



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RQ-2

June 19, 2024

PAUL KILGORE, TREASURER
BERNIE MORENO FOR SENATE
PO BOX 340797
COLUMBUS, OH 43234

Response Due Date

07/24/2024

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00837484

REFERENCE: APRIL QUARTERLY REPORT (02/29/2024 - 03/31/2024)

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 4 item(s):

1. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act (see attached). The Commission notes your additional explanation regarding the committee's corrective action taken for some of these contributions.

An individual or a political committee other than an authorized committee or a qualified multi-candidate committee may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$3,300 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 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), and 102.13(c))

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

Please be reminded that all refunds, redesignations and reattributions must be made within 60 days of receipt of the contribution. To date, one or more of the

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apparent excessive contributions have not been refunded, redesignated, or reattributed.

For reattributions, the funds can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount was properly reattributed to another person. 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 who signed the check 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 was properly designated 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) the 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 contribution. The notification must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(5)(ii)(B)) 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, the excessive amount must be refunded. (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

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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 or redesignate and/or reattribute the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

2. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to exceed the limit set forth in the Act (see attached).

No political committee other than a qualified multi-candidate committee may make contributions to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$3,300 per election. The attached PACs did not meet the requirements for qualified multi-candidate status as of the date the contribution(s) was made to your committee. 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))

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(s) you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount. 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) the 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 contribution. The notification must give the contributor an opportunity to request a refund. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(5)(ii)(B)) A contribution can only be redesignated to a previous election to the extent that the contribution does not exceed net debts outstanding for that election. (11 CFR § 110.1(b)(3)(i))

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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 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 are reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period in which the authorization for the redesignation 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 or redesignate the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

3. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to be from a limited liability corporation(s) (LLC) (see attached). The Commission notes your additional explanation regarding the committee's corrective action taken for **all** of these contributions. 11 C.F.R. §110.1(g) allows the receipt of contributions from LLCs providing the LLC is treated as a partnership for tax purposes, and has not elected to be treated as a corporation by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Both LLCs that claim corporate status and those that are publicly traded would be treated as corporations for FECA purposes.

Please amend your report to clarify if the LLCs in question are treated as partnerships. If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with clarifying information. 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f) prohibits a candidate for federal office from accepting contributions from a person in excess of \$3,300 per election. A partnership is included in the definition of "person" under 52 U.S.C. § 30101(11) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §431(11)).

If you have received prohibited contributions, you must make a refund. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(1)) The refund must be made within 30 days of the treasurer becoming aware of the illegality of the contribution. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(2))

If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of any refund checks. Refunds must be reported on a Schedule B supporting Line 20(a) of the report covering the period in which the refund was made. (11 CFR § 104.8(d)(4))

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, your prompt action to refund the

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prohibited amount will be taken into consideration.

4. Schedule A of your report indicates that your committee may have failed to file one or more of the required 48-hour notices regarding "last minute" contributions (to include loans, in-kind contributions, and advances) received by your committee after the close of books for the **12 Day Pre-Primary Report** (see attached). A principal campaign committee must notify the Commission, in writing, within 48 hours of any contribution of \$1,000 or more received between two and twenty days before an election. These contributions are then reported on the next report required to be filed by the committee. To ensure that the Commission is notified of last minute contributions of \$1,000 or more to your campaign, it is recommended that you review your procedures for checking contributions received during the aforementioned time period. The failure to file 48-hour notices may result in civil money penalties or legal enforcement action. (11 CFR § 104.5(f))

If any contribution of \$1,000 or more was incorrectly reported, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information.

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 (RFAI), 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) 694-1167.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Stilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Denise Stilla
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst

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Apparent Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions
Bernie Moreno for Senate (C00837484)

Apparent Excessive Contributions from Individuals

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Blemaster, Eric	3/25/24	\$3,435.35	G2024
Bruns, Steve A. Mr.	6/21/23	\$207.50	G2024
Bruns, Steve A. Mr.	2/2/24	\$2,500.00	G2024
Bruns, Steve A. Mr.	2/8/24	\$250.00	G2024
Bruns, Steve A. Mr.	2/8/24	\$5.00	G2024
Bruns, Steven A. Mr.	3/19/24	\$1,500.00	G2024
Caruso, Andrea Mrs.	6/28/23	\$3,300.00	G2024
Caruso, Andrea Mrs.	3/18/24	\$50.00	G2024
Fisher, George	3/20/24	\$3,300.00	G2024
Fisher, George	3/20/24	\$5.00	G2024
Howley, Lauralee	3/26/24	\$3,435.35	G2024
Lindner, S. Craig Mr. Jr.	12/28/23	\$3,300.00	P2024
Lindner, S. Craig Mr. Jr.	3/4/24	\$3,300.00	P2024
Pohanka, Geoffrey	3/21/24	\$6,600.00	G2024
Reynolds, Robert	3/30/24	\$6,870.71	G2024
Schuler, Gregory C. Mr.	5/5/23	\$3,300.00	G2024
Schuler, Gregory C. Mr.	3/31/24	\$2,000.00	G2024
Shor, Charles	7/19/23	\$2,200.00	P2024
Shor, Charles	9/1/23	\$125.00	P2024
Shor, Charles	10/18/23	-\$1,025.00	P2024
Shor, Charles	10/18/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Shor, Charlie	3/4/24	\$2,000.00	P2024

Apparent Excessive Contributions from Committees not Qualified for Multi-Candidate Status

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Defend Freedom PAC	2/29/24	\$5,000.00	P2024

Apparent Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions
Bernie Moreno for Senate (C00837484)

Contributions from Possible Prohibited Entities

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Platinum Recovery LLC	3/6/24	\$1,000.00	P2024
Southern Ohio Holding Org., LLC	3/31/24	\$5,000.00	G2024

Missing 48-Hour Notices
Bernie Moreno for Senate (C00837484)

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Tuzzio, Daniel	3/7/24	\$10,000.00	P2024