



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
AND POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE
STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

Location: **Citizens Clean Elections Commission**
 1110 W. Washington, Suite 250
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Date: **Thursday, September 24, 2026**

REVISED 2

Time: **10:00 a. m.**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the Commissioners of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission and the general public that the Citizens Clean Elections Commission will hold a regular meeting, which is open to the public on September 24, 2026. This meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. **This meeting will be held in person and virtually. The meeting location will be open by 09:45 a.m. at the latest.** Instructions on how the public may participate in this meeting are below. For additional information, please call (602) 364-3477 or contact Commission staff at ccec@azcleelections.gov.

The meeting may be available for live streaming online at <https://www.youtube.com/c/AZCCEC>. You can also visit <https://www.azcleelections.gov/clean-elections-commission-meetings>. Members of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission may attend in person, by telephone, video, or internet conferencing.

Join Zoom Meeting

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Please note that members of the public that choose to use the Zoom video link must keep their microphone muted for the duration of the meeting. If a member of the public wishes to speak, they

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Members of the public may participate via Zoom by computer, tablet or telephone. A dial-in option is also available but you will not be able to use the Zoom raise hand feature, so the meeting administrator will assist phone attendees. Please keep yourself muted unless you are prompted to speak.

The Commission may allow time for public comment on any item on the agenda. Commission members may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing Commission staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

The Commission may vote to go into executive session, which will not be open to the public, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice on any item listed on the agenda, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3). The Commission reserves the right at its discretion to address the agenda matters in an order different than outlined below.

Any person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the Commission at (602) 364-3477. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange accommodations.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- I. Call to Order.
- II. Discussion and Possible Action on 2026 Meeting Minutes for August 27, September 2, September 10 and September 16.
- III. Discussion and Possible Action on Executive Director's Report, Enforcement and Regulatory Updates, and Participating Candidate Update.

Note: The executive director's report includes announcements and information about elections and campaign finance, a report on voter education activities, administrative information, information on candidates running clean, reports on legal proceedings involving Clean Elections and other Arizona election officials, a report on correspondence from other agencies, appointments, enforcement status, notice of closure of complaints, the regulatory agenda, reports of the Auditor General, and the Governor's Regulatory Review Council. The legislative update includes bills that have or may be considered for action by the Arizona legislature or the Governor.

Materials are included in the Commission packet available on its website or by request at ccec@azcleanelections.gov/public-meetings

- IV. Review, Consideration, Discussion, Analysis, Possible Action on MUR 26-07 & MUR 26-10 Complaints regarding participating candidates Nick Myers and Kevin Thompson.
- V. Discussion and Possible Action on Dr. Ralph Heap's September 23 2026 letter regarding MUR 26-06, including

1. Dr. Heap's stated intent to use General Fund Clean Funding or Personal Funds to pay Mesa Sign Shop for Signs obtained during the Primary Election.
2. Dr. Heap's request to dismiss the investigation or reconsider settlement concerning campaign signs from Mesa Sign Shop.

A copy of the letter may be obtained on the Commission's website or via request at ccec@azcleaselections.gov

The Commission may vote to go into executive session, which will not be open to the public, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice on this item, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3).

- VI. Review, Consideration, Discussion, Analysis and Possible Action on *Lombardo et al. v. Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission et al.*, No. CV2026-037740 (Ariz. Superior Ct. Maricopa Cnty.) (filed Sept. 10, 2026).

The Commission may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public for legal advice or discussion or consultation with its attorneys in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding its position in pending or contemplated litigation. A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3), (4).

- VII. Public Comment.

This is the time for consideration of comments and suggestions from the public. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or rescheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date or responding to criticism

- VIII. Adjournment.

This agenda is subject to change up to 24 hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Commission (with the exception of material relating to possible executive sessions) is available for public inspection at the Commission's office, 1110 W Washington St, #250, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2026
Citizens Clean Elections Commission
Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director

1 THE STATE OF ARIZONA CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION <u>REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING</u> Phoenix, Arizona August 27, 2026 10:01 a.m. MILLER CERTIFIED REPORTING, LLC RRF Number R1058 12725 West Indian School Road Suite F-100 Avondale, Arizona 85392 623-975-7472 Office@MillerCertifiedReporting.com Prepared By: Angela Furniss Miller, RPR Certified Reporter Certificate No. AZ50127 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	3 1 P R O C E E D I N G 2 3 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. Good morning, 4 everyone. I'm Christina Werther, Acting Chair today, and I 5 call this meeting of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission 6 to order. It is 10:01 a.m. on August 27th, 2026. 7 Today's meeting is being held virtually. With 8 that, we'll take attendance. Commissioners, please identify 9 yourselves for the record. 00:00:24 10 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sam Crump. 11 COMMISSIONER PATON: Galen Paton. 12 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Steve Titla. 13 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And Mark Kimble is 14 absent, so we have four Commissioners who are present, and we 15 have a quorum. 16 For Item Number II, discussion and possible action 17 on the meeting minutes for July 23rd, August 4th, and 18 August 14th. Commissioners, you have the minutes in your 19 packets. Is there any discussion? 00:00:47 20 (No audible response.) 21 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Hearing none, is there a 22 motion to approve the minutes for these three meetings? 23 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll move their approval. 24 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Second. Steve Titla. 25 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Commissioner Crump has Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
2 1 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE CITIZENS CLEAN 2 ELECTIONS COMMISSION, convened at 10:01 a.m. on 3 August 27, 2026, in the presence of the following Board 4 Members: 5 Ms. Christina Werther, Acting Chair 6 Mr. Galen Paton 7 Mr. Steve Titla 8 Mr. Sam Crump 9 OTHERS PRESENT: 10 Thomas Collins, Executive Director 11 Paula Thomas, Executive Officer 12 Mike Becker, Policy Director 13 Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director 14 Avery Xola, Voter Education Manager 15 Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager 16 Craig Morgan, Taft Law 17 Bill Richards, Richards & Moskowitz 18 Samantha Fox, Richards & Moskowitz 19 Angela Miller, Miller Certified Reporting 20 Cathy Herring, KCA 21 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 22 Aaron Borders 23 Caitlin Sievers 24 Gina Swoboda 25 Jane Evans Jeremy Duda Jon Ralston, AZ Green Party Lisa Everett Nancy Hawkins Nick Myers Richard Grayson Scott Neely Tim LaSota, Timothy LaSota PLC Thomas M. Ryan, Esq. Wayne Schutsky, KJZZ Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	4 1 made motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Titla has 2 seconded. I'll call the roll. 3 Commissioner Crump. 4 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 5 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton. 6 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 7 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla. 8 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 9 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And Chair votes aye. 00:01:18 10 So the minutes are approved 4-to-0. 11 Item Number III is the Executive Director's report, 12 including enforcement and regulatory updates and an update on 13 participating candidates. 14 Tom, would you please provide the highlights of 15 your report? 16 MS. HERRING: Tom, you are muted. 17 MR. COLLINS: I apologize. Chair Werther, 18 members of the Commission, I just want to make a few 19 highlights from the Executive Director report. 00:02:23 20 First, the general election voter education guide 21 had -- has gone to print. We had 208 candidates eligible for 22 inclusion. And, importantly, we were able to include the 23 lieutenant governor candidates in the guide, so we did cancel 24 the supplemental mailing. I think we'd provided some notice 25 that we were anticipating that might happen if this came to Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

5 1 pass, and so that did. So I think that worked out well. 2 Our general election debates are underway. The 3 full schedule and candidate RSVP information is available on 4 our website, and we look forward to continuing to receive 5 voter questions. And we are completing our -- our 6 pre-gen- -- general election voter survey that identifies 7 issues voters are most concerned about heading into November. 8 So, we'll provide that information to our moderator, to 9 candidates as part of our effort to ensure that our debate 00:03:28 10 program is optimized. 11 As you can see from the report, we did have a 12 robust outreach effort ongoing. In particular National Voter 13 Registration Day will be coming up, and Avery and others are 14 working with the universities on activities that are going 15 to be going -- going on that day. 16 We finished the primary with 47 participating 17 candidates and our primary audits are now underway. 18 There's a number of things in the legal section. I 19 really only wanted to touch on one. Many of you may have 00:04:09 20 seen earlier this week the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in 21 the case called <i>Trump versus California</i> concerning efforts by 22 the federal government to -- that would impact mail-in 23 voting. 24 At the same time with this week the United States 25 Postal Service issued a new rule -- the final rule on mail Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	7 1 MR. COLLINS: That is -- Commissioner Werther, 2 yes, that's correct. And among the challenges there are 3 whether or not there is any statutory authority to even -- 4 for the USPS to be doing this, right? If you look at the 5 enabling act of the United States Postal Service, which I 6 happen to have done, there's really no -- there's really -- I 7 mean, if we're writing a rule with the basis of law that -- 8 that this rule has, I -- I suspect that the GRRC staff 9 attorneys will probably tell us to go back and work on it 00:06:37 10 some more. 11 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And I guess if there 12 is -- I guess obviously depending on what happens with the 13 litigation and the rule, are we able as the Commission to be 14 able to -- I guess, how are we going to do, I guess, voter 15 education? 16 MR. COLLINS: Well, I mean -- you know, I 17 would -- I mean, I would just say, I mean, at this point Gina 18 may have specific ideas on how we -- how we do that. 19 It -- in the time frame that we have if this were 00:07:05 20 implemented between now and November, you know, the -- the 21 list for election officials in terms of the way in which data 22 would have to be transmitted to the USPS in order for the 23 list that would be permissible for use of USPS itself, is -- 24 is -- is complex and really fraught with places for error 25 that will be borne by voters in the first place. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
6 1 voting and its involvement there. We are monitoring that. I 2 know Gina is already working to analyze the rule. And when 3 and if that goes into effect, you know there will be a 4 significant lift by all election officials around the state 5 to educate folks. 6 Now, we don't know if that's going to be for this 7 election cycle or not. But as published and finalized, I 8 think the major takeaway is that this will shift significant 9 responsibilities that currently begin and end with state and 00:05:10 10 local officials to the federal government and, therefore, 11 change how individual voters who use vote by mail, you know, 12 ensure that they get -- they receive their ballot. And that 13 is going to be, you know, a very significant development 14 procedurally for them and a major educational effort for -- 15 for everyone. 16 So, you know, I -- frankly, the rule is a little 17 bit too complicated for me to try to summarize now, but I 18 want to -- but I do want to flag that and recognize that, you 19 know, that Gina is already looking at that. 00:05:46 20 So with that, I complete my report. Unless you 21 have questions. 22 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Tom, I just had a 23 question, I thought maybe I saw this morning -- so I know 24 it's just this morning -- that maybe Arizona was joining in a 25 lawsuit now that the rule has been finalized? Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	8 1 So that part itself, just the doing of it is -- is 2 complex enough. 3 So, Gina, maybe, I don't know if you have any 4 thoughts on what we might do on the voter education side. I 5 would defer to Gina, Madam Chair. 6 MS. ROBERTS: Madam Chair, may I? 7 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Yes, please, Gina. 8 MS. ROBERTS: Yes. Madam Chair, 9 Commissioners, I think right now the most important thing for 00:07:57 10 voters to understand is that they have options. And so first 11 and foremost, you can track your ballot. And so if you 12 choose the vote by mail method, it's -- it's a fantastic tool 13 that voters have to track the status of their ballot all the 14 way from, okay, is my ballot being, you know, prepared, is 15 it -- was it mailed to me? So when you know your ballot was 16 mailed to you, then that tells you, okay, I should be 17 checking my mailbox any day now. And then when they receive 18 their ballot, returning it. 19 So making sure, one, voters understand how they can 00:08:28 20 track their ballot. And, two, what options they have if 21 they -- how they want to return their voter ballot. Do they 22 want to use a secure ballot drop box? Do they want to drop 23 it off at an in-person voting location on election day? 24 And then if they decide -- or for whatever reason 25 they don't receive the ballot -- they can always go to an Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

9 1 in-person voting location. And so I know our counties are 2 considering increasing the amount of in-person early voting 3 locations that are available to voters, and so we will help 4 with the education on that. 5 So I think, you know, from the -- there's, 6 obviously, the administrative side of things and -- and the 7 heavy lift that Tom was speaking to and, of course, the 8 legalities surrounding it. But from the voter perspective, 9 they need to just be aware of their options and what to do if 00:09:08 10 they request an early ballot and it didn't come, how -- you 11 know, what options are available to still vote and then also 12 tracking their ballot. 13 So those are things that we always educate on. We 14 can just amp them up, you know, as -- as we progress through 15 this. But importantly, voters need to understand the options 16 that are available to them and to really be proactive. So 17 understanding, this is when early ballots go out. You -- you 18 know, you should have had your ballot in the mail by now. If 19 you didn't, this is what you can do. And -- and tracking the 00:09:38 20 status of their ballot. 21 So it's going to be really those procedural things, 22 making sure that voters understand what options are available 23 to them as they navigate through the vote by mail process in 24 the event they didn't get their ballot. 25 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. Thank you, Gina. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	11 1 discussion or consultation for legal advice with its attorney 2 pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(3), and neither the 3 Executive Director nor Mr. LaSota nor the public will be 4 allowed in executive session pursuant to state law. 5 So I'll just start first by asking Tom to discuss 6 the compliance process. 7 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I 8 don't want to, you know, belabor this point too much. But, 9 you know, we received the request. I think probably the most 00:11:49 10 important thing is we certainly as staff don't have an 11 objection to the request, and we've prepared a form that is 12 essentially the -- based on the reason to believe vote the 13 Commission made last week. 14 And I think that the important aspects of 16-957 15 are, you know, that, you know, it does provide for the 16 issuance of this notice or order; it does provide for this 17 compliance period; it -- that -- that process does not 18 short-circuit or put anyone in a position where they, the 19 Commission agency's investigation of this is, you know, 00:12:50 20 forestalled or doesn't occur. It's not an opportunity for -- 21 it's not a thing that where everything that is in the order 22 has to be something that can be complied with. And I think 23 that's an important point, because, you know, there's 24 somewhat -- there's some language in there some people read 25 in other context, but the language is slightly different to Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
10 1 And I appreciate that you and Tom have already started to 2 think through this. 3 Did any of the Commissioners have any other 4 questions on this matter or -- or the Executive Director's 5 report? 6 (No audible response.) 7 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. Seeing none, 8 there's no action item on this. So we'll just move on to 9 Item Number IV. That is the review -- Item IV is a review, 00:10:16 10 consideration, discussion, analysis and possible action on 11 Dr. Ralph Heap's request for compliance order in MUR 26-06. 12 So the order of this item will be as follows: 13 First we'll hear from Tom Collins our Executive Director; 14 second, we will hear from Tim LaSota who I believe is online 15 to represent Dr. Heap. And then we'll take any public 16 comments on this item. 17 Again, Mr. LaSota has -- who represents Dr. Heap 18 has requested the issuance of a notice for compliance under 19 A.R.S. Section 16-957. The Executive Director submitted a 00:10:55 20 letter dated August 25, 2026, for the Commission's review 21 regarding the statutory process and a draft form of order. 22 The Commission is represented in this matter by 23 independent counsel Craig Morgan of Taft Law. 24 And then as indicated on the agenda, at any time 25 the Commission may vote to go into executive session for Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	12 1 say that, you know, the only issue is compliance and after 2 compliance the matter resolved. That's not what 16-957 says 3 at all. 4 It says that there's time to come into compliance 5 and there's also an opportunity for explanation. It does 6 make clear that the mere fact of, like, compliance with the 7 reporting requirement by filing a late report doesn't 8 eliminate the late report, right. Otherwise, there would be 9 no purpose to the good cause consideration and explanation 00:13:49 10 procedures. 11 After the 14-day period expires, the Commission 12 need not immediately, and nothing in the statutory language 13 says, that the Commission be or ought to immediately make the 14 determination of whether or not someone is out of compliance 15 or not. 16 And, you know, we are in the process of acting on 17 the vote the Commission made at the last meeting regarding 18 reason to believe. 19 So with that, you know, as I say, we don't 00:14:25 20 anticipate -- you know, we -- we didn't develop the draft 21 order with the anticipation of too many questions about it, 22 it really is designed to hew to the Commission vote on the 23 reason to believe determination at its last meeting. 24 Unless Chairwoman or Commissioners, you have any 25 questions, I think that concludes my comments. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

13 1 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Are there any questions 2 for Tom from the Commissioners? 3 (No audible response.) 4 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: If not, we'll move to 5 comments from Mr. LaSota, I believe you're here representing 6 Dr. Heap. 7 MR. LA SOTA: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. 8 You know, Mr. Collins says he doesn't have any 9 objection to the request, but your Rule 208 requires this 00:15:11 10 notice to the candidate, and it's not been provided as of yet 11 despite the fact that the Commission has had this -- this 12 complaint for months now. So now we're -- we're maybe 13 getting to that point, depending on how the Commission 14 proceeds today. 15 The other thing I want to mention is, you know, 16 your rules also call for, I think it calls for public 17 administrative resolution or something. And I wrote 18 Mr. Collins saying, you know, we'd like to -- to try to 19 resolve this, and the response I got was -- was completely 00:15:54 20 unsatisfactory. 21 The bottom line is, Dr. Heap is -- is trying to run 22 a campaign and we've -- we've basically been bombarded, you 23 know, by these complaints, and I think we've effectively 24 rebutted them. But it's time to -- it was time to -- to talk 25 to sort of resolution because we would rather not have to Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	15 1 to indicate if you want to speak. Please keep your mic or 2 phone on mute until we ask for your comments, and I'll call 3 on individuals one at a time. 4 When your name is called, please unmute yourself 5 and then state your full name for the record before beginning 6 your comments. And we request that you limit your comments 7 to three minutes. 8 If you need assistance, please also you can use the 9 chat function and then I'll -- I'll just to be sure to make 00:18:31 10 sure before we move on that everyone has an opportunity to be 11 heard. 12 Okay. So the first one that I see here is Gina 13 Swoboda. If you want to go ahead and unmute and identify 14 yourself. 15 MS. SWOBODA: Thank you so much. This is Gina 16 Swoboda. And I appreciate members of the Commission, thank 17 you so much for your time today. 18 Super quick comment. I just want to say, we need 19 candidates that run -- of participating candidates at -- to 00:18:58 20 comply fully with their campaign finance report. So if 21 there's an invoice that's still open from Mesa Sign Shop, 22 then the public really has no idea what the flow of money is. 23 And I appreciate Mr. LaSota's comments that his client no 24 longer wishes to have anything to do with this program. 25 However, he ran on the program; he's in the program. The Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
14 1 spend all of our time dealing with this Commission. 2 It's not happened. Now -- and you'll hear more 3 about this later from me on the next agenda item. Now 4 Mr. Collins is demanding money back from candidates. I think 5 it's probably only a matter of time before we get that letter 6 too. And, you know, under these circumstances it's just, 7 Dr. Heap just does not want anything to do with this program 8 anymore. He's requesting now that he be allowed to withdraw; 9 I'll submit a letter to that effect. 00:17:01 10 But right now we're -- we're afraid to really spend 11 any money because it's -- it's -- we're getting these -- you 12 know, three candidates have gotten these -- these notices of 13 repayment, and it's just that the Commission -- and I know 14 you'll continue it in an enforcement action, but Dr. Heap 15 never would have participated had he known what it would 16 involve. And -- and he doesn't want anything to do with this 17 program, and I doubt he ever will again based on just the 18 kind of the Byzantine process that one finds itself in when 19 one is the subject of the complaint. 00:17:43 20 So that's all I have to say. 21 Thank you, Madam Chair. 22 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you, Mr. LaSota. 23 Let me see. At this time we were planning to take 24 public comment on this item. If you could make sure to go to 25 the "react" button icon on the toolbar and do a raised hand Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	16 1 Commission voted to keep him in the program. And it would be 2 great for, you know, election integrity that a lot of people 3 talk a lot about, if they could just -- just comply with the 4 law. That's it. 5 And I appreciate you. Thank you so much. Have a 6 great day. Bye. 7 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you. 8 And next I see Lisa Everett. If you can unmute and 9 identify yourself. 00:19:40 10 MS. EVERETT: I'm Lisa Everett. 11 And I'm just a little concerned because Dr. Heap 12 received the same instructions as every other candidate that 13 runs through Clean Elections. So the rules were made clear, 14 and it appears that the rules have been violated. And now 15 that he has been caught, he wants to be fully released. 16 And I do hope that the Commission levies fines, 17 because we do need election integrity. We do need people to 18 follow the rules and to represent the public properly. 19 So I am urging the Commission to follow your own 00:20:23 20 guidelines and do what is right for the voters. And 21 Dr. Ralph Heap is not complying. 22 That's all I have to say. 23 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you, Ms. Everett. 24 Let me see. I don't see any other raised hands. 25 Is there anybody else who wanted to comment on this item? Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

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1 (No audible response.)

