



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RQ-2

June 24, 2024

SCOTT LAMASTER, TREASURER
MARK ALFORD FOR CONGRESS, INC.
PO BOX 1428
RAYMORE, MO 64083

Response Due Date

07/29/2024

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00792598

REFERENCE: AMENDED APRIL QUARTERLY REPORT (01/01/2024 - 03/31/2024),
RECEIVED 04/17/2024

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 5 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).

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 \$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))

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

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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 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

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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.

2. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to be from a limited liability corporation(s) (LLC) (see attached).

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 prohibited amount will be taken into consideration.

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3. On Schedule B supporting Line 17 of your report, you have itemized disbursements for which you have failed to include the address. 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/>.

4. 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): "Campaign Operational Expense." 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/>.

5. Schedule B of your report discloses reimbursements to individuals for the following travel-related disbursement(s): "Travel Reimbursement." When the reimbursement amount to individuals for travel and subsistence advances exceeds \$500, the payments by staff to any one vendor that make up the reimbursement may have to be itemized. For example, if the related payments to any one vendor aggregate in excess of \$200 for the election cycle, the staff advance payment to the vendor must also be itemized in a memo entry for that reimbursement. Each memo entry must include the complete name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount, and detailed purpose of the advance. If itemization is not necessary for a particular reimbursement to staff in excess of \$500, you must indicate so in an amendment to this report. Please amend your report to include the missing or clarifying information. See Advisory Opinion 1996-20 for additional clarification. (11 CFR § 104.9)

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 (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) 694-1171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Grainger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jessica Grainger

Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst

Apparent Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions
Mark Alford for Congress, Inc. (C00792598)

Apparent Excessive Contributions from Individuals

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Adkins, William	2/24/23	\$3,300.00	P2024
Adkins, William	3/21/24	\$2,500.00	P2024
McDaniel, William	3/26/24	\$5,000.00	P2024
Neighbors, Nancy L	4/25/23	\$3,300.00	P2024
Neighbors, Nancy L	3/28/24	\$500.00	P2024
Rose, Diana	3/27/24	\$3,300.00	P2024
Rose, Diana	3/27/24	\$3,300.00	P2024
Rose, Gary	6/27/23	\$3,300.00	P2024
Rose, Gary	3/27/24	\$3,300.00	P2024
Silbey, Alexander	3/28/24	\$5,000.00	P2024
Timmons, Joseph	2/23/23	\$2,000.00	P2024
Timmons, Joseph	6/18/23	\$500.00	P2024
Timmons, Joseph	10/6/23	\$300.00	P2024
Timmons, Joseph	2/5/24	\$2,000.00	P2024

Apparent Excessive Contributions from Committees

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Employees of Northrop Grumman	7/28/23	\$2,500.00	P2024
Employees of Northrop Grumman	12/11/23	\$2,500.00	P2024
Employees of Northrop Grumman	2/26/24	\$1,500.00	P2024
Poet PAC	2/9/23	\$5,000.00	P2024
Poet PAC	12/14/23	\$5,000.00	P2024
Poet PAC	1/1/24	\$5,000.00	P2024

Apparent Excessive Contributions from Affiliated Committees

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association NRECA	3/31/23	\$1,000.00	P2024
America's Electric Cooperatives	4/15/23	\$1,000.00	P2024
America's Electric Cooperatives	5/16/23	\$1,000.00	P2024

Apparent Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions**Mark Alford for Congress, Inc. (C00792598)**

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association NRECA	6/22/23	\$1,000.00	P2024
America's Electric Cooperatives	8/24/23	\$1,000.00	P2024
America's Electric Cooperatives	2/8/24	\$1,000.00	P2024

Contributions from Possible Prohibited Entities

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
CM Dubois Strategies LLC	3/18/24	\$2,000.00	P2024
Waypoint Consulting LLC	3/31/24	\$500.00	P2024