



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

March 2, 2005

Michael Lux, Treasurer
21st Century Democrats
1311 L Street NW #300
Washington, DC 20005

Response Due Date:
April 1, 2005

Identification Number: C00230342

Reference: 30 Day Post-General Report (10/14/04-11/22/04)

Dear Mr. Lux:

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 2004 12 Day Pre-General Report. Please clarify this discrepancy and amend any subsequent report(s) that may be affected by this correction.

-The totals listed on Lines 7, 21(a)(i), 21(a)(ii), 21(c), 31 and 32 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.

-Schedule A of your report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) and 11 CFR §§110.1(d) and 110.2(d) prohibit a committee and its affiliates from receiving any contribution from another political committee or person in excess of \$5,000 per calendar year.

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

21ST CENTURY DEMOCRATS

Page 2

If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount. The funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt, (1) the excessive amount was properly reattributed to another person, such as a joint account holder, by obtaining signed written authorizations from each person making the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR 110.1(k)(3), and (2) the treasurer informs the person making the contribution that he or she may request the return of the excessive portion of the contribution if it is not intended to be a joint contribution. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

Alternatively, the funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt you (1) transferred the excessive amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any reattributions should be reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period during which the authorization for the retribution is received. Any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of an excessive contribution(s), prompt action by your committee to seek retribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule A supporting Line 17 of your report discloses a payment from Names in the News. It appears this receipt was for goods and/or services provided by your committee. Pursuant to Advisory Opinion 1979-18, the sale/purchase price paid to a political committee could involve the receipt of a contribution from a purchaser if the purchase price exceeds the "usual and normal charge". The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution. Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, advertising services, membership lists, and mailing lists. 11 CFR §100.52(d)(1) and (2)

21ST CENTURY DEMOCRATS

Page 3

Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at more than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be an in-kind contribution received by your committee from a corporation and is prohibited subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441b(a)

-Schedule H3 of your report discloses a transfer(s)-in from a non-federal account(s) for "Activist Training (09/11/2004)" which appears to exceed the permissible amount(s) indicated by your allocation ratio for this activity/event. Please be advised that transfers for allocated activity must not exceed the non-federal share of the joint disbursements and that these transfers must be made within a 70-day time period: no more than 10 days before or 60 days after payment to the vendor. 11 CFR §§106.6(e)(2) and 106.7(f)(2) Please clarify the nature of this transfer(s)-in from the non-federal account.

The Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the total excessive amount received by your federal account back to your non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule A supporting Line 15 of the Detailed Summary Page discloses a refund(s) or rebate(s) of what appears to be a previously disclosed allocable expense(s) from National Business Systems, Inc. Please be advised that when a committee receives a refund or rebate of an allocable expense, it must be allocated between the federal and non-federal accounts according to the same allocation ratio used to allocate the original disbursement. Furthermore, the federal account must transfer the non-federal portion to the non-federal account and disclose this transfer-out on Schedule H4. Your report does not appear to disclose a transfer-out of the non-federal portion of this refund(s) or rebate(s). Please provide clarification regarding this apparent omission.

-On Schedule H4, your allocated activity or event year-to-date total calculations for the administrative category are incorrect. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for administrative, voter drive and exempt activity costs are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year for each separate category. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for fundraising and direct candidate support activities are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year within a

21ST CENTURY DEMOCRATS

Page 4

specific event. These should be calculated by adding the latest disbursement for a category or event to the previous event year-to-date total for that category or event. 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 H4 supporting Line 21(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have failed to include the purpose for the payment made to Tricia Lemon. Note that the activity or event identifier is not considered an adequate description of purpose. 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) H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "Fees" and "Paraphernalia". For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Schedule B of your report discloses payments for "petty cash." Please be advised that a political committee may maintain a petty cash fund out of which it may make expenditures not in excess of \$100 to any person per purchase or transaction. 11 CFR §102.11 Please provide clarifying information regarding these transactions.

-Please clarify all expenditures made for "Direct Mail Processing", "Direct Mail Production" and "Telemarketing Expense" on Schedule(s) B. 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 or E supporting Lines 23 or 24 and include the amount, name, address and office sought by each candidate. 11 CFR §§104.3(b) and 106.1

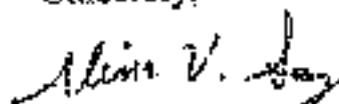
Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond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

21ST CENTURY DEMOCRATS

Page 5

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) 694-1153.

Sincerely,



Aiissa V. Sagri

Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

299

21ST CENTURY DEMOCRATS

Page 6

| Contributor Name | Date | Amount | Report |
|------------------|----------|---------|--------------------------|
| Joan Challinor | 01/16/04 | \$2,500 | 2004 February Monthly |
| Joan Challinor | 10/19/04 | \$5,000 | 2004 30 Day Post-General |
| Frank Davis | 04/12/04 | \$4,000 | 2004 May Monthly |
| Frank Davis | 08/31/04 | \$1,000 | 2004 September Monthly |
| Frank Davis | 10/27/04 | \$5,000 | 2004 30 Day Post-General |