2 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. Mr. LaSota, did

3 you want to make any further comments?

4 MR. LA SOTA: No, thank you, Madam Chair.

5 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you.

6 So any discussion from the Commissioners, or is

7 there a motion from the member of the Commission to move into

8 executive session for legal advice?

9 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I make a motion we move

00:21:13 10 into closed section for legal advice on this matter.

11 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second that motion.

13 Steve Titla.

14 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. Commissioner

15 Crump has made the motion for executive session; Commissioner

16 Titla has seconded. I'll call the roll.

17 Commissioner Crump.

18 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.

19 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton.

00:21:29 20 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.

21 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla.

22 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.

23 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And Chair votes aye.

24 So with a 4 -- vote of 4-to-0, we're moving into

25 executive session.

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1 For this e-session those attending are the

2 Commissioners, Craig Morgan who is our Independent legal

3 counsel, and then I believe Angela for our minute taking.

4 (Whereupon the proceeding is in executive session

5 from 10:23 a.m. until 10:32 a.m.)

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9 (Whereupon all members of the public are present

00:29:40 10 and the proceeding resumes in general session.)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you. Does any

13 Commissioner want to make a motion regarding the order in MUR

14 26-06?

15 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Yeah, this is Steve

16 Titla. I'd like to make a motion to issue the order.

17 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Issue the compliance

18 order?

19 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Yes.

00:30:47 20 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Madame Chair?

22 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second it, Paton.

23 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sorry.

24 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: I'm sorry I heard two

25 at the same time.

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1 Do you want to -- Commissioner Crump, do you want

2 to...

3 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I just, I wanted to

4 propose an amendment to the motion. I don't know if you want

5 to get the second first and then.

6 COMMISSIONER PATON: No, I'll take the second

7 off.

8 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Okay. I -- I wanted to

00:31:17 10 propose an amendment. I think Commissioner Titla's motion

11 was to approve the proposed order; is that what I heard?

12 Okay.

13 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: And I would like to

15 propose that we amend it by removing Roman IV, paragraph

16 Roman IV subpart -- sorry. Well, I guess it's under the

17 actual order language at the end of page 2. So numeral 4

18 subpart (b) which starts out: "All documents and

19 communication reflecting Mesa Sign Shop."

00:32:00 20 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: So you want to remove

21 that from the compliance order, number 4(b)?

22 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Correct.

23 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And Craig, maybe help

24 me just to make sure, is it fine to just adopt that

25 amendment, or does Commissioner Titla need to restate his

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1 motion?

2 MR. MORGAN: I think the appropriate thing to

3 do is there's a motion that wasn't seconded, restate the

4 motion -- restate the motion as it relates to -- if someone

5 wants to make another motion. I think you make a record that

6 the first motion was not seconded, all right. I think

7 someone makes a new motion with this new amendment. And I

8 think as I understand the amendment, Madam Chair, it's to --

9 I'm sorry, did I miss? Was it to strike the entire paragraph

00:32:48 10 or just clarify that the paragraph only applies to the

11 candidate? I'm sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Yeah, thank you,

13 Mr. Morgan. That would be helpful I think.

14 So my -- my proposed amendment to the motion is

15 that number 4(b) be amended so that it's clear it only

16 applies to the participating candidate and his campaign.

17 MR. MORGAN: So, Madam Chair, if I may,

18 members of the Commission, I think the appropriate move then

19 is just to clarify, make the motion to approve as amended --

00:33:29 20 as amended by Commissioner Crump and then go from there.

21 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. So do we need to

22 restate it then?

23 MR. MORGAN: I would just to be careful, yes.

24 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. So should

25 Commissioner Titla do that since he did the first one or does

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21 1 it matter? 2 (Simultaneous crosstalk.) 3 MR. MORGAN: I don't know it matters at this 4 point. The first motion didn't get a second, so. 5 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Sure. Okay. 6 Commissioner Crump, do you want to make that motion? 7 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sure. If it's all right 8 with Commissioner Titla, then I'll just go ahead and do that. 9 So I would make a motion that we approve MUR 26-06, 00:34:08 10 the draft compliance order, that we approve that with the 11 amendment in number 4(b) that that paragraph be amended to 12 state that it only apply to the participating candidate and 13 his campaign committee. 14 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And there is a -- 15 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second that, Paton. 16 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. So Commissioner 17 Crump has made the motion to approve MUR 26-06, draft 18 compliance order, with the amendment 4(b) be amended that it 19 only applies to participating candidate and his campaign. 00:34:50 20 Commissioner Paton has seconded the motion, so I'll call the 21 roll. 22 Commissioner Crump. 23 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 24 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton. 25 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	23 1 Commissioners. 2 So as Madam Chair mentioned, I want to bring the 3 Commission up to date on our efforts to understand how 4 Ms. Lombardo, Mr. Collier, and Mr. Neely obtained and used in 5 some cases Clean Elections Fund. 6 Before I begin I want to also make sure the record 7 is clear on where we are procedurally. As you mentioned, the 8 Commission has its own legal counsel, and I have counsel 9 assisting me with this. And so, I'm obviously not here to 00:37:06 10 provide you legal advice, the Commission, or tell you what 11 you can or can't do. 12 Obviously, we sent notice to the campaign at the 13 e-mail addresses that they use. And by virtue of -- I see 14 Mr. Neely and Mr. LaSota that it appears for all of the -- 15 UNKNOWN MALE: Is this for lunch again? 16 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Where? 17 UNKNOWN MALE: Oh. We're taking orders -- 18 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Commissioner Titla, can 19 you just mute yourself? Thank you. 00:37:30 20 Sorry, Tom. 21 MR. COLLINS: No, no. So, and there's a 22 reason we're proceeding this way. Because this is an ongoing 23 effort and, you know, ordinarily there would be good reason 24 not to disclose anything sooner than we have to. Doing so 25 creates some risk of evidentiary loss, you know, some Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
22 1 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla. 2 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 3 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And Chair votes aye. 4 With a vote of 4-to-0, the motion passes. 5 Okay. Item V is review, consideration, discussion, 6 analysis and possible action on repayment recommendation 7 involving three participating candidates: Risa Lombardo is 8 participating candidate for governor; Scott Neely, a 9 participating candidate for governor; and Duwayne Collier, 00:35:31 10 participating candidate for Secretary of State. 11 Commissioners, you have the letters sent by the 12 Executive Director in your packet. The Commission's 13 independent legal advisor for this matter is Bill Richards 14 and Samantha Fox of Richards & Moskowitz. 15 My -- a suggestion would be that we at least hear 16 from Tom Collins, our Executive Director, and then if the 17 Respondents and the representative -- which I believe 18 Mr. LaSota said he's representing them, or at least maybe one 19 of them today -- and then we may want to go into executive 00:36:04 20 session just since this is the first time we're hearing about 21 this item to at least get some legal advice without sort of 22 the framework of this process. 23 So Tom if you'd like to proceed, please just come 24 with your opening statement on this matter. 25 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Madam Chair, Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	24 1 compromise. But we have set this here in order to ensure 2 that Respondents have additional notice of the concerns we 3 have identified. And they will have, as you identified 4 already, Madam Chair, have an opportunity to respond to that. 5 And I think that this is appropriate given the 6 repayment -- potential repayment obligations that we noted. 7 It doesn't mean that I -- what I present today 8 reflects the entirety of the evidence we have or other 9 evidence that we may obtain. As I mentioned in the letter 00:38:25 10 specifically, you know, we're not anticipating asking the 11 Commission to take action today. But I think that we have 12 developed sufficient evidence that the Commission needs to 13 understand where we are and where I expect this to go. 14 Now let me be precise about what the issue is here. 15 This is not a request that the Commission impose a penalty 16 because it believes fraud occurred. This is a narrower 17 question. The question is, under the rules were these 18 candidates entitled to the public funds they received. 19 Clean Elections Funding is not money to which 00:39:06 20 candidate's automatically entitled. The candidate has to 21 satisfy the statutory requirements for qualification before 22 becoming entitled to public funding. And among the most 23 fundamental requirements are the \$5 contribution. Those \$5 24 contributions are not simply paperwork, but they're a 25 mechanism by which a candidate demonstrates the required Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

25 1 level of public support and becomes eligible for public 2 funding. 3 The Commission has an independent statutory 4 responsibility to enforce the Act, to monitor candidate 5 reports and financial records, and ensure that fund money is 6 properly placed and spent, and ensure that money required to 7 be returned is deposited to the fund. 8 On our -- in our repayment rules, one rule that 9 we're addressing here is that consistent with the obligations 00:39:52 10 under the Act, if there is a payment that's determined to be 11 in excess of the payments to which the candidate was 12 entitled, the candidate must repay that amount. 13 So the question is, essentially, whether or not the 14 candidates were entitled to receive the funding. And we 15 have, you know, at this point substantial evidence about why 16 the qualifying contribution process was not valid. 17 We'll start with the data. You know, it's not one 18 isolated contribution here that -- that got our attention. 19 It's the relationship among the qualifying contributions 00:40:49 20 attributed to these three separate statewide campaigns. And 21 we've done -- we've run a preliminary analysis of the data 22 that is included in the exhibits, and that preliminary 23 analysis shows something about 5,000 unique donor names. And 24 about 74 percent of those are associated with more than one 25 of these three candidates. And -- and almost half of them Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	27 1 activities that the campaigns represented was occurring. 2 And I want to be a little careful here about what 3 that does and doesn't establish. There's no rule that says a 4 candidate has to spend a particular amount of money to 5 collect qualifying contributions. And the law recognizes 6 that candidates can receive substantial assistance without 7 incurring reportable campaign expenses. I think we might 8 hear about -- a lot about this in a few minutes. 9 But, you know, an individual may receive volunteer 00:43:19 10 services with -- may volunteer services without compensation 11 or a volunteer can absorb certain personal expenses like 12 travel or use of property; candidates can speak at certain 13 privately furnished venues; the statute contains other 14 specific exceptions for particular activity. 15 So a campaign can certainly accomplish some things 16 without spending money, but those exceptions do not explain 17 away all of the financial activity here. These were 18 statewide candidates represented to have obtained thousands 19 of separate \$5 contributions from Arizona voters over a 00:43:54 20 period of months. That is activity on a substantial scale. 21 Someone had to find thousands of people; someone 22 had to communicate them, someone had to -- thousands of paper 23 forms had to be obtained, distributed, completed, collected, 24 organized, tracked, transported and submitted. Thousands of 25 \$5 payments that supposedly had to be collected, maintained Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
26 1 are associated with all three candidates. 2 So that means that nearly three out of four names 3 in the combined donor pool appear with more than one of these 4 candidates, and nearly one out of every two names appear with 5 all three candidates. 6 And then there are, like, something like 400 or 7 500, in one case might be around 300 individuals, right. So, 8 so you got the bulk gave to at least two; almost half gave to 9 all three. And then you've got a handful of candidates -- or 00:41:47 10 handful of donors that purportedly gave to just one of each 11 of the individual candidates. 12 And that identifies a pattern that is, you know, 13 itself anomalous. You know, we're not talking about 20 14 people or 50 people or a few -- even a few hundred people 15 that might have been at a -- a state party meeting. We're 16 talking about, you know, something like 3,000 names 17 associated with multiple candidates. 18 And that means that the questions presented by the 19 rest of this evidence are not complying to an isolated group 00:42:25 20 of forums, it runs through a substantial portion of the 21 qualifying contribution activity itself. And that really 22 brings us to why the candidates' prefunding financial 23 activity was so important. 24 So as we talked about in the letters, the 25 prequalification financial activity doesn't match the Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	28 1 and accounted for ultimately delivered to the campaign. 2 Volunteer labor can explain some of the activities, 3 but it doesn't explain all the goods and services, materials, 4 communications, administration and other resources that would 5 be associated with the operation of that scale. 6 And we have examples specifically in the Collier 7 and the Neely letter about what ordinary statewide candidates 8 on both sides of the aisle are doing. And these candidacies 9 are, again, anomalies. 00:44:40 10 And the statutory exemptions to the definition of 11 contribution are important because they are specific. They 12 exempt an individual's uncompensated volunteer services and 13 certain incidental volunteer expenses, you know. But there's 14 no general exception for another person to simply supply a 15 candidate campaign with what are ordinarily goods and service 16 necessary to conduct the campaign and just call them 17 volunteer. 18 So look at what's exactly reported. Scott Neely 19 reported less than \$400 in expenses and with \$268 in seed 00:45:15 20 money. 21 Collier -- that Mr. Collier reported no prefunding 22 expenses and \$55 in seed money. As the notice puts it, this 23 is a campaign that paid nothing for advice, nothing on paper, 24 no bank fees, nothing. 25 Ms. Lombardo's first quarter campaign report Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

29 1 similarly showed no seed or early contributions, no 2 expenditures while she was supposedly accumulating qualified 3 contributions. Her bank statement showed only nominal 4 balance during this period. 5 Again, the point is not that a legitimate campaign 6 must spend a particular amount of money. The point is the 7 reported financial activity is extraordinarily difficult, if 8 not impossible, to reconcile with the scale of activities 9 these campaigns represented was occurring. 00:46:01 10 The volunteer exceptions only apply to those things 11 that are provided without compensation or reimbursement, and 12 that are not, you know -- in converting sort of an 13 industrial-level signature gathering operation to volunteer, 14 is -- is not something that you can just say and magically 15 answers the question. 16 You know, for example, if a person is being paid to 17 circulate position -- petitions or canvass voters, perform 18 voter conduct or other campaign fieldwork, or for another 19 campaign or for a group of campaigns, and that same person is 00:46:45 20 collecting qualifying contributions during the compensated 21 operation, you can't just say: Oh, and by the way, I'm going 22 to volunteer for two minutes here and have you fill out this 23 form over here. And I think we're going to hear something 24 along those lines from Mr. LaSota. I do. 25 But the relevant question is, what was the person Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	31 1 heavily on paper qualifying forms. And despite that, the 2 corresponding money does not appear in their campaign 3 accounts during that period. 4 So we have campaigns reporting little financial 5 activity, no financial activities in any meaningful way, 6 while sample -- simultaneously representing substantial 7 campaign activity was taking place and the people -- so. 8 So, the inference that I suspect the candidates are 9 going to ask you to draw is that the absence of expenditures 00:49:12 10 is explained away by volunteers, and they will ask you to 11 reject the inference that follows from the evidence that we 12 actually have: Extraordinary donor overlap, thousands of 13 paper forms with no virt -- virtually no costs associated, 14 and no contemporaneous financial trail for the \$5 15 contributions. 16 And in place they're going to ask you to infer from 17 what the record does not show, that there is an essentially a 18 cost-free operation, a large group of uncompensated 19 volunteers sufficiently organized and dedicated to three 00:49:48 20 largely unknown statewide candidates to locate thousands of 21 voters, obtain thousands of paper qualifying forms, collect 22 corresponding cash -- right? Because we know, and we'll get 23 to this later, that it wasn't checks -- and ultimately 24 deliver it to the campaigns. 25 I mean, that's a hypothetical but that's not the -- Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
30 1 being paid to do; were the qualifying contributions collected 2 during the same shifts where they were being paid? Were they 3 being paid hourly? You know, transportation, supplies, voter 4 list, office space, all those resources, those aren't 5 volunteer. 6 So you can't make compensation disappear merely by 7 characterizing one component of a -- of a field operation as 8 volunteer activity. That's just not -- there's nothing 9 anywhere in the exceptions to contributions that Mr. LaSota's 00:47:39 10 pointed to in the past that supports that. 11 So -- so if the explanation for how these campaigns 12 obtain thousands of paper qualifying contributions while 13 reporting almost no prequalification expenses is that 14 volunteers collected them. But the people responsible for 15 collecting those contributions were simultaneously being paid 16 somewhere in broader operation, obviously this volunteer 17 application will turn out to be less than persuasive. 18 In other words, the absence of campaign 19 expenditures doesn't mean that there were necessarily no 00:48:20 20 costs, it may instead mean the costs were borne somewhere 21 else. In standing alone, that requires an investigation. 22 But it doesn't stand alone here. 23 Nearly three-quarters of a set of unique donor 24 names were associated with more than one of these candidates, 25 nearly half associated with all three. The campaigns relied Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	32 1 that's not what the evidence shows. The actual evidence 2 shows us that -- you know, the actual evidence shows the 3 opposite. 4 And this distinction matters, because the 5 Commission is not being asked by the Rule 704 to presume the 6 candidates were entitled to public funding and then require 7 staff to disapprove every conceivable, innocent explanation. 8 The question of the repayment rule is what the evidence 9 establishes about the candidate's entitlement. 00:50:38 10 And the Commission should draw the most reasonable 11 inference from the evidence it has, not replace the evidence 12 with unsupported inferences drawn from what's missing. 13 And, you know, the expenses doesn't stop -- the 14 evidence doesn't stop with the missing expenses, because the 15 money suddenly appears. This is probably for me at least the 16 most significant evidence we have. 17 The qualifying contribution forms represent 18 thousands of individual transactions purportedly occurring 19 over a period of months. But the bank records do not show 00:51:12 20 the money moving into the campaign accounts as those 21 transactions occur. Instead, Mr. Neely, in his May bank 22 statement, shows a single in-person deposit, cash deposit, of 23 \$20,940 on May 12th, one week before he applied for funding. 24 But his qualifying forms indicate that there's -- and his 25 reports, the campaign finance system report reflect those Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

