for Mailing," "Posts for Signs," "Rebar for Signs," "Sign Supplies," "invitation printing" and "issue ads". Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

Further, expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the

26039280585

definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s). However, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of the Detailed Summary Page discloses disbursements for activities on behalf of "Non federal candidates." It appears that your non-federal account has transferred-in money to your federal account to help pay for these activities. By definition, a shared activity is one which benefits both federal and non-federal candidates or committees.

Please clarify the nature of these activities, specifically whether federal candidates or committees were included. If federal candidates or committees were not included in the activities, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for these activities back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses a payment(s) for "consulting-polling & research," "consulting - polling/research" and "General Ad." Please be advised that 11 CFR §100.24(b) defines as Federal Election Activity, Voter identification, Generic Campaign and Get-out-the vote activities conducted in connection with an election in which one or more candidates for Federal office appear on the ballot. Furthermore, the costs for these types of Federal Election Activity must either be paid with federal funds or can be allocated between federal and Levin funds as long as the activity conducted does not refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office. It appears that you have allocated these costs between federal and non-federal funds. Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal

2603929097

account for Federal Election Activity costs is not permissible and must be returned. 11 CFR §§300.32 and 300.33

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately or provide clarifying information regarding this activity. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this apparent prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses \$238.47 in payments for "Event Management Services" to individuals. Please clarify whether these individuals are employees of your committee. If they are employees, please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on Federal election activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election. You are advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal, non-federal and Levin accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used.

Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal or Levin account for salary and wage payments for employees who spent more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on FEA is not permissible and must be returned. Please provide clarification regarding these payments.

-Schedule H5 of your report discloses a \$16,700.00 transfer(s)-in of Levin funds to your federal account for Voter ID activity and \$4,800.00 transfer(s)-in for Generic Campaign Activity. However, Schedule L-B supporting Line(s) 4(b) and 4(d) of the Schedule L Aggregation Page for the "Democratic Party Federal Levin" and "Democratic Party Non Fed Levin" account(s) discloses \$0.00 transfer(s)-out of Levin funds for these activities. Please amend your report to clarify this apparent discrepancy.

-On Schedule H6, your allocated activity or event year-to-date total calculations for the Voter ID category(s) are incorrect. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for this activity should be calculated by adding the latest disbursement for a category to the previous event year-to-date total for that category. This running event year-to-date total should be disclosed after each disbursement is listed. Please amend your report by providing the correct event year-to-date totals.

-On Schedule(s) H6 supporting Line(s) 30(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have not included the full name and/or mailing address for the payment made to Robynne Carlson, Sarah Myzton and Bill Hauser. Please amend your report accordingly.

-On Schedule H6 supporting Line 30(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have failed to include the purpose of disbursement for several allocated expenditures to various vendors. Please amend your report to include this missing information.

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) H6 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "Voter ID" and "GOTV." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i) discloses a transfer(s)-in from the Democratic National Committee. Schedule H6 supporting Line 30(a) reflects payments for Federal Election Activity. Please be advised that under 11 CFR §300.34, a state, district or local party committee must not use any Federal funds transferred to it from a national party committee or any other State, district or local party committee, as the Federal component of an expenditure or disbursement for Federal Election Activity. Furthermore, your committee must itself raise the Federal component of expenditure or disbursement allocated between Federal and Levin funds.

Please clarify whether the transfer(s)-in was used for the subsequent payments for Federal Election Activity. In addition, please clarify the procedures you are currently using to ensure that Federal funds transferred to your committee from national, state, district and local party committees are not being used for Federal Election Activity.

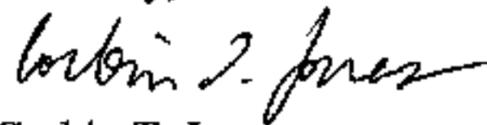
-Your report disclosed certain categories of financial activity that have been reflected on the wrong lines of the Detailed Summary Page. Contributions from national and state party committees should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule(s) A, supporting Line(s) 12 of the Detailed Summary Page. Additionally, contributions to non-federal committees should be disclosed on a separate Schedule(s) B, supporting Line(s) 29 of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the instructions for each line when determining the proper categorization(s) for your next filing.

Please note, 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 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1177.

Sincerely,



Corbin T. Jones
Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

26039280587

26039280588