



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

January 25, 2023

ROBERT PHILLIPS, III, TREASURER
NEHLS FOR CONGRESS
PO BOX 16968
SUGAR LAND, TX 77496

Response Due Date
03/01/2023

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00730150

REFERENCE: OCTOBER QUARTERLY REPORT (07/01/2022 - 09/30/2022)

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 9 item(s):

1. Schedule A supporting Line 15 discloses receipt(s) for "Unauthorized Transaction Funds Returned" totaling \$137,626.38. This receipt(s) appears to be related to an apparent unauthorized use of Committee funds. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this apparent improper use of Committee funds, any further clarifying information that you can provide will be taken into consideration. (11 CFR §§ 102.9, 102.15, and 104.3)
2. Schedule B supporting Line 17 discloses a disbursement for "Unauthorized Payment" totaling \$157,626.00. This transaction(s) appears to be related to an apparent unauthorized disbursement of Committee funds. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this apparent improper use of Committee funds, any further clarifying information that you can provide will be taken into consideration. (11 CFR §§ 102.9, 102.15, and 104.3)
3. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act (see attached).

An individual or a political committee other than an authorized committee or qualified multi-candidate committee may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,900 per election. An authorized committee may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,000 per election. A qualified multi-candidate committee and all affiliated committees may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal

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office in excess of \$5,000 per election. The term "contribution" includes any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office. (52 U.S.C. § 30116(a) and (f) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a) and (f)); 11 CFR § 110.1(b), (e) and (k))

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.

Excessive contributions may be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive portions are properly redesignated or reattributed. Guidelines for each option are provided below.

For reattributions, excessive contributions from individuals can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount is properly reattributed to another person. Please note that reattributions only apply to excessive contributions from individuals. An excessive contribution is considered properly reattributed if (1) the contributors provide the committee with written documentation, signed by each contributor, authorizing a reattribution and indicating the amount of the contribution to be attributed to each contributor; or (2) the committee reattributes by presumption the excessive portion of the contribution if the contribution was made on a written instrument from a joint account and was signed by only one of the account holders. In this case, the treasurer must notify the contributors in writing within 60 days of receiving the contribution that the committee intends to reattribute the excessive portion and must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(k) (3)(ii)(B))

For redesignations, the funds can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount is properly redesignated for a different election. An excessive contribution is considered properly redesignated if (1) the committee obtains signed written documentation from the contributor(s) authorizing the redesignation of the contribution for another election, provided that the new designation does not exceed the limitations on contributions made with respect to that election; or (2) your committee redesignates by presumption the excessive portion of the contribution for another election provided that the new designation does not exceed the limitations on contributions made with respect to that election. In this case, the treasurer must notify the contributor of the redesignation in writing within 60 days of the treasurer's receipt of the

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contribution. The notification must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(5)(ii)(B)) Please note that you cannot presumptively redesignate an excessive contribution from a multi-candidate committee. Also, a contribution can only be redesignated to a previous election to the extent that the contribution does not exceed the committee's net debts outstanding for that election. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(3)(i))

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or redesignations are not met within 60 days of receipt of the contribution, the excessive amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR § 103.3(b)(1).

If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide photocopies of any refund checks and/or letters reattributing or redesignating the contributions in question. Refunds are reported on Line 20(a), (b), or (c), as applicable, of the Detailed Summary Page and on a supporting Schedule B of the report covering the period in which they are made. Redesignations and reattributions are reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period in which the authorization for the redesignation and/or reattribution is received. (11 CFR § 104.8(d)(2), (3) and (4))

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of excessive contributions, your prompt action to refund, redesignate, and/or reattribute the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

4. Schedule B of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act (see attached). The Act precludes an authorized or principal campaign committee from making a contribution to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,000 per election. (11 CFR §§ 102.12(c) and 102.13(c))

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

If the contribution made was excessive, you must notify the recipient committee and either request a refund or redesignate (if applicable) the amount in excess of \$2,000.

If requesting a refund, you also must inform the Commission in writing of such a refund and provide a photocopy of any refund request sent to the recipient

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committee. The refund must appear on Line 15 of the Detailed Summary Page and on a supporting Schedule A of the report covering the period in which the refund is received.

In regard to redesignations, you can authorize the recipient committee to redesignate the excessive portion of the contribution to another election provided the new designation does not exceed the limitations on contributions made with respect to that particular election. Also, the redesignation must be done within 60 days of the contribution being received by the recipient committee. A contribution can only be redesignated to a previous election provided the recipient committee has net debts outstanding for that election. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(3)(i)) If the above conditions for redesignations are not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded to your committee. See 11 CFR § 103.3(b)(3).

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the excessive contribution(s), your prompt action to either redesignate or obtain a refund of the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

5. Schedule A of your report discloses contributions earmarked through a conduit but fails to disclose required information for the conduit(s).