33 1 were collected over months. 2 Mr. Collier had a single 18,060 cash deposit on 3 May 29, the day he filed his application for funding. Again, 4 the forms report to reflect the contributions over many 5 months. And the money nevertheless somehow is deposited in 6 one large cash deposit. 7 Ms. Lombardo, the same thing. \$21,485 in in-person 8 deposit the day she filed her application for funding. 9 And -- and there's even an indication that she knew how to 00:52:10 10 use Stripe. If candidates are using Stripe, typically they 11 could have a large transfer from Stripe. But that tells us 12 we know the money is in Stripe, which is what the electronic 13 system the Secretary of State provides. 14 So we have this common sequence: Thousands of \$5 15 contributions supposedly collected over months, no 16 corresponding campaign financial activity, and the money -- 17 the \$5 alone is absent from the campaign account, and then 18 substantially all the qualifying contribution money appears 00:52:43 19 in a single large deposit immediately before or on the date 20 the funding is requested. 21 So this is more than an unusual banking practice. 22 It's a positive break in the financial evidence connecting 23 the purported contributors to the money deposited by the 24 campaigns. 25 And that matters because the qualifying Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	35 1 So, in other words, Mr. Neely confirmed that he 2 knowingly took this cash with no apparent knowledge of its 3 provenance and then clammed up when asked -- when he was 4 asked who got him involved in this. 5 And you can see the gears going when you read his 6 comments to <i>The Mirror</i>. You can almost feel him saying: I 7 think I might have said too much. 8 And this break goes directly to the entitlement. 9 The candidate's entitlement under the rule depends upon the 00:55:05 10 qualifying contributions actually that occurred. The 11 candidate cannot establish entitlement merely by producing 12 thousands of forms, and then pointing to a later pool of 13 money equal to that \$5 when the evidence doesn't establish 14 the money came from the individual identified on those forms 15 because of this very clear, very strong break in the chain 16 between those qualifiers and the \$5. 17 To put it another way, collecting \$5 over a period 18 of months, why was -- where was the money? Was it in a 19 shoebox somewhere? Was it under someone's mattress? The 00:55:40 20 reason people use banks -- and this is a fact that the Act 21 mandates, that financial activities be through one single 22 campaign finance account is because they don't want to be 23 Uncle Billy in <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>. 24 So then we get to the fact that we now have 25 evidence at the other end of the transaction. Purported Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
34 1 contribution is not just a form that has the voter's name. 2 The candidate must actually receive \$5 from that individual. 3 The solicitor, whether it's a candidate signing as a 4 solicitor or a different solicitor, signs in fact that they 5 got \$5 from that individual. 6 So the temporal and possessory link between the 7 money and the qualifying forms is broken. The bank records 8 instead document the campaign's possession at a much later 9 point in time. A large pool of money deposited through a 00:53:33 10 single transaction immediately before funding is sought. 11 And particularly where we're dealing with these 12 lump-sum deposits, the Commission can't presume that each \$5 13 came from an individual whose name appears on a qualifying 14 contribution form. Because that connection is precisely what 15 the evidence is called into evidence. 16 The temporal and possessory link between the money 17 and the qualifying forms together with the cash deposited in 18 the lump-sum transactions means the Commission can't simply 19 infer the link. There's a positive break in the financial 00:54:10 20 evidence. 21 And to illustrate this break -- break precisely, 22 Mr. Neely gave an interview to <i>The Mirror</i> where he admitted 23 that the people who recruited him to run for governor also 24 said they had volunteers to collect the \$5 donations. But he 25 declined to say who these people are. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	36 1 contributors who have said they did not make the 2 contributions attributed to them. 3 Just to look at <i>The Mirror</i> story. Christopher 4 Scott of Peoria looked at the records that said he had 5 contributed \$5 to all three. Right? So Mr. Scott -- we're 6 to presume, I guess, that Mr. Scott would have sat there with 7 three forms and had \$15 and given \$15 to all three 8 candidates. And he told <i>The Mirror</i> that he's a thousand 9 percent certain he did not make any of those contributions. 00:56:38 10 And that's important because it precisely 11 addresses, again, the evidentiary gap created in the bank 12 records. The form says an individual provided \$5. The bank 13 records do not establish that the money came from that 14 individual or any individual. And now individuals identified 15 on those forms are saying they didn't provide any money at 16 all. 17 So each piece of the puzzle reinforces the other, 18 and they all point in the same direction. 19 Nearly three-quarters of the unique donor names are 00:57:13 20 associated with multiple candidates; nearly half associated 21 with all three. Campaign's prefunding financial activity 22 doesn't reflect the operating cost of thousands of indiv- -- 23 seeking thousands of individual contributions; the 24 corresponding money does not occur in campaign accounts as 25 those transactions supposedly occurred. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

37 1 And that's not to say that they had to have 2 every -- every day someone had to go to the bank and deposit 3 \$5. But it is to say that over the course of many months, it 4 is irrational to not have put those -- that money in the 5 bank. 6 We also know that it wasn't checks. Because, you 7 know, if they were checks, they would have been deposited in 8 the account. So it's cash. 9 So the Commission doesn't need to presume away all 00:58:04 10 of this evidence based on some claim of exceptions or what 11 have you. 12 And that takes us to the entitlement issue, right? 13 704(b) provides that the Commission determines any portion of 14 payments made to candidates was in excess of the payment to 15 which the candidate was entitled, the candidate has to repay 16 that amount. The rule distinguishes that what the candidate 17 paid and what the candidate -- candidate is entitled to 18 receive are not the same. 19 It establishes that the government issue the 00:58:36 20 payment -- the government may have issued a payment, but that 21 doesn't establish entitlement. The entitlement depends upon 22 the qualification, and that depends upon satisfying these 23 statutory requirements. 24 So the question is not whether the campaigns 25 ultimately possessed the amount of money approximately equal, Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	39 1 greater than 110 percent of the required filing. So that 2 4,400 qualifying contribution. 3 And I had Mike check the math three times. So we 4 know that's -- we know that's a real number. 5 4,300 is only like 107 percent, right? So 6 mathematically the -- the indication from the Secretary's 7 office is that counties informed Secretary's office they had 8 qualifying on the random sample. The math based on the 9 numbers we have in those same reports don't -- it's just not 01:00:47 10 possible. 11 So, you know, we don't know why that happened or 12 how that happened yet. We don't know if there's a -- but -- 13 but we know that that's what the -- the -- the raw facts say. 14 So I think that this requirement is conceptually 15 pretty straightforward. Qualifying contributions attributed 16 to candidate, they have to actually satisfy the statutory 17 requirement, and -- and we don't -- we don't have that 18 established by the candidate. 19 If the candidate -- if the candidate actually 01:01:25 20 satisfied the qualification requirement, if the candidate 21 did, the candidate would have been entitled for the funding. 22 If the candidate didn't, then the candidate wasn't entitled 23 to obtain public funding on the basis of that qualification. 24 And if a candidate's received public funding 25 without satisfying the condition that created the Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
38 1 the \$5 multiplied by the forms they submitted. The question 2 is whether or not the individual qualifying contributions 3 represented by those forms actually occurred. 4 And if they did not, they can't be counted towards 5 qualification. And where the evidence breaks the connection 6 between the purported individual contribution and the 7 lump-sum money deposited in cash either before or literally 8 on the day that these folks applied for funding, the 9 Commission can't simply presume this missing element into 00:59:22 10 existence. 11 The positive break in the financial evidence is 12 sufficient to require the Commission determine the candidate 13 has actually established the qualifying contribution is 14 necessary in place -- entitlement in the first place. 15 Now, I know I've gone on. I have a little bit more 16 that I really think I need to get through, because this is 17 complex. 18 Ms. Lombardo, there's an additional certification 19 issue that we -- we don't, frankly, have an entire answer to. 00:59:49 20 As the records that we've received and reviewed from the 21 Secretary's office indicate that she provided \$4,300 -- or 22 4,300 qualifying contribution slips. 23 The minimum for gubernatorial candidate is 4,000. 24 There's a sampling process under 6950(c) that says that 25 approval based on a sample requires you have to project that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	40 1 entitlement, the payment exceeded the amount to which the 2 candidate was entitled. And that's the circumstances 3 addressed by RT2-20-704(b)(1). 4 I want to emphasize that this is distinct from the 5 penalty process and penalties. We're not saying fraud 6 occurred therefore the penalty is 4.7 million. That's not at 7 all what we're saying. We're -- we're not even saying fraud 8 occurred. 9 We're saying that the -- that the theory is for the 01:02:12 10 amount of public funding to which each candidate was entitled 11 compared to what the candidate received, if the candidate 12 received more than what the candidate was entitled to, the 13 difference needs to be repaid. And we issued a notice that 14 goes to we think that that could be the full amount here. 15 Also anticipate that there will be an argument made 16 along the lines of, well, these candidates were certified and 17 that's the end of the inquiry. In other words, once the 18 Secretary sends an e-mail that says that the candidates were 19 certified, there's nothing else to be done and the money is 01:02:52 20 gone. 21 But the whole point of 704(b)(1) is to allow the 22 Commission to determine if the candidate received more of the 23 money than they were entitled to. 24 16-956(A)(7) puts a burden on the -- on the 25 Commission to ensure that money is placed in candidate -- to Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

41 1 enforce the Act and to ensure that money is placed in 2 candidate's accounts as -- as authorized by the Article and 3 not otherwise. 4 And certification itself obviously occurs based on 5 the information that was available at the time. A 6 certification based upon the representations that a candidate 7 obtained thousands of \$5 contributions can't transform 8 contributions that we don't have the evidence actually 9 occurred in that way into valid contributions retroactively 01:03:39 10 whenever that that's discovered. 11 I mean, in other words, the fact that on the day 12 they submitted, the Secretary of State and the counties did 13 not know what had happened in the background is not itself 14 validating of what happened before they made that 15 certification. There's not a "get away with it" clause in 16 the Clean Elections Act. 17 Because that would effectively eliminate the 18 Commission's ability to do its duty under 16-956(A)(7) to 19 enforce the Act and ensure that monies are placed in -- are 01:04:14 20 placed in candidate accounts or otherwise spent in accordance 21 with the Article. 22 You know, I -- I want to spend a brief time on 23 the -- the issues with the accounting issues. You know, 24 Collier and -- Mr. Collier and Mr. -- Ms. Lombardo made 25 substantial payments to a company called Boot Strapped Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	43 1 required to ignore that evidence because the fund made 2 payments before the underlying problem was discovered. 3 Otherwise, again as I said 16-956(A)(7) doesn't mean 4 anything. 5 So I want to be clear, I'm not asking the 6 Commission today to do anything. I'm not asking the 7 Commission to determine the repayment obligation. And -- 8 and -- and there's nothing here that seeks to impose a 9 penalty. 01:07:00 10 The candidates are -- are put on notice now the 11 evidence developed so far, the potential repayment amounts, 12 they need to preserve relevant evidence. The notices advise 13 them that, you know, of all the authority that the Commission 14 has. And -- and I anticipate that there will be a final 15 repayment recommendation that we make after this. And the 16 candidates will have an opportunity to respond. 17 But the evidence here should be viewed in sequence 18 and should be -- and the inferences should be drawn based on 19 the evidence, not based on the absence of evidence. We have 01:07:38 20 an extraordinarily anomalous pattern of donor names. We -- 21 and in this -- in this small set of three campaigns. We have 22 contemporaneous financial activity that doesn't reflect an 23 operation of this scale at all. We know that the 24 corresponding money for these \$5 qualifying contributions 25 doesn't appear at all in the campaign accounts as those Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
42 1 Campaigns, that's a Nevada company. You know, we know though 2 from the evidence that we both submitted by the Lombardo 3 campaign and the -- and the Neely -- and the Collier campaign 4 that, you know, that with the mail house, which is not 5 identified, was different. We know from going out and doing 6 fieldwork on the signs that the -- that the Collier signs 7 were installed by a different company, and that's the contact 8 on the Collier sign. And the Lombardo signs placement with 9 the -- with the Neely signs and -- and the Collier signs I 01:05:22 10 think create strong evidence that this was a -- this was a -- 11 that the signs were also -- there's another venue there as 12 well. 13 So that's a separate theory for those two 14 candidates under the fact those should have been reported 15 properly. They're not. That's out- -- that's outlined in 16 the 20-7- -- in the repayment rules. 17 So, ultimately, this is public money, and the fund 18 paid out to these candidates because they represented through 19 the qualification process that they'd satisfied the statutory 01:05:58 20 condition of public finance. And we now have actual evidence 21 that calls into -- that calls into question that. We have 22 evidence that the factual basis for believing that the \$5 23 qualifiers and the -- and the -- and the \$5 donations and the 24 qualifying contributions, they were -- they're delinked. 25 So the Commission is not required and oughtn't be Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	44 1 transactions occur. Rather we've had large, lump-sum 2 deposits that appear immediately before -- in fact, in the 3 two cases on the very date -- candidate sought public 4 funding. And we have folks who were purportedly contributors 5 now denying that they supplied the contributions attributed 6 to them. 7 This sequence creates a positive break in the 8 evidence connecting the individuals identified on the 9 qualifying contribution form to the money ultimately 01:08:35 10 deposited with the application for funding. And the 11 Commission can't fill that break with the presumption that 12 every \$5 -- every \$5s in the later lump-sum deposit must have 13 come from the individual named on the form. 14 This is particularly true when almost half of the 15 unique donor names appear across all three campaigns. 16 Candidate's entitlement depends on qualifying contributions 17 actually having occurred. Payment is not entitlement; 18 qualification creates entitlement. 19 If ultimately the evidence establishes these 01:09:06 20 candidates did not actually obtain the qualifying 21 contribution necessary to qualify, the Commission, you know, 22 has to determine they were a- -- what they were actually 23 entitled to receive. 24 And if the fund paid more, the repayment is not a 25 penalty. It's the return of public money paid in excess of Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

45 1 the candidate's entitlement. 2 So, again, I'm not asking the Commission to act 3 today, but I feel it was important to provide, you know, this 4 information. And, again, to provide as much notice to the 5 candidate as possible. Which we have done as they are here 6 and -- and made some points now and, you know, they're -- 7 they're here. 8 So Madam Chair, that, I understand it went long, 9 but that is my presentation on this at this time unless you 01:09:49 10 have any questions. 11 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you, Tom. 12 Questions from the Commissioners? 13 COMMISSIONER PATON: This is Paton. 14 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Yes. Commissioner 15 Paton? 16 COMMISSIONER PATON: Yes. So Tom, we're just 17 not going to rely on the newspaper to interview those people, 18 I mean the re- -- the story or whatever -- 19 MR. COLLINS: Right. 01:10:22 20 COMMISSIONER PATON: -- we would -- part of 21 your investigation eventually would be to go through those 22 people, the \$5 contribution, the forms, and get to the bottom 23 of this by our own deal. 24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Madam Chair, Commissioner 25 Paton. So we have -- I don't -- I don't -- I want to be a Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	47 1 about this the day that the news article came out a couple of 2 days ago. I haven't been given sufficient time to obtain 3 counsel. And I really don't have any comment on the matter. 4 I haven't engaged in any fraud. And on top of that, I will 5 be exonerated soon. 6 Thank you very much. 7 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you, Mr. Neely. 8 And then Mr. LaSota, I believe you said you were 9 representing -- which candidates are you representing? 01:12:57 10 MR. LA SOTA: Lombardo and Collier. 11 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Oh. Okay. Please 12 proceed. 13 MR. LA SOTA: Thank you. 14 The bottom line here is this is black helicopter 15 material. I mean, this is a -- a really far-fetched 16 conspiracy theory that doesn't really make a lot of sense at 17 any level. 18 And I'd like to start with Mr. Collins's assertion 19 that there was a -- which basically is saying that I botched 01:13:23 20 this when I -- when I gave you the money. That's what he's 21 saying, is: You got the money; you shouldn't have gotten it 22 because the Secretary of State didn't do a proper analysis of 23 the \$5 contributions. 24 Well, the time to bring that up is before you 25 deposit millions of dollars into the candidate's account. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
46 1 little careful here because, as I said at the outset, I'm 2 not -- what I've presented today does not include every -- 3 all of the evidence that we have. We do have our own 4 fieldwork and that fieldwork is consistent with what <i>The</i> 5 <i>Mirror</i> has reported. 6 And as I said in my letter to these -- the 7 candidates, you know, we -- and I've said to you, you know, 8 we're not asking for an action today, but we -- we will be 9 continuing to do that. 01:11:25 10 So, so in answer to your question: Yes, that is 11 underway; yes, it gives us confidence that the reporting in 12 <i>The Mirror</i> is correct. And yes, as I said to the candidates 13 and I say to you today, there is additional work we would 14 like to do. 15 COMMISSIONER PATON: Okay. Thank you. 16 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: I want to make sure 17 that we're giving the representatives -- or the Respondents 18 an opportunity to speak. 19 Scott Neely, I see that you're here online. Do you 01:12:01 20 wish to make comments? 21 And since you're muted, I can't hear you so I don't 22 know if you're -- if you want to unmute if you're available. 23 MR. NEELY: Yeah, this is Scott Neely. So -- 24 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Yes. Please proceed. 25 MR. NEELY: So I only -- I only found out Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	48 1 Now, as it is, Mr. Collins is just wrong on that 2 point. His -- what -- what Mr. Collins says is is 3 essentially that we didn't hit the -- Ms. Lombardo didn't hit 4 the automatic qualification. Which is true, she didn't. She 5 didn't have a 110 percent of the contributions she needed. 6 But hopefully everyone can see this letter, this is 7 from the Secretary of State's office to Ms. Lombardo. 8 Can -- can -- Madam Chair, can you -- is the screen 9 being properly shared? 01:14:18 10 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Yes, Mr. LaSota. I can 11 see it, yes. 12 MR. LA SOTA: Okay. So you see what he says 13 up here, you filed candidate -- you know, you filed these 14 contributions, the sample shows you don't have a 110 percent. 15 Pursuant to A.R.S. 16-950(C), all 4,300 qualifying 16 contributions were forwarded to the County Recorders for 17 verification. 18 So they were all sent to these County Recorders, 19 and they were all verified. 01:14:46 20 Now if we go to another -- and this was actually in 21 the packet. I think this is Exhibit -- this is Exhibit 1 22 in -- in Collins's letter to -- to Lombardo. And this is 23 that he points to that -- that, well, you know, she shouldn't 24 have been qualified for funding. 25 Well, this -- on this very e-mail you see this -- Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

