



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RQ-2

March 20, 2024

PATRICK BAILEY, TREASURER
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
5118 N. 56TH STREET SUITE 115
TAMPA, FL 33610

Response Due Date
04/24/2024

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00431643

REFERENCE: AMENDED NOVEMBER MONTHLY REPORT (10/01/2023 - 10/31/2023),
RECEIVED 12/14/2023

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 report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions from an organization(s), which is not a political committee registered with the Commission. In order for your committee to accept contributions from unregistered organizations into accounts used to influence federal elections, your committee should take steps to insure that the contributor(s) used permissible funds to make the contribution(s) to avoid violating 52 U.S.C. §§30116(f) and 30118 or 11 CFR §102.5(b). Under 11 CFR §102.5(b), organizations which are not political committees under the Act and choose to contribute to federal 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.

If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. In addition, please clarify whether the contribution(s) received from the referenced organization(s) is permissible.

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

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Page 2 of 4

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. (11 CFR §103.3(b)(1))

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action promptly by providing the date and method of your remedy (refund and/or transfer to a non-federal account) for each contribution. The committee should retain for its records copies of refund checks and/or transfers to nonfederal account. Should you choose to transfer-out or refund the contribution(s), the Commission will presume the funds were impermissible if no statement from your committee provides information 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 the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, prompt action by your committee in transferring-out or refunding the amounts will be taken into consideration.

2. Schedule A of your report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions which appears to be from a corporation(s) and/or labor organization(s). Please be advised that 52 U.S.C. §30118(a) prohibits the receipt of contributions from corporations and labor organizations unless made from separate segregated funds established by the corporations and labor organizations.

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

If you have received prohibited contributions, 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. (11 CFR

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Page 3 of 4

§103.3(b)(1))

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action promptly by providing the date and method of your remedy (refund and/or transfer to a non-federal account) for each contribution. The committee should retain for its records copies of refund checks and/or transfers to nonfederal account. In addition, any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the period during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, prompt action by your committee to transfer-out or refund the amount will be taken into consideration.

3. Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i) of the Detailed Summary Page discloses an anonymous contribution(s) of \$125. Please be advised that an anonymous cash contribution is limited to \$50. Any amount in excess of \$50 may not be used for federal election purposes. (11 CFR §110.4(c)(3)) If this contribution(s) consisted of amounts not in excess of \$50, please disclose them on Line 11(a)(ii) of the Detailed Summary Page. Otherwise, please transfer-out the amount in excess of \$50 to an account not used to influence federal elections.

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. 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 (RAFI), 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) 694-1148.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Page 4 of 4

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SB' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Scott Bennett
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst

Apparent Impermissible, Excessive, and Prohibited Contributions
Hillsborough County Republican Executive Committee (C00431643)

Contributions from Possible Prohibited Entities (Corporations, Labor Organization, LLCs)

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Bank of Tampa	10/6/23	\$436.58	2023 November Monthly
Building On Your Dreams	10/16/23	\$2,500.00	2023 November Monthly
Greater Tampa Realtors	10/16/23	\$10,000.00	2023 November Monthly

Contributions from Possible Unregistered Organizations

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Michael Beltran Campaign	10/4/23	\$1,250.00	2023 November Monthly
Michael Owen Campaign	10/11/23	\$1,250.00	2023 November Monthly
Rico Smith Campaign	10/11/23	\$250.00	2023 November Monthly