



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

February 9, 2016

MICHAEL DELPLATO, CPA, TREASURER
ESSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE,
INC
80 MAIN STREET SUITE 280
WEST ORANGE, NJ 07052

Response Due Date
03/15/2016

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00591479

REFERENCE: YEAR-END REPORT (11/06/2015 - 12/31/2015)

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. Political committees that have an initial cash balance on their first report must disclose the source of these funds. Please provide either a memo Schedule A to itemize contributions received, which in the aggregate are in excess of \$200, or amend your report to include an explanatory statement to support the amount reported. (11 CFR §104.12)
2. 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 (formerly 2 U.S.C. §§441a(f) and 441b) 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

ESSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, INC

Page 2 of 4

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 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 in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. 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.

3. Schedule H2 of your report indicates that your committee participated in "Hillary for America (11/10/2015)" activities or events during the reporting period. However, there are no corresponding disbursements reflected on your Schedule H4. Note that you need not include activities on Schedule H2 if there are no corresponding payments made for the activity during the reporting period. If any disbursements were incorrectly reported, you should file an amended Schedule H4 with the correct activity or event identifier, or provide clarifying information regarding the activities on Schedule H2. (11 CFR § 104.10 and 104.17)

- Schedule H4 discloses activity which is paid for with 100% non-federal funds. For future filings, please be advised that any activity which is financed entirely by the federal account (including administrative expenses), should be reported on Schedule B supporting Line 21(b). Any activity which is 100%

ESSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, INC

Page 3 of 4

non-federal and permissibly financed entirely by the non-federal account, should not be disclosed on the FEC Form 3X (11 CFR §104.17)

For your information and consideration when preparing future filings, state, district and local party committees that make expenditures and disbursements in connection with both federal and non-federal elections for activities that are not federal election activities pursuant to 11 CFR §100.24 may use only funds subject to the prohibitions and limitations of the Act, or they may allocate such expenditures and disbursements between their federal and their non-federal accounts. (11 CFR §106.7(b))

State, district and local party committees may pay administrative, generic voter drive and exempt activity expenses from their federal account, or allocate between their federal and non-federal accounts according to a fixed percentage selected on FEC Schedule H1, except for activity directly attributable to a clearly identified candidate. Such expenses must be paid from the federal account only. (11 CFR §106.7(c)(2))

Schedule H2 is used by all political committees to report the allocation ratios of their joint federal and non-federal fundraising events and direct candidate support programs. Schedule H2 is filed with each report that discloses a disbursement for allocated activity. Schedule H3 is used by all political committees to report transfers received by the federal account from the non-federal account(s) to pay the non-federal share of allocable expenses.

Any expenditures made on behalf of both federal and non-federal candidates (including in-kind contributions, independent expenditures and coordinated expenditures) must be allocated between your committee's federal and non-federal accounts. Schedule H4 is used by all political committees to report payments for allocable expenses. (11 CFR §106.1(a))

For your next filing, please refer to the instructions for each line and schedule when determining the proper categorization(s).

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

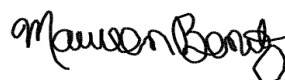
ESSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, INC

Page 4 of 4

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) 694-1147.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Benitz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Maureen Benitz
Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

Impermissible, Excessive, and Prohibited Contributions
ESSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, INC (C00591479)

Contributions from Unregistered Organizations

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
NJ Education Association PAC	12/30/15	\$2,500.00	2015 Year-End
NJ Education Association PAC	12/30/15	\$5,000.00	2015 Year-End
Venezia for Bloomfield	12/30/15	\$2,500.00	2015 Year-End