



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463
November 19, 2008

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Michael Kasper, Treasurer
Democratic Party of Illinois
P.O. Box 518
Springfield, IL 62705

Response Due Date:
December 22, 2008

Identification Number: C00167015

Reference: October Quarterly Report (9/01/08-9/30/08)

Dear Treasurer:

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. **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 items:

1. Your 2008 August Monthly Report (7/01/08-7/31/08), 2008 September Monthly Report (8/01/08-8/31/08) and October Quarterly Report (9/01/08-9/30/08) 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 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.
2. Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Insurance". Please be 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 Federal election activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be

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allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

3. Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Removal Signs and Banners - Fair". 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 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.

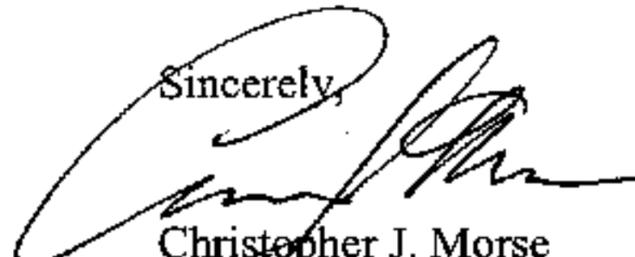
4. Schedule H4 of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Fair", "Fair Display", "IL State Fair" and "State Fair". Please be advised that 11 CFR §100.24(b) defines as Federal Election Activity, Voter identification, Generic Campaign and Get-out-the vote activities conducted in connection with an election 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 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.

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. 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) 694-1133.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Morse
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

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