49 1 this form, this link, this -- from the Secretary of State's 2 office. So if we look at Ms. Lombardo, she's line 31. We 3 can -- we can scroll through this and see exactly what 4 happened. 5 So we have her. She starts off. She doesn't get 6 the initial qualifying, and that is consistent with -- that 7 is true and it -- it even says that somewhere. Initial -- 8 initial sampling: No. She didn't qualify there. 9 So what do we do? We send a hundred percent to all 10 of the counties and we have a record of them returning these. 11 Returned, returned, returned 5/19, 5/12, 5/18. Qualifying? 12 Yes. 13 So, in other words, what happens, she doesn't 14 qualify initially, right. And she doesn't -- she's not over 15 a 110 percent. So what the Secretary of State's office does 16 is they send out every single one of these \$5 contribution 17 forms to the respective counties that -- that they originate 18 in, and they check every single form. And they come back and 19 they say, yes, she's got enough qualifications and then we 20 get the May 19th letter. 21 So -- so Mr. Collins is just plain wrong. And he 22 says he's been investigating this thing for months. I was 23 able to determine this in about 24 hours. I'm stunned. 24 And -- and the other thing we didn't get is nobody 25 with the campaign got a phone call. I mean, if -- if Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	51 1 your money. Even though you -- this could have been done 2 back in May. You could have been collecting signatures. We 3 don't know how far short you were. Maybe you were one 4 signature short. We don't even know that she was short 5 because he's produced no evidence that he [verbatim] was 6 short. 7 And, in fact, the Secretary of State has certified 8 that every single \$5 contribution form was sent out to 9 counties, and they verified that she had enough signatures -- 10 or \$5 contributions I should say. 11 So the letter, the credibility of the letter is 12 just is -- is -- is zero. 13 Let's talk about, you know, Mr. -- Mr. Collins 14 talks about the volunteers or, you know, how could she have 15 had this many volunteers. 16 And -- and the first thing I will say about that is 17 I don't represent Scott Neely, but I -- I would never tell 18 Mr. Collins the identity of volunteers, because what he'll do 19 next is he's going to go out and subpoena and badger those 20 people too. 21 You know, he's -- he's already been investigating 22 these donors, and his issue with them is that they didn't 23 give money in the past. Who cares? I thought we wanted more 24 participation by people who have been inactive before. 25 Also, he's -- now he's complaining about Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
50 1 Mr. Collins would have called me, I could have explained this 2 to him along with a lot of the other points that -- that he 3 makes. I mean, it's clear he's gotten all hopped up on this 4 conspiracy theory and it's caused him to -- to basically 5 ignore reality and -- and try to take everyday things and 6 turn them into something nefarious, which they're not. 7 So this is -- this is where -- this is basically 8 his letter is just wrong. 9 And even with if -- it's wrong on the facts. And 10 even if it's right, let's think about what Mr. Collins is 11 doing. He's telling a candidate that he improperly certified 12 as qualifying to return the money. 13 And -- and when was this determination made? This 14 determination was made on May 19th. That's what the -- 15 that's what the letter says. 16 So even if at that point, Ms. Lombardo were short 17 of signatures, she would have had a chance under -- under the 18 rules to go get more signatures. This is -- yeah. Here's 19 the -- here's the -- yeah, May 19th. 20 So she was -- so -- so even under -- under 21 Mr. Collins' facts, which are not accurate, she was properly 22 certified. Even if she weren't, she's -- what he's saying is 23 due to -- to me botching this, you were deprived of the 24 opportunity to -- to provide more \$5 contributions to me, the 25 4,000 dollar [verbatim] minimum. So, so give us back all Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	52 1 volunteers, or suggesting it can't be done without -- with 2 volunteers. It has to be done with volunteers. A.R.S. 3 16-946(B)(4) says you cannot pay people to collect 4 \$5 contributions, period. And you cannot employ someone on 5 your campaign to collect \$5 contributions. 6 I've got a client that -- that is in a six-year 7 enforcement action. And that's one of the things Mr. Collins 8 is saying is that, well, your program effectively pays for -- 9 for contributions. I dispute that. 10 But it -- it just -- it goes to show there's no -- 11 the path of -- of compliance is a -- appears to be a 12 nonexistent one. Either you rely on volunteers and 13 Mr. Collins takes issue with that. Or you -- you have a 14 different program and -- and Mr. Collins says, oh, you needed 15 to collect these from volunteers. 16 So -- and the -- Mr. Collins has said that, well, 17 we're just relying on this candidate certification of their 18 \$5 contributions. That's baloney. The Secretary of State 19 verified these. The County Records verified these 20 \$5 contributions. They -- they go through the signatures. 21 And what do we have as the evidence? We have a -- 22 a media story where they -- where they've -- the reporter, 23 you know, talks about six people who say they didn't -- they 24 didn't give a contribution. 25 This is out of -- out of what must be tens of Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

53 1 thousands of -- of total contributions, if we're talking two 2 gubernatorial candidate and a Secretary of State's candidate. 3 So as to -- as to the deposit of the 4 \$5 contributions, that's hardly atypical. And Mr. Collins 5 even admitted, there's no rule that says every time someone 6 gives you a \$5 contribution, you must run to the bank and 7 deposit that \$5 contribution. Not a rule. If Mr. Collins 8 wants a rule like that, the Commission is -- is fond with 9 passing rules that regulate candidates; he's not done so. 01:21:54 10 The -- you are legally entitled to do -- to keep 11 that money in a safe, to deposit it into the bank. No 12 difference. And -- and Mr. Collins doesn't get to tell you 13 that -- that you've done something wrong on this point 14 because you've not. You don't have to deposit that money in 15 a bank the minute you receive it. It's not uncommon for -- 16 for banks to -- for candidates to do it at the end when they 17 feel they've qualified. 18 In this instance, I know at least -- at least one, 01:22:35 19 I don't remember, maybe it was both candidates, but the bank 20 charged a -- actually charged a processing fee for processing 21 that much cash. 22 Collecting \$5 contributions is just easier with 23 cash. I've done it myself. It -- that's -- it's much easier 24 that way. 25 He didn't really talk about the certification. The Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	55 1 We don't know, maybe they're confused. Maybe -- we 2 don't know who's -- we don't know who is telling the truth. 3 Whether those people are, whether maybe the reporter got it 4 wrong. We have no idea, and he's sending this letter out, 5 without even calling me or the candidate. 6 What I do know is this is -- as Mr. -- I would say 7 what Mr. Neely said about himself is exactly true about both 8 of my campaigns. 9 The Daily Mirror or the <i>Arizona Mirror</i> article was 01:25:01 10 the first I've ever heard of any of this stuff. The 11 campaigns should not have been besmirched this way based on, 12 on what is, really, just a bunch of -- of black 13 helicopter-type conspiracy theories. 14 Couple other points. The -- the -- I'm trying to 15 think what else Mr. Collins said in the letter, but I think 16 that's about it. The first time donors and all this money is 17 deposited at the same time, and how can you do this with 18 volunteers. Again, you don't have a choice; the statute says 19 you have to do it with volunteers. And if it's not a 01:25:48 20 volunteer, Collins would certainly say that the money doesn't 21 count towards the qualifying contribution. 22 And, again, I think we're -- we've really -- and in 23 his letter he even cites that, well, the Green Party doesn't 24 want these people. 25 You know, I think -- I think Mr. Collins has -- has Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
54 1 form has -- has long been confusing. I've felt the exact 2 same thing. When does one sign the certification thing? I 3 think -- so Ms. -- Ms. Lombardo signed, thought she -- that 4 was her job to do whether she got the \$5 from the person or 5 not. She -- she just made a simple mistake. Or that's 6 probably even overstating that. The form is very confusing 7 and lends itself to somebody doing that. Regardless, it's 8 another complete nothing burger. 9 Now, in terms of the -- it's -- okay. You know, 01:23:34 10 one of the other things that Mr. Collins, he said, well, you 11 know, the theory. The theory. I mean, I'm sorry, but we 12 have candidates out there trying to run for office, and he 13 has a theory. And he's telling them you are going to have to 14 pay back all of your money. 15 Well, in Ms. Lombardo's case, she's spent I think 16 over a million dollars. Neely has spent all of his money, 17 right. He's not a candidate anymore, he lost. He came in 18 third place. 19 So, you know, and on this -- this hunch, this 01:24:09 20 theory, he's completely disrupting candidates, leaving a 21 massive question mark. I mean, what -- what is a candidate 22 to do in this circumstance? Then just based on -- on 23 Mr. Collins' theory, which is -- is not supported by anything 24 other than these -- these black helicopter theories and a 25 handful of people that say they didn't sign. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	56 1 gone out of his way to -- to try to -- to target specific 2 candidacies, again, based on -- on just his dislike for that 3 particular candidate or his personal belief that that 4 particular candidate isn't a real candidate. 5 That theory is irrelevant, and it doesn't make a 6 lot of sense either. Because Mr. Neely spent -- spent his 7 money attacking Andy Biggs. So if -- if this were a -- why 8 would -- why would anyone do that, right? If the theory is 9 we're going to have Green Party candidates and they'll get 01:26:44 10 some of the -- some of the votes that whatever goes to the 11 Democrats, why we would -- why would we throw someone in 12 there who spends millions of dollars attacking the eventual 13 Republican nominee? 14 None of it makes sense. I really wish Mr. Collins 15 would have -- would have called me before he did this. He 16 said he's being careful, he's not. There is nothing careful 17 about this letter. It is a -- it is a complete smear, and it 18 leaves these candidates in limbo. It's not right. It's not 19 fair. It's not based on any evidence. And it's -- it 01:27:18 20 just -- and I know people have done this in the past, made -- 21 made bulk deposits without being hassled by Mr. Collins. 22 That's just the way it goes. 23 The reports, I know people list in their reports 24 block expenses without being hassled by Mr. Collins. If an 25 additional detail needs to be provided, that's simply a Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

57 1 reporting issue, you know, where the campaign finance report 2 need -- you know, could be amended to provide that additional 3 detail. That's not a fine; that's just an amended report. 4 That's another nothing burger. 5 And, oh, by the way, I brought Mr. Collins evidence 6 of significant omissions in -- in the -- in the campaign 7 finance reports of -- of certain candidates, and he told me 8 he's not -- he's not doing anything about it. 9 So, you know, it -- it's -- this is -- this is 01:28:21 10 something out of <i>The Twilight Zone</i>. He's got this theory and 11 how did this happen and how did that happen, and a lot of 12 words I, frankly, didn't understand. Like the -- was it the 13 block in the chain of presumptions and the inferences. 14 Look, that's -- that's -- there's nothing but smoke 15 and mirrors in Mr. Collins's letter. There are nothing -- 16 there's nothing to rely on. 17 And I -- I think you should take action. I think 18 you should reject this recommendation so you don't leave 19 these candidates in a state of limbo. As it is, we're not 01:28:55 20 giving the money back. Period. End of story. It was 21 earned. It was properly certified by Adrian Fontes who did 22 the job he was supposed to do, despite Mr. Collins claiming 23 now three months later that he didn't. Obviously a claim 24 that's been made in error. 25 And these candidates do not deserve this. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	59 1 Commissioner Crump. 2 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 3 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton. 4 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 5 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla. 6 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 7 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And Chair votes aye. 8 So by 4-to-0, we're going to move into executive session. 9 For those attending, again, it's the Commissioners, 01:31:04 10 Bill Richards and Samantha Fox are our independent legal 11 advisors, and then Angela for our minutes. 12 (Whereupon the proceeding is in executive session 13 from 11:32 a.m. until 11:58 a.m.) 14 15 * * * * * 16 17 MS. HERRING: We are back from executive 18 session. 19 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Perfect. Thank you. 01:57:37 20 Just making sure all the Commissioners made it here. Okay. 21 So we're back in open session. Any further 22 discussion by the Commissioners? 23 (No audible response.) 24 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: If not, is there a 25 motion regarding the repayment recommendations? Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
58 1 Mr. Neely doesn't deserve it either. I don't represent him, 2 but I can certainly under why -- why he's not in a hurry to 3 give more names to -- to Mr. Collins. Because every name he 4 gets sort of a -- is another subpoena, another interview. 5 And I think this has gone way too far. 6 It's the job of this Commission to put a stop to 7 it. Now we're talking about donors are gon- -- are being 8 investigated. We're talking about volunteers. And -- and 9 the sin of the donors is that they didn't donate before. 01:29:50 10 So I think it's time for this to end. The letter 11 is nothing but smoke and mirrors and -- and sort of -- well, 12 unsupported conspiracy theories. So with that, I'll stop 13 talking. 14 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you, Mr. LaSota. 15 I think you're still sharing your screen. Oh, there we go. 16 Thank you. 17 Does any Commissioner want to make a motion for 18 executive session? 19 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll make a motion that 01:30:25 20 we move to executive session for legal advice on this matter. 21 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Is there a second? 22 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second. Paton. 23 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Commissioner Crump has 24 made the motion for executive session for legal advice. 25 Commissioner Paton has seconded. I'll call the roll. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	60 1 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Yeah. Madam Chair, I 2 would like to make a motion. 3 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Yes, Commissioner 4 Crump. 5 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: All right. So I would 6 move that the Commissioners vote to provide the following 7 direction to the Executive Director regarding the information 8 contained in his letter dated August 25, 2026, to Candidate 9 Risa Lombardo the information provided to the Commissioners 10 in Executive Director Collins' August 25th, 2026, letter 11 provides sufficient cause to initiate proceedings that 12 include completion of an investigation and submission to the 13 Commissioners of a final report and recommendation regarding 14 whether to issue. And, if so, the appropriate terms for a 15 repayment order to Candidate Risa Lombardo in connection with 16 matters addressed by the Executive Director's letter. 17 Therefore, the -- under this motion, the Commission 18 directs the Executive Director to complete the investigation 19 discussed in his August 25th, '26, letter to Candidate 20 Lombardo, and provide the Commissioners by hopefully by 21 September regular meeting, but no later than our October 22 regular meeting of 2026, a final report and recommendation 23 regarding whether to issue. And, if so, the appropriate 24 terms for a repayment order to Candidate Risa Lombardo so 25 that the Commission may consider and/or act upon any such Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

61 1 recommendation at an appropriately noticed meeting of the 2 Commission. 3 And the Executive Director is authorized to utilize 4 all powers and authority of the Commission in completing his 5 investigation regarding Candidate Lombardo, including 6 issuance and enforcement of subpoenas to witnesses to compel 7 attendance and testimony, and issuance and enforcement of 8 subpoenas for production of books, papers, records, or other 9 material records all as authorized by A.R.S. Section 01:59:55 10 16-956(B). 11 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Is there a second? 12 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second that motion. 13 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. Commissioner 14 Crump has made a motion to provide direction to the Executive 15 Director regarding Risa Lombardo as Commissioner Crump has 16 explained. Commissioner Titla has seconded the motion. I'll 17 call the roll. 18 Commissioner Crump. 19 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 02:00:16 20 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton. 21 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 22 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla. 23 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 24 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Chair votes aye. 25 A vote of 4-to-0 on that motion, it passes. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	63 1 Commission may consider -- excuse me. Back to where I was -- 2 so that the Commission may consider and/or act upon any such 3 recommendation at an appropriately noticed meeting of the 4 Commission. 5 The Executive Director is authorized to utilize all 6 powers and authority of the Commission in completing his 7 investigation regarding Candidate Collier, including issuance 8 and enforcement of subpoenas to witnesses to compel 9 attendance and testimony, and issuance and enforcement of 10 subpoenas for production of books, papers, records, and/or 11 other material records all as authorized by A.R.S. 16-956(B). 12 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Commissioners, is there 13 a second? 14 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second. 15 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. Commissioner 16 Crump has made a motion to provide direction to the Executive 17 Director regarding Duwayne Collier, and Commissioner Titla 18 has seconded that motion. I'll call the roll. 19 Commissioner Crump. 02:02:45 20 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 21 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton. 22 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 23 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla. 24 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 25 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Chair votes aye. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
62 1 Is any Commissioner have another motion? 2 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Yes, Madam Chair. With 3 your indulgence, I have a second motion. 4 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Yes, Commissioner 5 Crump. Please proceed. 6 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I move that the 7 Commission vote to provide the following direction to the 8 Executive Director regarding information contained in his 9 letter dated August 25, 2026, to Candidate Duwayne Collier. 10 The information provided to the Commissioners in Executive 11 Director Collins' August 25th, 2026, letter provides 12 sufficient cause to initiate proceedings that include 13 completion of an investigation and submission to the 14 Commissioners of a final report and recommendation regarding 15 whether to issue. And, if so, the appropriate terms for a 16 repayment order to Candidate Duwayne Collier in connection 17 with matters addressed by the Executive Director's letter. 18 Therefore, the Commission directs the Executive 19 Director to complete the investigation discussed in his 20 August 25th, '26, letter to Candidate Collier, and provide 21 the Commissioners hopefully by the September regular meeting 22 of this year, but no later than our October regular meeting 23 of this year, a final report and recommendation regarding 24 whether to issue. And, if so, the appropriate terms for a 25 repayment order to Candidate Duwayne Collier so that the Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	64 1 With a vote of 4-to-0, the motion passed. 2 And do we have any other motions? 3 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Yes, Madam Chair. I got 4 one third motion. 5 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Yes, continue. 6 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I move that the 7 Commission vote to provide the following direction to the 8 Executive Director regarding information contained in his 9 letter dated August 25, 2026, to Candidate Scott Neely. The 10 information provided to the Commissioners in Executive 11 Director Collins' August 25th, 2026, letter provides 12 sufficient cause to initiate proceedings that include 13 completion of an investigation and submission to the 14 Commissioners of a final report and recommendation regarding 15 whether to issue. And, if so, the appropriate terms for a 16 repayment order to Candidate Scott Neely in connection with 17 matters addressed by the Executive Director's letter. 18 Therefore, the Commission directs the Executive 19 Director to complete the investigation discussed in his 20 August 25th, 2026, letter to Candidate Lombardo -- I'm sorry, 21 Candidate Neely and provide the Commissioners hopefully by 22 the September regular meeting of this year, but no later than 23 the October regular meeting of this year, a final report and 24 recommendation regarding whether to issue. And, if so, the 25 appropriate terms for a repayment order to Candidate Scott Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

