



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

April 14, 2021

DAVID J. SHEPHERD, TREASURER
RHODE ISLAND REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE
1800 POST ROAD, SUITE 17-I
WARWICK, RI 02886

Response Due Date
05/19/2021

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00078196

REFERENCE: AMENDED YEAR-END REPORT (11/24/2020 - 12/31/2020), RECEIVED
03/19/2021

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 3 item(s):

1. Schedule A of your 2020 Reports combined, discloses transfers totaling \$455,565.03 from "Trump Victory," which is a joint fundraising committee affiliated with your committee. The sum of memo Schedule A is less than the total amount transferred. Please note that the sum of memo Schedule A supporting a transfer(s) from a joint fundraising committee should be greater than or equal to the amount of the transfer(s).

Each participating committee shall report its share for net proceeds received from the joint fundraising committee as a transfer-in on Schedule A. 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 amend your report to include the missing Schedule A or provide an explanation for this apparent discrepancy.

2. Your 2020 Monthly Reports combined 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

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an employee of a State, district or local party committee who spends more 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.

3. Your Amended 12 Day Pre-General (10/1/20 - 10/14/20), received 3/16/21, Amended 30 Day Post-General (10/15/20 - 11/23/20), received 3/16/21 and Amended Year-End (11/24/20 - 12/31/20), received 3/19/21, Reports combined, discloses limited payments for administrative expenses. Administrative expenses are payments made for the purpose of operating a political committee including, but not limited to, rent, utilities, salaries, telephone service, office equipment and supplies. Each state, district or local party committee utilizing separate federal and non federal accounts is required to allocate any administrative expenses (excluding salary) between the accounts according to a fixed percentage selected on Schedule H1. A Schedule H1 must be filed with the first FEC FORM 3X filed at the beginning of each calendar year. Payments for salary and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time on Federal election activities or on activities in connection with a Federal election must be made from a federal account and disclosed on a Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. (11 CFR §106.7)

Any goods or services provided to your committee by a person, except volunteer activity (i.e., a person's time), would be considered an in kind contribution from that person, and would be subject to the disclosure requirements of 52 U.S.C. §30104 and 11 CFR §104.13, and the limitations and prohibitions of 52 U.S.C. §§30116 and 30118. Payments to a consulting, law or accounting firm will be considered acceptable for salary.

Clarification regarding administrative expenses should be provided during each two year election cycle beginning with the first report filed in the non election year. Please provide the necessary information regarding administrative expenses incurred by your committee and/or amend your report to disclose such expenses according to the referenced provisions of the Act and Commission Regulations.

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

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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 (RAI), 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) 694-1164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Hinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Clyde Hinton
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst