

REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

The Registry of Election Finance met Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at Suite 104 of Parkway Towers, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee.

Presiding over the meeting was Chairperson Patricia Heim. Attending the meeting were board members George Harding, Darlene McNeece, Lee Anne Murray and Justin Pitt.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

On motion by Harding, seconded by McNeece, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2010 regular board meeting.

Request for Reconsideration

09-46 Schree Pettigrew, for failure to file a 2009 annual mid-year supplemental campaign financial disclosure report. Class two (2), no report filed, maximum ten thousand (\$10,000) civil penalty. Ms. Pettigrew has had previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its October 14, 2009 meeting to issue Ms. Pettigrew a show cause notice.

The board voted at its November 11, 2009 meeting to defer any action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow Ms. Pettigrew an opportunity to receive the show cause notice.

The board voted at its February 10, 2010 meeting to assess Ms. Pettigrew a \$10,000 civil penalty. Ms. Pettigrew requested a reconsideration of the \$10,000 civil penalty assessment.

Mary Littleton, representative for Ms. Pettigrew, personally appeared before the board and explained Ms. Pettigrew's failure to file the required report.

Director Rawlins informed the board that the report still has not been filed and that Ms. Pettigrew has an outstanding civil penalty from a previous matter.

On motion by Harding, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously not to reconsider the \$10,000 civil penalty assessment.

Show Cause Hearings

10-04 Eric Stewart, for failing to report campaign contributions received, for overstating reported contributions and for not properly maintaining campaign records to verify compliance with campaign finance statutes. Class two (2), maximum ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) civil penalty per violation. Sen. Stewart has had no previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its February 10, 2010 meeting to issue Sen. Stewart a show cause notice. Sen. Stewart requested to appear before the board.

In addition to correcting most of the errors, Sen. Stewart personally appeared before the board and explained his failure to report contributions, for overstating contributions and for not properly maintaining campaign records.

The board voted at its March 10, 2010 meeting to delay any further action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow Sen. Stewart an opportunity to complete all corrections to his campaign financial disclosure reports.

Director Rawlins informed the board that Sen. Stewart requested that the board delay any action in his case until the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow him an opportunity to complete all corrections to his campaign financial disclosure reports.

The board voted at its April 14, 2010 meeting to defer any action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow Sen. Stewart an opportunity to complete all corrections to his campaign financial disclosure reports.

Sen. Stewart requested that the board defer any action in this matter until the next meeting to allow him further opportunity to complete all corrections to his campaign financial disclosure statements.

Without objection, the board voted at its May 12, 2010 meeting to defer any action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow Sen. Stewart an opportunity to complete all corrections to his campaign financial disclosure reports.

10-06 Joe Towns, Jr., for failing to report campaign contributions, receiving contributions in excess of campaign limits, not maintaining campaign records to verify compliance with campaign finance statutes, failing to report campaign expenditures incurred, improperly reporting campaign expenditures in the correct reporting period, and for failing to obtain and/or obtain supporting documentation for all campaign expenditures. Class two (2), maximum ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) civil penalty per violation. Rep. Towns has had previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its February 10, 2010 meeting to issue Rep. Town's a show cause notice for failing to report campaign contributions, receiving contributions in excess of campaign limits, not maintaining campaign records to verify compliance with campaign finance statutes, failing to report campaign expenditures incurred, improperly reporting campaign expenditures in the correct reporting period, and for failing to obtain and/or obtain supporting documentation for all campaign expenditures.

Without objection, the board voted at its March 10, 2010 meeting to defer any action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow Rep. Towns an opportunity to receive the show cause notice.

In addition to correcting some of the errors, Rep. Towns personally appeared before the board and explained his failure to report campaign contributions, receiving contributions in excess of campaign limits, not maintaining campaign records to verify compliance with campaign finance statutes, failing to report campaign expenditures incurred, improperly reporting campaign expenditures in the correct reporting period, and for failing to obtain and/or obtain supporting documentation for all campaign expenditures.

Without objection, the board voted at its April 14, 2010 meeting to defer any action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow Rep. Towns an opportunity to complete all corrections to his campaign financial disclosure statements.

Rep. Towns requested that the board defer any action in this matter until the next meeting to allow him further opportunity to complete all corrections to his campaign financial disclosure statements.

The board voted at its May 12, 2010 meeting to defer any action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow Rep. Towns an opportunity to complete all corrections to his campaign financial disclosure statements.

Cases Subject to Approval of Civil Penalty Order

10-09 Chuck Williams, for failure to file a 2009 year-end supplemental campaign financial disclosure report. Class two (2), no report filed, maximum ten thousand (\$10,000) civil penalty. Mr. Williams has had no previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its April 14, 2010 meeting to issue Mr. Williams a show cause notice.

Mr. Williams filed the required report and submitted a statement for the board's consideration.

A motion was made by Murray, seconded by McNeece, to assess Mr. Williams a \$25 civil penalty. Murray, accepted by McNeece, withdrew the motion. A motion was then made by Murray, seconded by Harding, to take no action. The motion to take no action passed the board unanimously.

10-12 Eddie Oden, for failure to file a 2008 4th quarter campaign financial disclosure report with the Maury County Election Commission. Class two (2), no report filed, maximum ten thousand (\$10,000) civil penalty. Mr. Oden has had previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its April 14, 2010 meeting to issue Mr. Oden a show cause notice.

Director Rawlins informed the board that that there has been no response to the show cause notice and that the report still has not been filed.

On motion by Harding, seconded by Pitt, the board voted unanimously to assess Mr. Oden a \$10,000 civil penalty.

Cases Considered for Issuance of Show Cause Notice

Tennessee Veterans PAC, for failure to file a 2009 year-end supplemental campaign financial disclosure report. Class two (2), no report filed, maximum ten thousand (\$10,000) civil penalty. The organization has had previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its April 14, 2010 meeting to issue the organization a show cause notice.

Staff brought this matter back before the board without sending the show cause notice because all correspondence from the Registry had been returned as undeliverable.

Director Rawlins informed the board that the Registry obtained a new address for the organization and that all correspondence has been re-mailed to the updated address.

On motion by Harding, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to issue a show cause notice.

Freedom and Responsibility PAC, for failure to timely file a 2009 year-end supplemental campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), one day late, maximum twenty-five (\$25) civil penalty. The organization has had no previous matters before the board.

On motion by Murray, seconded by McNeece, the board voted unanimously to take no action in this matter.

Executive Director's Report

- Director Rawlins informed the board that there is a bill in the Legislature that would require corporations that make independent expenditures to register and file disclosure reports with the Registry.

Reported Financial Expenses

Director Rawlins provided the board members with a list of civil penalties that have been paid year to date.

Other Business

Harding, seconded by Murray, made a motion, to adjourn the meeting until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The motion passed unanimously.