65 1 Neely so that the Commission may consider or act upon any 2 such recommendation at an appropriately noticed meeting of 3 the Commission. 4 The Executive Director is authorized to utilize all 5 powers and authority of the Commission in completing his 6 investigation regarding Candidate Neely, including issuance 7 and enforcement of subpoenas to witnesses to compel 8 attendance and testimony, and issuance and enforcement of 9 subpoenas for production of books, papers, records, and/or 02:04:44 10 other material records all as authorized by A.R.S. 16-956(B). 11 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Thank you, Commissioner 12 Crump. 13 Is there a second? 14 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second. 15 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. Commissioner 16 Crump has made a motion to provide direction to the Executive 17 Director regarding Scott Neely. Commissioner Titla has 18 seconded. I'll call the roll. 19 Commissioner Crump. 20 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 21 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton. 22 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 23 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla. 24 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 25 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: And Chair votes aye. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	67 1 unless you have questions about it. 2 You know, the sta- -- the rule here is not very 3 complicated. It says if you -- if you -- having missed, if 4 you're excuse, you're later excuse, doesn't fit within the 5 categories there then you have -- you're fined \$500. 6 My read on the response is I don't really think it 7 gets at those -- those excuses. But, you know, so I think 8 the \$500 fine is appropriate. 9 But I'll take any questions. 02:07:25 10 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Commissioners, do you 11 have any questions? 12 (No audible response.) 13 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Tom, I just want to 14 confirm. So there, I guess, it looks like in her statement, 15 it seems that she said she was first notified on May 16th. 16 But it does not look like she reached out to any staff before 17 the May 19th debate; is that -- 18 MR. COLLINS: No, we don't -- we don't have 19 any -- anything -- any record until the records we provided 02:08:03 20 respecting staff member's efforts to contact her on the day 21 of. 22 So our log, contact log that I think is in the 23 packet -- 24 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Yes. 25 MR. COLLINS: -- that's -- that's the complete Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
66 1 With a vote of 4-to-0, the motion passes. 2 That concludes that item. We're going to be moving 3 now to Item Number VI, which is a discussion and possible 4 action on an administrative fine involving Gwendalyn "Gwen" 5 Johnston, a participating candidate for legislature for 6 failure to appear at a Commission sponsored debate. 7 Commissioners, you have the relevant materials in 8 your packets. And then I'll have the Executive Director make 9 a statement. If Ms. Johnson or her representative is here, 02:05:44 10 they may speak. 11 So Tom, if you want to please proceed. 12 Oh. And if we can just make sure everyone is 13 muted. Thank you. 14 MR. COLLINS: Madam Chair, thank you. 15 So this is a little bit different thing. We have a 16 rule, Rule 107, that says that, you know, if you are a 17 participating candidate, you're obligated to attend a 18 Commission debate unless you've sought a prior excuse. 19 In this case, Johnston did not attend and -- you 02:06:26 20 know. And as I noted in my letter to her, she hadn't taken 21 the training before this, the training goes into this. But, 22 you know, on the other hand she is working with a very 23 experienced former Clean Elections candidate. 24 You know, you -- you have her response. I don't 25 know that I -- I feel like I ought to categorize it all, Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	68 1 communication. 2 Part of this has to do with the expectation that 3 the candidate, you know, is to know what the candidate's 4 obligations are, you know. So, you know, we do try -- we do 5 outreach, but we do rely on candidate having awareness of 6 their obligations. 7 I mean -- 8 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. 9 MR. COLLINS: So, I mean, I'm not -- I'm 02:08:41 10 not -- so I don't know that that -- it was not a failure of 11 notice if that makes. 12 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Sure. 13 MR. COLLINS: If the notice is not the notice 14 that the candidates would have preferred, I don't know that's 15 the standard the rule articulates. 16 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Did any Commissioners 17 have any questions for Tom? 18 (No audible response.) 19 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Is Ms. Johnston or any 02:09:05 20 representative for Ms. Johnston online wishing to speak? 21 (No audible response.) 22 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: I don't know that I see 23 anybody. 24 Okay. Is there any motion from Commissioner 25 regarding the administrative fine? Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

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1 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Madam Chair, I would make
2 a motion that we impose administrative fine of \$500 on
3 Participating Candidate Gwen Johnston for failure to appear
4 at the debate.
5 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Is there a second?
6 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second. Paton.
7 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Commissioner Crump has
8 made the motion to -- for the administrative fine of \$500 to
9 Gwendalyn "Gwen" Johnston for failing to appear for a debate.
02:10:00 10 Commissioner Paton has seconded. I'll call the roll.
11 Commissioner Crump.
12 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.
13 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton.
14 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
15 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla.
16 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.
17 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Chair votes aye.
18 So vote of 4-to-0. The motion passes.
19 This is the time now Item Number VII, for
02:10:17 20 consideration of comments and suggestions from the public.
21 Please limit your comments to no more than three minutes.
22 So if you're a member of the public and wish to
23 make a comment, please use that raise hand feature in the
24 icon in the Zoom, and I'll call on individuals one at a time.
25 When your name is called, please unmute yourself and state
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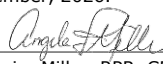
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1 your name for the record before beginning your comments.
2 Does anyone on Zoom wish to make a comment?
3 (No audible response.)
4 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. I don't see any.
5 So action taken as a result of public comment, of
6 course, was always limited to directing staff, studying the
7 matter, rescheduling for further consideration.
8 Since we have none, public may also submit comments
9 by e-mail at ccec@azcanelections.gov.
02:11:08 10 Item Number VIII, at this time I'm open to a motion
11 to adjourn.
12 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Madam Chair, I move that
13 we adjourn.
14 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Is there a second?
15 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second. Paton.
16 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I'll second.
17 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Okay. I heard
18 Mr. Paton.
19 So, Commissioner Crump has made the motion to
02:11:26 20 adjourn with Commission Paton seconding. I'll call the roll.
21 Commissioner Crump.
22 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.
23 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Paton.
24 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
25 ACTING CHAIR WERNER: Commissioner Titla.
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1 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.
2 ACTING CHAIR WERTHER: Chair votes aye.
3 With a vote of 4-to-0, the motion passes and the
4 meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everyone.
5 (Whereupon the meeting concludes at 12:13 p.m.)
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1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2
3 STATE OF ARIZONA)
4) ss.
5 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)
6
7 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were
8 taken before me, Angela Furniss Miller, Certified Reporter
9 No. 50127, all done to the best of my skill and ability;
10 that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and
11 thereafter reduced to print under my direction.
12
13 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the
14 parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome
15 thereof.
16
17 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the
18 requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield
19 Park, Arizona, this 1st of September, 2026.
20
21 
22 Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR
23 CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)
24
25 * * *
I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has
26 complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and
27 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 1st of
28 September, 2026.
29
30 
31 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
32 Arizona RRF No. R1058
33
34
35
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THE STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona
September 2, 2026
2:00 p.m.

By: Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50666

**CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT**

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1 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS 2 CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 2:00 p.m. on 3 September 2, 2026, at the State of Arizona, Clean 4 Elections Commission, 1110 West Washington, Conference 5 Room, Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the 6 following Board Members: 7 8 Mr. Mark Kimble, Chairman 9 Mr. Galen Paton 10 Ms. Christina Werther 11 Mr. Sam Crump 12 Mr. Steve Titla 13 14 OTHERS PRESENT: 15 16 Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director 17 Paula Thomas, Executive Officer 18 Mike Becker, Policy Director 19 Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director 20 Avery Xola, Voter Education Manager 21 Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager 22 Craig Morgan, Taft Law 23 Cathy Herring, KCA 24 Tim La Sota, Tim La Sota, PLC 25 Carole Wilson, Member of the Public Jeremy Duda, Member of the Public Kimberly Daley, Member of the Public Lisa Everett, Member of the Public Maria Grainger, Member of the Public Maria Ramirez, Member of the Public Mary Maybeno, Member of the Public Megan Rubino, Member of the Public Merissa Caldwell, Member of the Public Patty Porter, Member of the Public	1 Clean Elections funding program. Our rules provide a 2 tight timeline for considering this question. 3 For those of you joining us in the meeting in 4 the livestream, the order of this item will be as 5 follows. First, we will hear from Mr. La Sota on 6 behalf of Dr. Heap. Second, we will hear from the 7 Clean Elections staff. Then, we will hear from 8 Mr. La Sota again if he has anything to add. Next, we 9 will take public comment on this item. 10 Before we start, I just want to recap how we 11 got here. In June Dr. Heap, running as a Clean 12 Elections candidate, allegedly spent money he didn't 13 have on campaign signs. In July Dr. Heap asked to 14 withdraw as a Clean Elections candidate. We denied 15 that request. 16 A few weeks later, Dr. -- Dr. Heap changed 17 his mind and decided he did want to run as a Clean 18 Elections candidate. He finalized his Clean Elections 19 paperwork and asked for funding. On August 14th we 20 approved that request, and he received \$369,590. 21 On August 27th, less than two weeks later, 22 Mr. La Sota said Dr. Heap "wants nothing to do with 23 this program anymore." He asked to withdraw as a Clean 24 Elections candidate and said he would return all funds 25 to Clean Elections unspent. He returned 40 percent of
Page 3	Page 5
1 P R O C E E D I N G 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Good afternoon. I'm 3 Mark Kimble, Chair of the Citizens Clean Elections 4 Commission. It's 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 September 2nd, 2026. I call this meeting of the 6 Citizens Clean Elections Commission to order. 7 With that, we will take attendance. 8 Commissioners, please identify yourselves for the 9 record. 10 COMMISSIONER PATON: Galen Paton. 11 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Steve Titla present. 12 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sam Crump. 13 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Christina Werther. 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioners. 15 We have all five Members here. We have a quorum. 16 Also present are Thomas Collins, the 17 Executive Director of the Arizona Citizens Clean 18 Elections Commission, and Craig Morgan from Taft Law 19 acting solely as the Commission's independent legal 20 advisor for MUR 26-06. 21 Item II, discussion and possible action on 22 request to withdraw from Clean Elections funding 23 program. The purpose of this special meeting is to 24 consider the most recent request we received from 25 Dr. Ralph Heap regarding withdrawing from the Citizens	1 the money he received. He still has more than \$221,000 2 of Clean Elections money, but wants to withdraw as a 3 Clean Elections candidate. I don't know about the rest 4 of you, but I'm getting kind of dizzy. 5 Mr. La Sota, we'll start with you. What is 6 your latest request on behalf of Dr. Heap? 7 MR. LA SOTA: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's not my 8 latest request. I requested this before and you said 9 no. If you're getting dizzy, you should have just 10 granted it the first time. 11 And Dr. Heap did not change his mind. You 12 said no to the first request, while -- and then -- and 13 so you wouldn't let him out of the program. And then 14 what happened was, Dr. Heap didn't change his mind, I 15 came on again and said either let him withdraw or give 16 him the money. You decided to give him the money, 17 despite the protests of your Executive Director who, A, 18 wanted to keep him in the program, and B, not give him 19 any money, and C, remind us that while he's in the 20 program he's not allowed to take any private money or 21 money from -- he can't give himself any money. So that 22 -- that's the real history here. 23 The other thing that's happened in the 24 interim is, we've tried to come up with a settlement. 25 I've tried to engage Mr. Collins. I've really --

Page 6 1 that's really gotten nowhere. Instead, we've been 2 treated to essentially a request for information, 3 vendors are being subpoenaed. It's clear that this 4 thing -- the Commission, or at least the Executive -- 5 Executive Director or both want to keep this thing 6 going through the election. 7 I -- I would never recommend another 8 candidate use Clean Elections. This experience has 9 solid -- well, has -- I think is the final reason, 10 but -- 11 One of the things I did want to remind the 12 Commission is that under 16-947(A) it says a candidate 13 who wishes to be a participating candidate shall file 14 the documents. So I think the obvious corollary is, if 15 they don't wish to be a candidate and they've not spent 16 any of your money and they asked to withdraw 17 previously, they don't have to be a candidate. 18 Arizona Supreme Court, Arizona Free 19 Enterprise Club Freedom Club PAC v. Bennett, Arizona 20 Citizens Clean Elections Act created a voluntary public 21 financing system, voluntary. When you -- when someone 22 hasn't taken any money, and you still say they -- they 23 have to participate, that's not voluntary. It has to 24 be voluntary. There's no way it would pass 25 constitutional muster if it weren't, so --	Page 8 1 like to have the Commission in our rearview mirror, 2 frankly, at every level, and that just has not been -- 3 hasn't -- hasn't gone anywhere. 4 Early ballots drop in about a month. You've 5 already had this for -- for close to two and, you know, 6 we're going nowhere quickly on it. You're certainly 7 not moving at the speed one would expect of something 8 that should be resolved in a single campaign cycle. 9 Obviously, you know, we've rebutted the -- 10 the allegations, no wrong -- you know, Dr. Heap has 11 committed no wrongdoing. The voters deserve a 12 candidate who can actually communicate with them 13 without the Clean Elections baggage that -- that's one 14 thing he didn't sign up for. The people who are 15 relying on Dr. Heap for relief from these excessive 16 rates and rate hikes, they deserve a choice. 17 Now, you know, the other -- the last thing 18 is, now the Commission is going around, or the 19 Executive Director is, and telling candidates who have 20 had all their \$5 contributions certified by -- by the 21 County Recorders that, oh, you know, I'm going to 22 recommend you have to pay the money back and you should 23 stop spending. And the Commission's response is, oh, 24 well, yeah, we need to do an investigation. And make 25 sure you have it done by October 29th, five days before
Page 7 1 And I -- I also went through sort of some of 2 the old ballot arguments. I remember when Clean 3 Elections passed, and that was a big reason. This is 4 voluntary. Nobody has to do it. So I think the 5 Commission has already strayed from -- from what the 6 law is, from what the spirit and intent of the Clean 7 Elections Act is by the original denial of withdrawal, 8 so -- 9 But in terms of -- the other reason is, you 10 know, I mentioned earlier, this complaint's been 11 pending. I think that a person's just better off not 12 participating when they've been targeted this way. 13 Dr. Heap was able to advance without Clean Elections 14 money the first time. And I know you'd say, well, he 15 had those -- those signs. He would have advanced 16 regardless. Didn't need your money then, doesn't 17 really need it now, and can -- if you'll let him 18 withdraw -- or, not let him withdraw. If you just get 19 out of the way, then he can just run his campaign. 20 As it is, I think we're seeing a clear 21 example of -- of the Commission really trying to put 22 its thumb on the scale in an election here. And I 23 think that, unfortunately, is the fact -- are the 24 facts. And settlement, as I said, has gone nowhere. 25 We'd like to have this in our rearview mirror. We'd	Page 9 1 the general election, at a time when a lot of people, 2 maybe more than half, have already cast their -- their 3 mail-in ballot. It's just -- it's not really an 4 acceptable situation to be in. It's untenable. 5 And, oh, by the way, in the case of 6 Mr. Neely, he spent all of his money. So I -- and he 7 still gets this repayment or this thing that I'm going 8 to -- I'm going to ask that you repay the money. 9 So, you know, I know you're tired of seeing 10 me and tired of hearing what I say, but I think that, 11 you know, that the way to -- I think it's just time for 12 -- frankly, for both of us to go our separate ways. I 13 know you'll still have your -- your enforcement action 14 and you're going to stick to this notion that 15 everything in a campaign has to be -- has to be a check 16 written or cash given at the very moment a service is 17 delivered. That's not the way the world works for 18 anyone who's been involved in a campaign, but I know 19 you're going to stick to that, and we'll just have to 20 litigate that. 21 But we'd like to get out. I'd ask you, 22 please do not stand in the way again of Dr. Heap 23 withdrawing. Thank you. 24 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Mr. La Sota. 25 Next, we'll hear from Tom Collins, Executive