Please be reminded that when a committee receives an earmarked contribution(s) through an allowable conduit, each individual contribution must be itemized when the individual's total contributions to your committee aggregate over \$200 per election cycle. This itemization must include the full name, address, occupation, and employer of the individual contributor along with the date the contribution(s) was received by the conduit. Any un-itemized contributions received through the conduit must be included in your totals on Line 11(a)(ii) of the Detailed Summary Page.

In addition, information regarding the conduit or intermediary for each contribution must be itemized on Schedule A as a memo entry. The conduit's full name and address (and occupation and employer if the conduit is an individual) must also be provided, along with the date the contribution(s) was received by your committee and the total amount of earmarked contributions received from the conduit.

Please amend your report to disclose the proper format for earmarked contributions received from a conduit or intermediary. Please clearly indicate which conduit memo entry corresponds to each earmarked contribution. You can refer to the FEC Campaign Guide for Congressional Candidates and Committees

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for further guidance on how to report earmarked contributions through a conduit (11 CFR § 110.6(c)(2))

6. Commission Regulations require that a committee discloses the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in an election cycle. (11 CFR § 104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name **(initials for first or last name are not acceptable), complete mailing address**, occupation, and name of employer. (11 CFR § 100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

The following employer and occupation entries appear on your report and are not considered acceptable: "(blank) / (blank)," "Information Requested / Information Requested," "Self / (blank)," and "Self Employed / Business"

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(1)) See 11 CFR § 104.7(b)(1)(i)(B) for examples of acceptable statements regarding the requirements of federal law.

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2)) The requests must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you should either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled

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reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(4))

Please amend your report to provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

7. On Schedule B supporting Line 17 of your report, you have itemized disbursements for which you have failed to include the **address and purpose**. Please amend your report to include the missing information. (11 CFR § 104.3(b)(4))

Additional clarification regarding purposes of disbursement and a non-exhaustive list of acceptable purposes are available on the FEC website at <http://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/purposes-disbursement/>.

8. Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why each disbursement was made. Please amend Schedule B supporting Line 17 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "Q2 Commission." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursement, please refer to 11 CFR 104.3(b)(4)(i)(A).

Additional clarification regarding inadequate purposes of disbursement and a non-exhaustive list of acceptable purposes are available on the FEC website at <http://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/purposes-disbursement/>.

9. On Schedule B of your report, you have disclosed disbursements to federal candidate committees. Commission Regulations require that these itemized disbursements include the recipient's full name, complete address, date, amount, purpose, state, office sought (House, Senate, or President), and district (if applicable). Please amend your report to include the state, office sought and district. (11 CFR §§104.3 (b)(4) and 104.9(b))

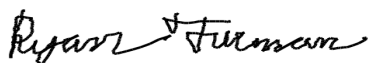
Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions 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.**

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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) 694-1151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Furman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

Ryan Furman
Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst

**Apparent Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions
Nehls for Congress (C00730150)**

Apparent Excessive Contributions from Individuals

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Arnim, Greg	9/30/22	\$5,000.00	G2022
Beyer, Vernon	2/21/22	\$2,900.00	G2022
Beyer, Vernon	9/21/22	\$2,900.00	G2022
Bibb, Laura	9/7/22	\$2,900.00	G2022
Bibb, Laura	9/7/22	\$2,900.00	G2022
Bibb, Ray	9/7/22	\$2,900.00	G2022
Bibb, Ray	9/7/22	\$2,900.00	G2022
Colmenares, Colleen	9/29/21	\$850.00	G2022
Colmenares, Colleen	9/21/22	\$2,500.00	G2022
Colmenares, Robert	9/29/21	\$850.00	G2022
Colmenares, Robert	9/21/22	\$2,500.00	G2022
Fisher, Kenneth	5/16/22	\$2,900.00	G2022
Fisher, Kenneth	9/30/22	\$100.00	G2022
Marcheli, Danny	8/2/22	\$2,900.00	G2022
Marcheli, Danny	9/19/22	\$1,500.00	G2022
Taylor, James	9/19/22	\$3,000.00	G2022

Apparent Excessive Contributions from Committees

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee	9/21/22	\$5,000.00	G2022
American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee	9/30/22	\$950.00	G2022
American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee	9/30/22	\$95.00	G2022

Apparent Excessive Contributions to Other Committees

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Amanda Adkins for Congress	9/23/22	\$2,500.00	G2022

**Apparent Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions
Nehls for Congress (C00730150)**

Bognet for Congress	9/23/22	\$2,500.00	G2022
Crane for Congress Inc	9/23/22	\$2,500.00	G2022
J.R. Majewski for Congress	9/23/22	\$2,500.00	G2022
Monica for Congress	9/23/22	\$2,500.00	G2022
Van Orden for Congress	9/22/22	\$2,500.00	G2022
Van Orden for Congress	9/23/22	\$2,500.00	G2022
Yesli Vega For Virginia	9/22/22	\$2,500.00	G2022