



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

May 27, 2005

Ed Roberson, Treasurer  
Tennessee Republican Party  
Federal Election Account  
2424 21st Avenue Suite 200  
Nashville, TN 37212

**Response Due Date:  
June 27, 2005**

Identification Number: C00040220

Reference: Amended 30 Day Post-General Report (10/14/04-11/22/04), received  
12/31/04

Dear Mr. Roberson:

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:

-Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions from an organization, which is not a political committee registered with the Commission (see attached). In addition, one of the contributions appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) precludes a political committee from receiving contributions from a person or another committee in excess of \$5,000 in a calendar year. Also, in order to make contributions to your committee, organizations which are not political committees must either: 1) establish a separate account which contains only those funds permitted under the Act, or 2) demonstrate through a reasonable accounting method that the organization has received sufficient funds subject to the limitations and prohibitions in order to make the contribution.  
11 CFR §102.5(b)

If your committee does not finance non-federal activity, the receipt of the referenced contribution(s) may violate the limitations and prohibitions of 2 U.S.C. §§441a(f) and 441b. If your committee engages in both federal and non-federal activity, either through a separate non-federal account, or one account that finances activity in connection with both federal and

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non-federal elections, your committee may be in violation of 11 CFR §102.5(a).

In order to be in compliance with the Act, your committee must: 1) refund to the donor or transfer-out to a non-federal account, the amount in excess of \$5,000 within 60 days of receipt and provide 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. And 2) determine the extent to which your committee received funds that are not permissible, and refund or transfer-out the prohibited funds.

To the extent that your committee has received prohibited funds, you may have to make a refund. If within 30 days of receipt you (1) transferred the prohibited 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, you may retain the contribution in an account not used to influence federal elections. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 30 days of receipt, the prohibited amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR §103.3(b)(1).

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. Should you choose to transfer-out or refund the funds, the Commission will presume the funds were impermissible, absent a statement from your committee to the contrary. Transfers-out and refunds should be disclosed on a Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the period during which they are made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited and excessive contribution(s), your prompt refund or transfer-out will be taken into consideration.

-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(c) prohibit a state, district or local party committee (combined) from receiving any contribution from a person or non-multicandidate political committee in excess of \$10,000 per calendar year.

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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. 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 reattribution 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 reattribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

-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.

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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. 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 reattribution 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 reattribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule A supporting Line(s) 11(c) of your report discloses a receipt(s) from a candidate committee(s) (see attached) 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

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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 aggregate year-to-date totals for contributions received from individuals which appear to be incorrect. Please be advised that federal regulations require aggregate year-to-date totals to include only those contributions which are received during the calendar year. In the event that the aggregate year-to-date total is correct, please note that federal regulations also require the disclosure of all contributions received from individuals who have contributed over \$200. 11 CFR §104.3(a)(4) Please amend your report to provide the correct aggregate year-to-date totals.

-On Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i), your committee disclosed a contribution(s) from an individual(s) with an aggregate year-to-date total(s) which is greater than the total receipts disclosed from this individual(s). Please provide clarifying information or amend the report covering the period during which the omitted transaction(s) occurred.

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

-Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) totaling \$36,006.33 for "ISSUE ADVOCACY MAIL." Expenditures and disbursements for public communications (as defined under 11 CFR §100.26) 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).

Further, 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.

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-Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "COLLATERAL MATERIALS" which appears to meet the definition of Federal Election Activity ("FEA") and may also meet the conditions of exempt party activity as defined under 11 CFR §§100.80, 100.87, 100.89 and 11 CFR §§100.140, 100.147 and 100.149. Please be advised that activity which simultaneously constitutes both exempt activity and FEA must be paid for as an FEA activity.

If this apparent exempt activity represents Get-out-the-vote activity conducted in connection with an election in which one or more candidates for Federal office appear on the ballot, it is considered to be Federal Election Activity. If this apparent exempt activity represents Voter Registration activity during the period that begins on the date that is 120 calendar days before the date that a regularly scheduled Federal election is held and ends on the date of the election, it is considered to be Federal Election Activity. 11 CFR §100.24

If this apparent exempt activity is a public communication(s) (as defined under 11 CFR §100.26) that refers to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and promotes, supports, attacks or opposes any candidate for Federal office, it meets 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).

Further, 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 clarify (1) whether the activity disclosed meets the conditions of exempt party activity and (2) the type of FEA this activity represents or provide clarifying information as to why it does not meet the definition of FEA. In addition, please properly disclose this activity if necessary.

-Your report discloses a transfer(s) for "TRANSFER TO REPLENISH NON-FEDERAL" to the TN GOP Legislative Campaign Comm which appears to be a non-federal account of your committee. 11 CFR §§106.6 and 106.7 prohibits a committee's federal account from reimbursing its non-federal account for shared allocable expenses. Also, the non-federal

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account is prohibited from paying the federal account's share of these expenses. These types of costs must be paid according to the allocation ratio derived from the appropriate method on Schedule H1.

If the transfer(s) in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. If your non-federal account has paid any expenditures which should have been allocated, you are advised to correct any non-compliance with 11 CFR §§106.6 and 106.7 and establish procedures to insure future compliance with allocation regulations.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses \$12,158.00 in payments for "CONSULTING" and "CONSULTING - POLITICAL" to individuals. Please clarify whether these individuals are employees of your committee. 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 Federal election activity 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 is not permissible and must be returned. Please provide clarification regarding these payments.

-Your report disclosed a category of financial activity that has been reflected on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. Contribution(s) from individual(s) should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule A, supporting Line 11(a)(i) of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the instructions for each line when determining the proper categorization(s) for your next filing.

**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.

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) 694-1141.

Sincerely,



Kristine Adams  
Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

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Contribution(s) from an Unregistered Organization(s):

Contributor Name	Date	Amount
Shelby County Republican Womens Club	10/20/04	\$1,000.00
Sundquist Committee	11/04/04	\$25,000.00

Excessive Contribution(s) from Individual(s):

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Adams, Andrew	04/12/04	\$3,000.00	Amended 2004 May Monthly
Adams, Andrew	11/02/04	\$10,000.00	Amended 2004 30 Day Post-General

Excessive Contribution(s) from Committee(s):

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Tenn PAC	07/20/04	\$500.00	Amended 2004 August Monthly
Tenn PAC, Inc. For Leadership	10/20/04	\$5,000.00	Amended 2004 30 Day Post-General

Receipt(s) from Candidate Committee(s):

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Friends Of Zach Wamp	10/29/04	\$11,000.00	2004 Amended 30 Day Post-General

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