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1 Director of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. 2 Tom. 3 MR. COLLINS: Hi, Mr. Chair, Commissioners. 4 I don't really want to belabor anything here. I -- I 5 do want to -- you have in your packet a chronology of 6 the exchanges with Mr. La Sota since the August 14th 7 meeting. With respect to the requests for information 8 from Dr. Heap, which are pretty routine, we have 9 granted extensions. With respect to the vendor who 10 Dr. Heap produced the affidavit -- or, declaration, 11 rather, from, we have extended that person's time to 12 respond so they can seek counsel and have, in fact, 13 urged them to seek counsel. 14 With respect to settlement, that -- that's 15 also in the materials. There was a -- I asked for 16 something in writing from Mr. La Sota. I received 17 something in writing from Mr. La Sota today, in fact, I 18 guess around noon-ish probably. 19 Was that -- is that wrong, Tim? I'm sorry. 20 Was I off by an hour or 45 minutes or something? I 21 don't know. But I got -- I got a -- I got a thing from 22 Mr. La Sota today. So, yeah, that exists. That's a 23 thing that happened today. 24 And so with respect to whether or not 25 Dr. Heap is -- can withdraw from the program at this	1 keep your mic or phone on mute until we ask for your 2 comment. 3 If you're a member of the public and wish to 4 make a comment, please use the raise hand feature in 5 Zoom and I will call on individuals one at a time. 6 When your name is called, please unmute yourself and 7 state your full name for the record before beginning 8 your comments. To raise your hand in Zoom, click the 9 react icon in the bottom toolbar and select raise hand. 10 Please note that Commissioners may have questions for 11 you. 12 At any point Members of the Commission may 13 vote to go into executive session to seek legal advice 14 from our independent legal advisor, Craig Morgan. 15 Any members of the public who wish to make 16 comments? I see one raised hand, Lisa Everett. 17 Ms. Everett, proceed. 18 MS. EVERETT: Yes, sir. My name is Lisa 19 Everett. You know, Dr. Ralph Heap turned in his \$5 20 donations, he filled out all the paperwork, he was 21 given the instructions, and when he got caught 22 violating them, now he wants to back out. And to me, 23 that is disrespectful to the whole process. It's wrong 24 for him to be able to just walk away after violating 25 the rules. It's simply not acceptable.
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1 point or not, you know, my general sense is that the 2 Act doesn't really work if you can make a bet about 3 certain things and then, you know, see what happens and 4 then pull out, but ultimately that's -- beyond that, I 5 don't have much to add other than I think that the 6 voluntary nature of it is the contract that you sign at 7 the outset. 8 And then finally, I guess I would just say 9 that in the event that the Commission does accede to 10 Dr. Heap's request, I think it would be helpful, in 11 view of what Mr. La Sota just said about investigatory 12 matters, to have clarity about whether or not the 13 Commission views MUR 26-06 and any other complaints 14 that are pending -- there's one other that's -- that we 15 know of regarding Dr. Heap's actions in the past -- it 16 would be helpful for both my -- both for staff and for, 17 I suspect, for Mr. La Sota to know the Commission's 18 view on that were you to, you know, grant this request. 19 So that's really all I have. If you have 20 questions for me, I'm happy to take them. Thank you. 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Tom. 22 Next, we'll hear from members of the public 23 who wish to speak on this issue. We will ask the 24 speakers identify themselves for the record and limit 25 their comments to no more than three minutes. Please	1 We should hold people accountable. What's to 2 stop anyone from collecting these funds and trying to 3 get away with something, and maybe they do. That's 4 bad. We want people to know that if you sign up, you 5 have to be committed and you have to follow the rules. 6 When my kids were young, they signed up for 7 different sports, and sometimes in the middle of it 8 they said, mom, I don't want to finish. And my 9 response was, I'm sorry. You gave your word. You need 10 to complete it. So the same holds true here. Maybe 11 his mom didn't tell him that, but you need to honor 12 your word. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Ms. Everett. 14 Next, we have Merissa Caldwell. 15 Ms. Caldwell. 16 MS. CALDWELL: Yes. Can you hear me? 17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes, we can hear you. 18 Proceed. 19 MS. CALDWELL: Thank you. Thank you so much. 20 You know, I've looked at the rules that the Clean 21 Elections Commission has and I've also looked at the 22 statutes, and what I find concerning about the whole 23 process is that there is only a one-way door against a 24 candidate. And so I have concerns with the rule as it 25 exists that -- that is being used to prevent Dr. Ralph

Page 14 1 Heap from being -- from leaving the program. He hasn't 2 used the money, and so I don't think that this is -- I 3 don't think that the -- the way the system is set up 4 today is something that is fair. 5 Also, the other candidates that are in the 6 same race that have similar accusations being made 7 against them basically said that the rules shouldn't 8 apply. And so my biggest concern here is that we've 9 had multiple hearings now for Dr. Ralph Heap; we've had 10 no hearings on the other complaints in the same race. 11 And I think that especially Arizona voters have been 12 very concerned about -- about equal application of the 13 law, about seeing that there's no corruption, that no 14 one puts their thumb on the scale of any races. 15 And so I just have concerns, because the 16 voters have made it clear that they -- the Republican 17 voters made it clear that they wanted Ralph Heap -- 18 Dr. Ralph Heap to represent them and move forward into 19 the general. So I have concerns that basically you're 20 kind of keeping him with both hands tied behind his 21 back, and so I -- I don't think that's fair and I think 22 that the Commission should take a look at what their 23 rules are. 24 If someone doesn't spend the money, if 25 they're returning the money, if they're not going to	Page 16 1 Thousands of voters, along with myself, want 2 our votes to count and want Dr. Heap released from the 3 entanglements that this complaint has presented. 4 Please release him and let the voters' choice stand. 5 Thank you for listening. 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you very much for 7 your comments. 8 I don't have any other hands raised. Are 9 there any other people who wish to comment who have 10 not? Turn on your camera and wave or do something to 11 get my attention. 12 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes. 14 MR. COLLINS: I just want to make sure that 15 Mr. La Sota gets his rebuttal time. 16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes, I will. 17 Maria Grainger, are you trying to raise your 18 hand? A hand went floating across my screen with your 19 name on it. 20 (No response.) 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I guess not. Okay. No one 22 else wishing to speak. 23 Okay. Mr. La Sota. 24 MR. LA SOTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And 25 thanks for that reminder, Mr. Collins.
Page 15 1 use it at all, then really it's a violation of free 2 speech to keep them locked into that program. 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Ms. Caldwell. 4 Next, Mary Maybeno. I apologize if I 5 mispronounced your name. 6 MS. MAYBENO: That's all right. It's Mary 7 Maybeno. Good afternoon, Commissioners. 8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Good afternoon. 9 MS. MAYBENO: This is, of course, my opinion. 10 And I like to try to look at things overall view, and 11 this is my overall view of this whole mess. It seems 12 to me your Clean Elections Commission became pawns in 13 the witch hunt against Dr. Ralph Heap, pawns in the 14 sense of individuals who would like to see Dr. Heap 15 removed from the general election race and using this 16 Commission to accomplish that goal. 17 Okay, he inadvertently made a Clean Election 18 mistake against one of the many requirements for Clean 19 Election money. But he has actually never spent any of 20 that Clean Election money and has even returned the, 21 from what you say, the 40 percent of that of the check 22 that was eventually released to him. And now he's 23 asking to be released from the Clean Election program 24 completely. Please release him. No Clean Election 25 money was spent. No harm, no foul.	Page 17 1 I did want to clarify that we did return the 2 primary money and we were -- we will return the general 3 election money. It hasn't -- it has gone untouched. 4 The exact same amount that was deposited in our account 5 is still in the account, less the -- the deduction of 6 the primary money, which has already been received by 7 Clean Elections. 8 And I know we -- so on August -- I was 9 shaking my head when -- when Mr. Collins said that. 10 The timing of the most recent e-mail is -- is accurate, 11 I believe. 12 But on August 24th I sent an e-mail, I 13 invoked Rule 208, and I said -- you know, that's the 14 provisions on -- on the early public administrative 15 settlement. It uses kind of a little bit different 16 wording. And I got a -- just a one-liner that I should 17 talk to Mary, who Mr. Collins works with. I don't know 18 who that is. It was not a -- it was not any kind of a, 19 in my opinion, an invitation to -- to really engage. 20 And nonetheless, I have followed up with -- with a 21 proposal. 22 Last thing I'll say is, again, I think 23 Ms. Everett is confused, because every time she gets on 24 the phone or on this call or this virtual she says, 25 well, you shouldn't receive money and then try to back

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1 out of the program. No. I mean, we haven't -- we 2 haven't spent any money. There is money in the bank 3 account, but we -- we asked for withdrawal before any 4 money was sent us, so -- and certainly no money has 5 been -- been spent. So that's all I have to say. I 6 appreciate your attention to this. Thank you. 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Mr. La Sota. 8 Any Members of the Commission have any 9 questions or comments from either -- for either 10 Mr. La Sota or Mr. Collins? 11 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Mr. Chairman, I have a 12 question for Mr. Collins. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes, Commissioner Crump. 14 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: So, Mr. Collins, we are 15 once again being posed with this withdrawal request 16 that we've addressed before, and I just would like your 17 clarification and confirmation that -- it seemed to me 18 that it was rather black and white, that the rules 19 and/or the statute said that any withdrawal request 20 must be made before certification by the Secretary of 21 State's Office. Was that correct? 22 MR. COLLINS: You know, I think that -- I 23 think that what the Commission is authorized to do 24 either statutorily or in its own discretion outside of 25 the rules is one question. I also think a different	1 me personally as a Commissioner, that we've acted in 2 any way underhanded, and that I'm seeking to act 3 impartially and fairly as I've been sworn to do. Thank 4 you. 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 6 Commissioner Crump. 7 MR. LA SOTA: Mr. Chairman, may I be heard on 8 the -- may I be heard on the question that was asked 9 Mr. Collins? 10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. 11 MR. LA SOTA: Thank you. Yeah, you know, and 12 I would agree with the first part, that there's what 13 the rule says, but there's -- there's other situations 14 that maybe the rule doesn't speak to and it doesn't 15 mean that -- that the Commission doesn't -- you know, 16 it doesn't foreclose the Commission from -- from acting 17 in a certain way. 18 But, you know, Mr. Collins said, once the 19 money is distributed then it's too late. Well, then 20 what's the -- what's the reason for -- for the first 21 time we asked to be out of the program? We hadn't 22 gotten any money then, and you still -- you said no. 23 And as for Mr. Crump -- well, I wanted to 24 remind everyone that when you -- we didn't have any of 25 your money the first time you said no. So, I mean, I
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1 question is where the funds haven't been given at all. 2 But I think this specific question, right, of 3 where the funds have issued, spent or unspent, I think 4 is the -- is the situation that the rule precisely 5 addresses, and I -- and I think the rule does say that 6 at that point it's too late. I mean, I think that -- I 7 mean, you know, I think that -- that's what I think. 8 I mean, you know, I also think, as I alluded 9 to earlier, that -- the fact that participation is 10 voluntary, there's -- there's like no logical link 11 between signing up for something for the election cycle 12 and being able to exit at any time. That's just -- 13 that's -- that's not an inference that I think is -- 14 you know, the statute -- that you draw -- that you can 15 draw from the statute. And in any event, the rule 16 seems, on this specific fact scenario, to pretty, 17 pretty soundly reject that inference as a matter of 18 preexisting, you know, policy. So that's my -- those 19 are my thoughts. 20 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Okay. Thank you, 21 Mr. Collins. 22 And Mr. Chairman, I -- I would just like to 23 say also that it seems to me that whatever problems 24 Mr. Heap is experiencing he's brought on himself, and I 25 take offense to Mr. La Sota's comments that, at least	1 don't think that holds up. 2 One other thing I should clarify, we're not 3 asking for any action on MUR 26-06, you know, that that 4 -- we're not asking that that be dismissed or the other 5 one. We'll obviously deal with that, but I -- I don't 6 know if there's been some confusion that we're asking 7 for -- for just everything, we're asking to exit and 8 for the enforcement actions to disappear. We're not. 9 I understand the enforcement actions will go forward. 10 I don't think they have any merit, but that's not what 11 you're here for today. 12 You know, Mr. Crump says he takes offense. I 13 think what -- everything I said, it goes especially for 14 Mr. Crump, because he voted the last time to deny us 15 the ability to withdraw and then he voted to deny us 16 funding. So I certainly stand by my comments. Thank 17 you. 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Any other Members of the 19 Commission have any questions? 20 (No response.) 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: At this point, the 22 Commission may vote to go into executive session to 23 seek legal advice from our independent legal advisor, 24 Craig Morgan. Neither the public nor Mr. La Sota nor 25 Mr. Collins will be permitted in an executive session.

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1 With that, does any Member of the Commission 2 wish to make a comment or make a motion to go into 3 executive session? 4 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like 5 to make a motion to go into executive session for this 6 item. 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 8 Commissioner Werther. 9 Is there a second? 10 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll second. 11 COMMISSIONER PATON: This is Paton. Yes. 12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I'll take -- I heard 13 Mr. Crump first. 14 It's been moved and seconded that we go into 15 executive session. I'll call the roll. 16 Commissioner Werther. 17 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 19 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 21 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 23 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 24 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla, did you 25 say aye?	1 Commission -- or, the Act. 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 3 Commissioner Werther. 4 Is there a second? 5 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Second. 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 7 Commissioner Crump. 8 It's been moved and seconded to deny 9 Dr. Heap's request to withdraw from the Clean Elections 10 program. I will call the roll. 11 Commissioner Werther. 12 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 14 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 16 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 18 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla, could 20 you -- 21 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. Aye. 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 23 Commissioner Titla. 24 Chair votes aye. The request is denied 25 5-to-zero.
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1 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. Yeah, aye. 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you, 3 Commissioner Titla. 4 Chair votes aye. We will go into executive 5 session. 6 * * * * * 7 (End of executive session. Public meeting 8 resumes at 2:40 p.m.) 9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. We're back in open 10 session. 11 Does any Commissioner have any additional 12 comments or questions from anyone? 13 (No response.) 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Does any Commissioner want 15 to make a motion whether to approve Dr. Heap's request? 16 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like 17 to make a motion. But before I do so, I just want to 18 state that this is -- the time -- this is an untimely 19 request, I guess is what I would state. This is -- the 20 time for a voluntary withdrawal is prior to 21 notification, before the Clean Elections Commission 22 issues that notification to the candidate. 23 So since this is untimely, I motion to deny 24 Dr. Heap's August 28th, 2026 request to withdraw as a 25 participating candidate from the Clean Elections	1 We now move to Item III, public comment. 2 This is the time for comments and suggestions from the 3 public on other matters. If you are a Member of the 4 public and wish to make a comment, please use the raise 5 hand feature in Zoom and I will call on people one at a 6 time. Please limit your remarks to items within the 7 Commission's authority. Action taken as a result of 8 public comment is limited by statute to directing staff 9 to study the matter, responding to criticism, or 10 scheduling it for further consideration. You may also 11 send comments to the Commission at 12 ccec@azcleanelections.gov. 13 Do we have anyone on Zoom wishing to make a 14 comment? 15 Merissa Caldwell, you have your hand raised. 16 MS. CALDWELL: Yes, sir. Thank you. 17 This is criticism of the Clean Election 18 Commission, so you can reply back to my criticism. And 19 my criticism is that we are here once again with the 20 complaint for Dr. Ralph Heap, and yet my complaint that 21 I've filed against Nick Myers and Kevin Thompson has 22 still not been heard by the Commission. So my 23 criticism is that you seem to not be applying equal 24 attention to these matters, and that is concerning to 25 me.

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1 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to 2 respond, because that's in the staff's ballpark, if 3 anybody -- 4 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Mr. Collins. 5 MR. COLLINS: Ms. Caldwell did, in fact, file 6 a complaint. That complaint was sent out for response. 7 The response has been received and we're processing it. 8 I will say that we have been here on 9 Dr. Heap's motions for special -- that require special 10 meetings, and so the number of meetings that you've 11 attended respecting Dr. Heap are a direct result of 12 Dr. Heap's motions. And so that balance you're asking 13 for is based on figuring the math incorrectly. The 14 math has to account for the fact that these aren't my 15 efforts and they aren't the Commission's efforts. 16 So I think that's about as much as I can say. 17 In response directly to your criticism, I think your 18 criticism is invalid for that reason. 19 MS. CALDWELL: May I respond? 20 MS. HERRING: Chairman Kimble, you're muted. 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: You may briefly respond, 22 Ms. Caldwell. 23 MS. CALDWELL: Thank you, sir. 24 I -- I understand that. But basically from 25 the citizen perspective, that just sounds like,	1 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll second. 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 3 Commissioner Crump. 4 It's been moved and seconded that we adjourn. 5 I will call the roll. 6 Commissioner Werther. 7 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 9 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 11 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 13 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We are 15 adjourned. Thank you. 16 (The meeting concluded at 2:46 p.m.) 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
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1 respectfully, Mr. Collins, that what you're saying is 2 that you can sit on citizen complaints for as long as 3 you would like, but -- and only if the -- only if the 4 candidates themselves ask for -- ask for 5 accountability -- which they are indeed not asking for 6 accountability. They think that they shouldn't be held 7 accountable for anything. 8 So I just think that from a public perception 9 I would just encourage the Commission to take a look at 10 what the perception is that's being displayed, because 11 the Clean Election Commission is a -- is a program that 12 I think you find very important, and there's a 13 perception that's being created because of that. Thank 14 you so much. 15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you. 16 Does any member of the public wish to make 17 any other comments? 18 (No response.) 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: If there's no further 20 business, I would entertain a motion to adjourn. 21 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I move 22 to adjourn. 23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 24 Commissioner Werther. 25 Is there a second?	1 STATE OF ARIZONA)) ss. 2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) 3 4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings 5 were taken by me; that I was then and there a Certified 6 Reporter of the State of Arizona; that the proceedings 7 were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter 8 transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that 9 the foregoing pages are a full, true, and accurate 10 transcript of all proceedings had and adduced upon the 11 taking of said proceedings, all to the best of my skill 12 and ability. 13 14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related 15 to nor employed by any of the parties hereto nor am I 16 in any way interested in the outcome hereof. 17 18 DATED at Tempe, Arizona, this 3rd day of 19 September, 2026. 20 21  22 Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR 23 Certified Reporter #50666 24 25

	\$	accountable 13:1 27:7	arguments 7:2	brought 19:24
\$221,000 5:1		accurate 17:10	Arizona 3:17 6:18,19 14:11	business 27:20
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	2	actions 11:15 21:8,9	authorized 18:23	camera 16:10
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24th 17:12		addressed 18:16	B	candidates 8:19 14:5 27:4
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27th 4:21		adjourn 27:20,22 28:4	bad 13:4	cash 9:16
28th 23:24		adjourned 28:15	baggage 8:13	cast 9:2
29th 8:25		administrative 17:14	balance 26:12	caught 12:21
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1 THE STATE OF ARIZONA CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION <u>REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING</u> Phoenix, Arizona September 10, 2026 2:30 p.m. MILLER CERTIFIED REPORTING, LLC RRF Number R1058 12725 West Indian School Road Suite F-100 Avondale, Arizona 85392 623-975-7472 Office@MillerCertifiedReporting.com Prepared By: Angela Furniss Miller, RPR Certified Reporter Certificate No. AZ50127 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	3 P R O C E E D I N G CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Good afternoon. I'm Mark Kimble, Chair of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. It's 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10th, 2026. I call this meeting of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission to order. With that, we will take attendance. Commissioners, please identify yourselves for the record. COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sam Crump. COMMISSIONER TITLA: Steve Titla, present. COMMISSIONER PATON: Galen Paton. COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Christina Werther. CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioners. All five of us are here. We obviously have a quorum. Also present are Tom Collins, the Executive Director of the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission; and Craig Morgan from Taft Law acting solely as the Commission's independent legal advisor for MUR 26-06. Item II. Review, consideration, discussion, analysis and possible action on the participating candidate Dr. Ralph Heap's proposed public administrative settlement of MUR 26-06. The purpose of this special meeting is to consider the proposal we -- we received from Dr. Ralph Heap, a public Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
2 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION, convened at 2:30 p.m. on September 10, 2026, at the State of Arizona, Citizens Clean Elections Commission, in the presence of the following Board Members: Mr. Mark S. Kimble, Chairman Mr. Galen Paton Ms. Christina Werther Mr. Steve Titla Mr. Sam Crump OTHERS PRESENT: Thomas Collins, Executive Director Paula Thomas, Executive Officer Mike Becker, Policy Director Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director Avery Xola, Voter Education Manager Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager Craig Morgan, Taft Law Angela Miller, Miller Certified Reporting Cathy Herring, KCA + tech MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Erica Leavitt, Holtzman Vogel Nick Myers Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	4 administrative settlement of MUR 26-06. For those of you joining us in the meeting and the live stream, the order of this item will be as follows: First, we will hear from Mr. LaSota or another attorney in his stead on behalf of Dr. Heap. Second, we will hear from the Clean Elections' staff. Then we will hear from Mr. LaSota or his co-counsel again today if he has anything to add. Next we will take public comment on this item. We will ask the speakers identify themselves for the record and limit their comments to no more than three minutes. If you're a member of the public and wish to make a comment, please use the "raise hand" feature in Zoom and I will call on individuals one at a time. When your name is called, please unmute -- unmute yourself and state your full name for the record before beginning your comments. To raise your hand in Zoom, click the "react" icon in the bottom tool bar and select "raise hand." Please keep your mic or phone on mute until we ask for your comment. At any point the members of the Commission may vote to go into executive session to seek legal advice from our independent legal advisor, Craig Morgan. Neither the public, nor Mr. LaSota, nor the Executive Director will be permitted in an executive session. With that, does any member of the Commission wish to make a comment or make a motion to go into executive Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

5 1 session? 2 (No audible response.) 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Anyone? 4 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Sorry, Chairman. Just 5 for clarification, did you say we were going to hear from 6 members first or... 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Well, that's a good point. 8 I screwed that up. Yes. 9 Thank -- thank you, Commissioner Werther. 10 Who -- who is here representing Dr. Heap? 11 Ms. Leavitt, is that you? 12 MS. LEAVITT: Yes, that's me. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. 14 MS. LEAVITT: I'm here on behalf of Tim LaSota 15 -- or, on behalf of Dr. Heap -- 16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. 17 MS. LEAVITT: -- instead of Tim LaSota. 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you. Do you 19 have any comments you wish to make at this time? 20 MS. LEAVITT: Yeah, if -- if you're ready to 21 hear from me, I'm ready to speak. 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We are ready. 23 MS. LEAVITT: Okay. Perfect. Thank you guys 24 for taking the time to hear what I have to say today. 25 Dr. Heap has proposed a public administrative Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	7 1 administrative settlement with the Commission. 2 And a settlement of course, as you know, requires 3 two parties. If the Commission refuses to engage or even 4 make a counterproposal, the settlement option can never be 5 used. And Arizona courts do not read statutes in a way that 6 makes any provision meaningless. 7 Unfortunately, that's what's happening here. In 8 his September 4th, 2026, letter, Director Collins rejected -- 9 or recommended rejecting Dr. Heap's settlement proposal and 10 said that there would be no counterproposal and that his 11 focus was on completing the investigation. 12 He also argues that the 14-day period concerns only 13 the Respondent's options and is not a deadline for the 14 Commission. But we believe that this is inconsistent with 15 the rule as it requires the Executive Director to attempt 16 settlement as authorized by ARS 16-957(A). 17 That language ties the Executive Director's 18 mandatory duty directly to the statutes. So the rule 19 requires the Executive Director to attempt to settle under a 20 statute that gives the Respondent 14 days to settle before 21 penalties can begin. 22 The duty and the protected window work together. 23 Director Collins cannot say the 14-day period is the 24 Respondent's problem alone, when his own rule requires him to 25 attempt settlement under the authority of the very statute Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
6 1 settlement of MUR 26-06. The proposed terms as you guys are 2 aware is (A), no admission of wrongdoing; (B), resolution of 3 MUR 26-06; (C), Dr. Heap's waiver of claim challenging the 4 validity of the Commission's administrative rules as applied 5 to this matter; and (D), Dr. Heap's withdrawal from the Clean 6 Elections program. 7 Director Collins has indicated that he does not 8 intend to engage in settlement negotiations, but it is our 9 position that the legal framework requires that the 10 Commission engage with settlement negotiations. The 11 Commission's own rules require that the Executive Director 12 attempt settlement. 13 In fact, AAC R2-20-216(A) says that when the 14 Commission finds probable cause, the director, quote, shall 15 attempt, end quote, to settle the matter, and shall attempt 16 to reach a tentative conciliation agreement with the 17 Respondent. 18 And the word is "shall." It's not "may." This is 19 a mandatory duty. The rule ties that duty directly to the 20 statute that governs this very proceeding. 21 It directs the Executive Director to attempt 22 settlement as authorized by ARS 16-957(A), and that's the 23 statute that's before you today. It gives the Respondent the 24 three options during the 14-day compliance period: Provide 25 an explanation, comply with the order, or enter into a public Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	8 1 during that very period. 2 Going on to the letter that he provided, he 3 suggested that the investigation is incomplete and that 4 Dr. Heap has not cooperated, but the record does not support 5 that. Dr. Heap's counsel responded to the complaint on 6 August 7th, 2026, with a detailed legal brief as well as 7 Mr. Torgenson's sworn declaration. On September 7th, counsel 8 provided -- or produced bank statements from Dr. Heap's 9 campaign account, transaction records, cleared checks, vendor 10 invoices from Mesa Sign Shop, Uncle Sam's Petitions, and Moir 11 & Associates -- and the Moir & Associates' agreement, all in 12 response to the Commission's req- -- to the Commission's 13 request. 14 To the extent an objection was raised to the one 15 request, that was on proportionality grounds. The request 16 for records regarding any service provided to the campaign 17 was far beyond the scope of this particular case which 18 concerns a single Mesa Sign Shop transaction. The responsive 19 documents were still produced notwithstanding that objection. 20 As far as the outstanding subpoena, that was 21 directed at Mesa Sign Shop and not at Mr. -- at Dr. Heap. 22 Mesa Sign Shop has a separate -- is a separate business 23 entity and has retained its own independent counsel. 24 Dr. Heap has no legal authority to compel a third-party 25 vendor to respond to the Commission's subpoena. Mesa's Sign Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

9 1 Shop's timeline should not be attributed to Dr. Heap or used 2 as a basis to reject his settlement proposal. 3 Dr. Heap has provided everything within his 4 possession and control. 5 The -- this -- this Commission is very aware of 6 Dr. Heap's position on the credit terms extended to 7 Dr. Heap's campaign, so I won't go through that again unless 8 the -- the Commission would like me to. 9 Right now the election is two months away. 14:39:20 10 Dr. Heap wants to put this behind him and he wants to run his 11 campaign. And he's hopeful that this Commission will either 12 accept his terms or provide a counteroffer and engage in good 13 faith settlement negotiations as it's required to under its 14 rule and under its statute. He's come to the table in good 15 faith and he's hopeful that the Commission will do the same. 16 That's all I have. 17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Ms. Leavitt. 18 MS. LEAVITT: You're welcome. 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Mr. Collins, do you have any 14:39:55 20 comments you wish to make at this time? 21 MR. COLLINS: Just a few clarifying comments. 22 I think that the rule that Ms. Leavitt cited, R2-20-216, is a 23 rule that by its terms has not come into effect yet. The 24 rule's premise is that upon a finding of probable cause, 25 which is a later decision before the Commission, the Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	11 1 So that's the timeline here. There was a period of 2 time, we got a letter Tuesday, we got documents Wednesday, 3 and here we are. 4 My letter, which is in the record, you can read it 5 if you haven't -- it was addressed to you, so I presume you 6 have -- you know, merely states that, yeah, I -- I'm not in a 7 position where I -- I have a counter to make because I don't 8 have the information that the Commission found reasonable 9 cause, reason to believe on, and I am in the process of 14:43:26 10 determining that. 11 So how I might go beyond where I am as a practical 12 matter doesn't make a lot of sense. We're not under 13 R2-20-216 by its terms and 16-957 speaks for itself. It does 14 not place a burden on the Commission and -- and so I guess 15 that's pretty -- that's all I really have to say. 16 I -- I -- and I'm happy to take questions if you 17 have any, Commissioners. Thank you. 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Collins. 19 Ms. Leavitt, do you have any brief comments you 14:44:03 20 want to make in response? 21 MS. LEAVITT: Just simply if -- if -- 22 if Director Collins doesn't believe that he is under an 23 obligation, how, again, I stress for section (A) if -- if he 24 doesn't believe that he is required to enter into or engage 25 in any settlement negotiations, it completely negates the end Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
10 1 Executive Director shall engage in a conciliation discussion. 2 So I don't think that's ripe. I don't think 3 that -- whatever that "shall" means there, we aren't at that 4 point. 5 I think with respect to the documents that -- 6 Mr. LaSota produced a letter to me on the 7th that stated he 7 was producing documents; he did not provide the documents 8 until September -- it looks like -- well, I should say this. 9 The letter is dated September 7th, it was received 14:41:27 10 September 8th; and then on September 9th we received the 11 documents. And, you know, I got to be honest with you, I 12 would -- I, you know, I'm a little uncomfortable getting into 13 the details in front of the Commission of what those 14 documents do and do not cover, because that's getting ahead 15 of the -- that's getting ahead of ourselves and -- and 16 putting -- frankly, putting -- puts the Commission and me in 17 an awkward position with respect to Mr. Heap's own rights 18 we're trying to respect. 19 So I -- I think that -- suffice it to say, that 14:42:25 20 letter promising the documents was received the 8th, 21 documents were received the 9th. My letter was the 2nd -- or 22 the sec- -- my letter was the 4th. So -- but yes, the 23 request had been outstanding since the 17th, or something 24 like that, or the 20th, somewhere in there; there has been at 25 least one extension granted. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	12 1 of 16-957(A), which -- that's contrary to case law. 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you. 3 Do any members of the Commission have any comments 4 at this time or any questions for either Mr. Collins or 5 Ms. Leavitt? 6 (No audible response.) 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none, does any 8 member of the Commission wish to make a motion to go into 9 executive session? 14:45:08 10 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I would 11 like to make a motion to go into executive session for this 12 matter. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner 14 Werther. 15 Is there a second? 16 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second. Paton. 17 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Yeah, I'll -- 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Is that Commissioner Paton 19 seconded? 14:45:24 20 COMMISSIONER PATON: Correct. 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: It's moved and seconded we 22 go into executive session. I will call the roll. 23 Commissioner Werther. 24 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

13 1 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 3 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 4 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 5 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We will go 7 into an executive session. 8 (Whereupon the proceeding is in executive session 9 from 2:45 p.m. until 3:01 p.m.) 14:45:41 10 11 * * * * * 12 13 (Whereupon all members of the public are present 14 and the proceeding resumes in general session.) 15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We are back in open session. 16 Do any members of the Commission have any 17 additional comments or questions at this time? 18 (No audible response.) 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none, does any 15:01:43 20 member of the Commission wish to make a motion? 21 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like 22 to make a statement and then make a motion. 23 So at this time, you know, the Commission's only 24 made reason-to-believe findings, we've not yet even gotten to 25 the probable cause stage. So I believe the statute that was Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	15 1 Public comment. We now move to Item III. This is 2 the time for comments and suggestions from the public. If 3 you're a member of the public and wish to make a comment, 4 please use the "raise hand" feature in Zoom and I will call 5 on individuals one at a time. Please note the Commissioners 6 may have questions for you. Please limit your remarks to 7 items within the Commission's authority. 8 Action taken as a result of public comment is 9 limited by statute to directing staff to study the matter, 15:03:37 10 responding to criticism, or scheduling it for further 11 consideration. You may also send comments to the Commission 12 at ccec@azcleelections.gov. 13 Do we have anyone in person or on Zoom wishing to 14 comment? 15 (No audible response.) 16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I don't believe we do. 17 So we'll move on to Item IV, adjournment. There's 18 no further business, I would entertain a motion to adjourn. 19 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I move to 15:04:11 20 adjourn. 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner 22 Werther. 23 Is there a second? 24 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll second. 25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com
14 1 referenced, 16-957, and also the rule, the R2-20-216, are not 2 even operative at this point. I think when we get there, I 3 think we'd welcome good faith discussions. But we're not 4 there yet because it's just not proper at this time. 5 So I would move to reject Dr. Heap's proposed 6 public administrative settlement of MUR 20-06 [verbatim]. 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner 8 Werther. 9 Is there a second to Commissioner Werther's motion? 15:02:36 10 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll second. 11 COMMISSIONER PATON: Second. Paton. 12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I heard Commissioner Paton 13 first. 14 So it's been moved and seconded that we reject the 15 proposal by Dr. Heap. I will call the roll. 16 Commissioner Werther. 17 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 19 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 21 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 23 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 24 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. Commission 25 votes to reject Dr. Heap's proposal 5-to-0. Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com	16 1 Crump. 2 It's been moved and seconded that we adjourn. I 3 will call the roll. 4 Commissioner Werther. 5 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 7 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 9 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 11 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We are 13 adjourned. Thank you. 14 (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 15 3:04 p.m.) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 STATE OF ARIZONA)

4) ss.

5 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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7 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were

8 taken before me, Angela Furniss Miller, Certified Reporter

9 No. 50127, all done to the best of my skill and ability;

10 that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and

11 thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

12 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the

13 parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome

14 thereof.

15 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the

16 requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield

17 Park, Arizona, this 15th of September, 2026.

18 
 19 Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR
 20 CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

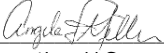
21 * * *

22 I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has

23 complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and

24 7-206. Dated at Avondale, Arizona, this 15th of

25 September, 2026.

26 
 27 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
 28 Arizona RRF No. R1058

29 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
 30 www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

1	adjourn [3] - 15:18, 15:20, 16:2 adjourned [1] - 16:13 adjournment [1] - 15:17 administrative [6] - 3:22, 4:1, 5:25, 6:4, 7:1, 14:6 admission [1] - 6:2 advice [1] - 4:20 advisor [2] - 3:19, 4:21 afternoon [1] - 3:3 agreement [2] - 6:16, 8:11 ahead [2] - 10:14, 10:15 alone [1] - 7:24 analysis [1] - 3:21 applied [1] - 6:4 argues [1] - 7:12 Arizona [2] - 3:17, 7:5 ARS [2] - 6:22, 7:16 Associates [1] - 8:11 Associates' [1] - 8:11 attempt [7] - 6:12, 6:15, 6:21, 7:15, 7:19, 7:25 attendance [1] - 3:8 attorney [1] - 4:5 attributed [1] - 9:1 audible [4] - 5:2, 12:6, 13:18, 15:15 August [1] - 8:6 authority [3] - 7:25, 8:24, 15:7 authorized [2] - 6:22, 7:16 aware [2] - 6:2, 9:5 awkward [1] - 10:17 aye [15] - 12:24, 13:1, 13:3, 13:5, 13:6, 14:17, 14:19, 14:21, 14:23, 14:24, 16:5, 16:7, 16:9, 16:11, 16:12	brief [2] - 8:6, 11:19 burden [1] - 11:14 business [2] - 8:22, 15:18	4:24, 6:10, 6:14, 7:1, 7:3, 7:14, 9:5, 9:8, 9:11, 9:15, 9:25, 10:13, 10:16, 11:8, 11:14, 12:3, 12:8, 13:16, 13:20, 14:24, 15:11	criticism [1] - 15:10 CRUMP [6] - 3:10, 13:1, 14:10, 14:19, 15:24, 16:7 Crump [5] - 3:10, 12:25, 14:18, 16:1, 16:6
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3	3:01 [1] - 13:9 3:04 [1] - 16:15	campaign [4] - 8:9, 8:16, 9:7, 9:11 candidate [1] - 3:21 cannot [1] - 7:23 case [2] - 8:17, 12:1 ccec@ azcleanelections.gov [1] - 15:12 Chair [4] - 3:4, 13:6, 14:24, 16:12 Chairman [4] - 5:4, 12:10, 13:21, 15:19 CHAIRMAN [35] - 3:3, 3:14, 5:3, 5:7, 5:13, 5:16, 5:18, 5:22, 9:17, 9:19, 11:18, 12:2, 12:7, 12:13, 12:18, 12:21, 12:25, 13:2, 13:4, 13:6, 13:15, 13:19, 14:7, 14:12, 14:18, 14:20, 14:22, 14:24, 15:16, 15:21, 15:25, 16:6, 16:8, 16:10, 16:12 challenging [1] - 6:3 checks [1] - 8:9 Christina [1] - 3:13 cited [1] - 9:22 Citizens [3] - 3:4, 3:6, 3:17 claim [1] - 6:3 clarification [1] - 5:5 clarifying [1] - 9:21 Clean [5] - 3:4, 3:6, 3:17, 4:6, 6:5 cleared [1] - 8:9 click [1] - 4:16 co [1] - 4:7 co-counsel [1] - 4:7 COLLINS [1] - 9:21 Collins [8] - 3:16, 6:7, 7:8, 7:23, 9:19, 11:18, 11:22, 12:4 comment [8] - 4:8, 4:12, 4:18, 4:25, 15:1, 15:3, 15:8, 15:14 comments [10] - 4:10, 4:15, 5:19, 9:20, 9:21, 11:19, 12:3, 13:17, 15:2, 15:11 Commission [25] - 3:4, 3:6, 3:17, 4:19,	dated [1] - 10:9 days [1] - 7:20 deadline [1] - 7:13 decision [1] - 9:25 declaration [1] - 8:7 detailed [1] - 8:6 details [1] - 10:13 determining [1] - 11:10 directed [1] - 8:21 directing [1] - 15:9 directly [2] - 6:19, 7:18 Director [10] - 3:17, 4:22, 6:11, 6:21, 7:8, 7:15, 7:19, 7:23, 10:1, 11:22 director [2] - 6:7, 6:14 Director's [1] - 7:17 directs [1] - 6:21 discussion [2] - 3:20, 10:1 discussions [1] - 14:3 documents [9] - 8:19, 10:5, 10:7, 10:11, 10:14, 10:20, 10:21, 11:2 Dr [22] - 3:22, 3:25, 4:5, 5:10, 5:15, 5:25, 6:3, 6:5, 7:9, 8:4, 8:5, 8:8, 8:21, 8:24, 9:1, 9:3, 9:6, 9:7, 9:10, 14:5, 14:15, 14:25 during [2] - 6:24, 8:1 duty [4] - 6:19, 7:18, 7:22	
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THE STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPTION OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona
September 16, 2026
9:30 a.m.

By: Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50666

**CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT**

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1 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS 2 CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 9:30 a.m. on 3 September 16, 2026, at the State of Arizona, Clean 4 Elections Commission, 1110 West Washington, Conference 5 Room, Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the 6 following Board Members: 7 8 Mr. Mark Kimble, Chairman 9 Mr. Galen Paton 10 Ms. Christina Werther 11 Mr. Steve Titla 12 13 OTHERS PRESENT: 14 Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director 15 Paula Thomas, Executive Officer 16 Mike Becker, Policy Director 17 Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director 18 Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager 19 Bill Richards, Richards & Moskowitz 20 Cathy Herring, KCA 21 Baron Glassgow, Member of the Public 22 23 24 25	1 attorney for Risa Lombardo and Duwayne Collier. I 2 don't know that -- that Mr. La Sota is here. Are you 3 here, Mr. La Sota? 4 (No response.) 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Is there anyone else here 6 representing the plaintiffs in this action? 7 (No response.) 8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. We will proceed, 9 then, without them. If they show up, we'll make every 10 effort to accommodate them. 11 We will take public comment specific to this 12 item. If you are a member of the public and wish to 13 make a comment, please use the raise hand feature in 14 Zoom and I will call on individuals one at a time. 15 When your name is called, please unmute yourself and 16 state your full name for the record before beginning 17 your comments. To raise your hand in Zoom, click the 18 react icon in the bottom toolbar and select raise hand. 19 Please note that the Commissioners may have 20 questions for you. We ask that each speaker identify 21 themselves for the record and limit their comments -- 22 limit their comments to two more -- excuse me -- to no 23 more than three minutes. Please keep your microphone 24 or phone muted until you are called upon to speak. 25 Does any member of the public wish to make a
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1 P R O C E E D I N G 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Good morning. I'm 3 Mark Kimble, and I call this meeting of the Citizens 4 Clean Elections Commission to order. It's 9:30 a.m. on 5 September 16th, 2026. Today's meeting is being held 6 virtually. With that, we will take attendance. 7 Commissioners, please identify yourselves for 8 the record. 9 COMMISSIONER PATON: Galen Paton. 10 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Steve Titla. Good 11 morning. 12 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Christina Werther. 13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Good morning. And I'm 14 Mark Kimble. We have four of the five Commissioners 15 here. We have a quorum. 16 Item II, review, consideration, discussion, 17 analysis, and possible action on authorization to file 18 a response on Lombardo, et al., versus Arizona Citizens 19 Clean Elections Commission, et al., 20 Number CV2026-037740, Arizona Supreme Court, Maricopa 21 County, filed September 10th, 2026. 22 The Commission is represented by independent 23 counsel Bill Richards and Samantha Fox of Richards and 24 Moskowitz. 25 First, we will hear from Mr. La Sota,	1 comment on this item? 2 (No response.) 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. I don't see anyone. 4 As indicated in the Agenda, the Commission 5 may vote to go into executive session for discussion 6 and consultation for legal advice with its -- with its 7 attorneys pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4). 8 Only the Commissioners and the Commission's attorneys 9 will be permitted to attend any executive session. 10 With that, does any Member of the Commission 11 wish to make a comment or wish to make a motion to go 12 into executive session? 13 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like 14 to make a motion to go into executive session for this 15 item. 16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 17 Commissioner Werther. 18 It's been moved that we go into executive 19 session. Is there a second? 20 Commissioner Paton, I think -- 21 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second. 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 23 Commissioner Paton. 24 Second -- it's been moved and seconded that 25 we go into executive session. I will call the roll.

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1 Commissioner Werther. 2 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 4 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 6 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We will 8 go into executive session. 9 * * * * * 10 (End of executive session. Public meeting 11 resumes.) 12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We are back in open 13 session. 14 Just one more call for anyone representing 15 the plaintiffs in this action. Mr. La Sota or anyone 16 else from his firm wish to make any comment? 17 (No response.) 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. If not, do I have a 19 motion regarding Lombardo, et al., versus Arizona 20 Citizens Clean Elections Commission, et al., 21 Number CV2026-037740? 22 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like 23 to move the Commission authorize and ratify the 24 engagement of -- and payment of the law firm of 25 Richards and Moskowitz to respond to the lawsuit filed	1 Please limit your comments to no more than three 2 minutes. If you are a member of the public and wish to 3 make a comment, please use the raise hand feature in 4 Zoom and I will call on individuals one at a time. 5 Anyone on Zoom wish to make a comment? 6 (No response.) 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing and seeing no one. 8 Action taken as a result of public comment 9 will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, 10 rescheduling it for further consideration, or 11 responding to criticism. The public may also submit 12 comments by e-mail at ccec@azcanelections.gov. 13 Before we adjourn, I hope you'll -- you'll 14 indulge me for a few more minutes. The past month or 15 so has been unusual and a trying time for all of us. 16 We have gone from holding monthly meetings to meeting 17 almost weekly for a variety of pressing legal matters, 18 so I wanted to take a minute to thank everyone who's 19 worked so hard to make this possible. 20 First, the staff at Clean Elections, Mike 21 Becker, Gina Roberts, Avery Xola, Alec Shaffer, 22 Paula Thomas, who has the impossible job of trying to 23 work with numerous schedules and calendars to make our 24 meetings happen, and especially to Tom Collins, who's 25 worked endless hours to deal with these complex legal
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1 by Risa Lombardo and Duwayne Collier in Maricopa County 2 Superior Court Case CV2026-037740 and to defend the 3 Commission and its Members from the date of filing of 4 the lawsuit through the conclusion of the litigation. 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Is there a second? 6 COMMISSIONER PATON: Second. This is Paton. 7 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second that, Chairman. 8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton, did you 9 second that? 10 COMMISSIONER PATON: Yes. 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. It's been moved and 12 seconded that we take steps to respond to this lawsuit 13 as outlined by Commissioner Werther in her motion. I 14 will call the roll. 15 Commissioner Werther. 16 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 18 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 20 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. The 22 motion is approved 4-to-nothing. 23 Public comment. This is the time for 24 consideration of comments and suggestions from the 25 public. At this time, we will take public comment.	1 issues while enduring personal insults, spurious 2 comments just to do his job. 3 I also want to thank our legal team, Craig 4 Morgan, Bill Richards, Samantha Fox. These meetings 5 would not be possible without the dedication of Cathy 6 Herring, our electronic expert, working with Zoom and 7 YouTube, and Kathryn Blackwelder and Angela Miller, our 8 court reporters. 9 And finally, I want to thank my fellow 10 Commissioners, Sam Crump, Galen Paton, Steve Titla, and 11 Christina Werther. Each of you has upended your 12 already busy schedules to ensure that we have a quorum 13 for every meeting. Thank you. 14 I apologize if I've left everyone out. This 15 has been a very busy period, and we couldn't have 16 pulled it all off without each one of you. Thank you. 17 At this time, I would entertain a motion to 18 adjourn. 19 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chair, I move to 20 adjourn. 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 22 Commissioner Werther. 23 Is there a second? 24 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second. 25 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second.

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1 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla, second.
2 I will call the roll on the motion to
3 adjourn.
4 Commissioner Werther.
5 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.
6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.
7 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.
9 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.
10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We are
11 adjourned.
12 (End of recording.)
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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)
3
4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings
5 were transcribed by me; that I was then and there a
6 Certified Reporter of the State of Arizona; that the
7 proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and
8 thereafter transcribed into typewriting under my
9 direction; that the foregoing pages are a full, true,
10 and accurate transcript of all proceedings had and
11 adduced upon the taking of said proceedings, all to the
12 best of my skill and ability.
13
14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related
15 to nor employed by any of the parties hereto nor am I
16 in any way interested in the outcome hereof.
17
18 DATED at Tempe, Arizona, this 17th day of
19 September, 2026.
20
21 
22 _____
23 Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR
Certified Reporter #50666
24
25

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**CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
September 24, 2026**

Commission Statement on Senator Kyl:

Chairman Kimble wrote the following regarding Sen. Kyl's recent passing:

Arizona lost a true statesman with the passing of former Sen. Jon Kyl who served in Congress for nearly three decades. Kyl was a loyal Republican but he never put party before country and his love of Arizona. After he retired from the Senate, he returned briefly when he was appointed to fill the term of his former colleague, the late Sen. John McCain. Kyl was reluctant to return to Congress but felt a responsibility to his state and country. Kyl's expertise in water rights and arms control, led to creation of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University and the Kyl Institute for National Security at the University of Arizona. He was a dedicated and knowledgeable public servant who will be deeply missed.

Announcements:

- 2,410,365 voter education guides were mailed to voters.
 - 208 candidates were eligible for inclusion in the guide and 198 candidates submitted a profile.
 - 23/24 statewide candidates
 - 155/158 legislative candidates
 - 20/26 candidates
- The Clean Elections website has been updated with candidate and ballot-measure information for all 15 counties, including statewide and local propositions.
- The United States Postal Service's rule regarding mail ballots will not be implemented for the 2026 General Election. Amy Howe, *Supreme Court Denies Trump Administration's Request to Implement Parts of USPS Rule on Mail-In Voting*, SCOTUSBLOG (Sept. 2026), <https://www.scotusblog.com/2026/09/supreme-court-denies-trump-administrations-request-to-implement-parts-of-usps-rule-on-mail-in-vot/>.
- The voter registration deadline is October 5th.
- Early voting begins October 7th.

Voter Education and Outreach:

- Candidate debates are nearly complete. Our treasurer and attorney general debates were scheduled for September 23, with the Arizona Secretary of State and Congressional District 1 debates scheduled for October 5 and 7, respectively.
- The Commission will also hold debates on Proposition 144 and Proposition 320.

- KJZZ featured a discussion about debates in Arizona in which participated. Lauren Gilger, AZ Gov. Hobbs Has Once Again Declined to Debate Her Republican Opponent: Is Opting Out a Trend?, KJZZ (Sept. 14, 2026, 12:00 PM), <https://www.kjzz.org/the-show/2026-09-14/az-gov-hobbs-has-once-again-declined-to-debate-her-republican-opponent-is-opting-out-a-trend>.
- Avery organized the Commission's participation in National Voter Registration Day activities at all three Arizona universities, ASU, NAU, and the University of Arizona, with strong student participation and media coverage. Avery also participated in the Vote Your Power event at South Mountain Community College, including a panel discussion on young voter turnout.
- Commissioner Werther spoke to students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades at Palominas Elementary School in Hereford, AZ. She shared the Captain Activate! comic and spoke about voting and civics to celebrate Constitution Week.
- Staff continued outreach to voters with disabilities. Avery spoke at Voting Day for People with Disabilities, hosted by Disability Rights Arizona, and presented on voter education and ballot measures at a meeting of the Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition.
- Tom moderated an elections town hall on the Navajo Nation live on KTNN. This is the second town hall we have participated in this election season. Participants included Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, Apache County Recorder Larry Noble, Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler, Coconino County Election Director Esliir Musta, attorneys with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.
- Tom served on an educational panel regarding Proposition 144, the proposed election related constitutional amendment placed on the ballot by lawmakers. The panel was part of the ASU Mechanics of Democracy 2026 Fall Convening, which also featured discussion of voter perceptions of elections, and future developments in election administration. Commissioner Werther was among the election officials around the state who attended.





- Civic education efforts also continued. Gina, Avery, and Tom attended Arizona Middle Grades Summit. The Summit is hosted by Arizona branch of the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), a professional education service association for educators working with children aged 10-15. It was held at ASU.

Gina presented the Clean Elections Civics Curriculum. Avery and Gina participated in Tolleson School District's Commitment Day, encouraging high school seniors to consider serving as poll workers and introducing students to careers and educational opportunities in election administration.

This month, Avery also presented on media literacy and trusted election resources for Kids Voting Arizona.

- Recent Clean Elections podcast episodes have covered Arizona agriculture, the economic impact of Buc-ee's, civil discourse and National Voter Registration Day, and Arizona's newest town.
- Results from the Commission's General Election voter survey are available. This survey serves our debates by ensuring candidates and moderators have access to information about voters' views on issues.

Participating candidates:

Final Number of Participating Candidates: 47

Primary audits have begun for all participating candidates.

Legal:

- Lombardo et al. v. Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission et al., No. CV2026-037740 Arizona Superior Court, Maricopa.
 - The Superior Court held a return hearing on Monday, September 21 and set an oral argument for this the afternoon of Thursday Septemeber 24.
- Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission v. Fontes, Arizona Court of Appeals, 2 CA-CV 2026-0185
 - The Court of Appeals now has jurisdiction over the party's appeal.
- Center for Arizona Policy v. Arizona Secretary of State, Arizona Superior Court, CV2022-016564
 - This is the matter on remand after the Arizona Supreme Court upheld the Voters' Right to Know Act against a facial challenge under the Arizona Constitution. The Court remanded to allow consideration of Plaintiffs' as applied challenge.
 - A scheduling order issued September 16.
- Americans for Prosperity v. Meyer, No. 24-2933 (9th Cir.).
 - Awaiting decision following 2025 Argument.
- Montenegro v. Fontes, Arizona Court of Appeals, No. 1 CA-CV 26-0154.
 - Briefing is underway on this appeal regarding appeal from Superior Court.
- The Power of Fives, LLC v. Clean Elections, CV2021-015826, Superior Court for Maricopa County & Clean Elections v. The Power of Fives, LLC et al. CV2022-053917, Superior Court for Arizona. Plaintiff filed a form of judgment and application for attorneys' fees. Defense filed an objection to the form and a response to attorneys' fees application.
- Branch et al. v. Collins, et al., CV2024-004136, Superior Court for Maricopa County. Ongoing.

Appointments:

- Staff continues to monitor appointments, and direct interested applicants to the appropriate officials.

Complaints:

- MUR 25-04, Turning Point (Prop. 211).
- MUR 25-05, Turning Point (Prop. 211).
- MUR 26-03, Turning Point (Prop. 211).
- MUR 26-04, Fortify AZ (Prop. 211), please see dismissal report under AAC R2-20-811(F), Exhibit 1 to this report. The Commission may set this matter for review at a later meeting if chooses.

- MUR 26-05, Arizona Values Fund (Clean Elections Act Trigger Report), please see dismissal letter pursuant to AAC R2-20-206, Exhibit 2 to this report. The Commission may set this matter for review at a later meeting if chooses.
- MUR 26-06 Ralph Heap (participating candidate).
- MUR 26-07 Kevin Thompson & Nick Myers (participating candidates), this agenda.
- MUR 26-09 Ralph Heap Heap (participating candidate).
- MUR 26-10 Kevin Thompson & Nick Myers (participating candidates), this agenda.

2026 Regulatory Agenda:

The Commission may conduct a rulemaking even if the rulemaking is not included here. The Governor's Regulatory Review Commission will consider recent amendments to R2-20-702 at its business meeting June 5.

The following information is provided under A.R.S. § 41-1021.02:

- Notices of Docket Opening:
 - 32 A.A.R. 694 (candidate statement pamphlet), https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2026/12/contents.pdf.
 - 32 A.A.R. 266 (use of funds), apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2026/4/contents.pdf.
 - 31 A.A.R. 2255 (revision and addition of funding rules), https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2025/27/contents.pdf.
- Notices of Proposed Rulemaking:
 - 32 A.A.R. 669 (candidate statement pamphlet) https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2026/12/contents.pdf
 - 32 A.A.R. 245 (use of funds), apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2026/4/contents.pdf.
 - 31 A.A.R. 2141 (revision and addition of funding rules), https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2025/27/contents.pdf.
- Supplemental Notices 31 A.A.R.3917 (setting our next meeting to consider rules related to campaign finance report and monitoring of clean candidate funds). https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2025/40/contents.pdf.
- Federal funds for proposed rulemaking: **None**
- Review of existing rules: **Five Year Report Approved 9/2/2025**
- Notice of Final Rulemaking: Notice of final rulemaking for
 - 32 A.A.R. 807 (revision and addition of funding rules), apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2026/14/contents.pdf
 - 32 A.A.R. 1440 (use of funds), https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2026/26/contents.pdf.
 - 32 A.A.R. ____ (candidate statement pamphlet), pending.
- Rulemakings terminated: **None.**
- Privatization option or nontraditional regulatory approach considered: **None Applicable.**

Thomas M. Collins
Executive Director



State of Arizona
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

1110 W. Washington - Suite 250 - Phoenix, Arizona 85007 - Tel (602) 364-3477 - Fax (602) 364-3487 - www.azcleanelections.gov

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT AND RESPONSE OPPORTUNITY

Via E-Mail

September 22, 2026

Thomas Basile
Statecraft PLLC
2211 E. Highland Avenue, Suite 210
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Counsel for Fortify AZ

Re: MUR 26-04 — Fortify AZ

Dear Mr. Basile:

I am writing to notify you that I have dismissed the Complaint filed against Fortify AZ in the above-referenced matter and to provide the close-out report required pursuant to Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-811(F).

Complaint

The Complaint, filed on May 7, 2026, alleges that Fortify AZ (Committee ID 102154) and its primary funder, the American Federation for Children (AFC), violated the Voters' Right to Know Act (VRKA or the Act), A.R.S. § 16-971 *et seq.* Specifically, the Complainant alleges that Fortify AZ made \$1,257,000 in "campaign media spending" within eight days via payments to AZ Petition Partners (\$1,250,000 total) and Marson Media (\$7,000) to circulate a statewide initiative petition.

The Complaint argues that paid signature gathering constitutes campaign media spending under A.R.S. § 16-971(2)(a)(iv) (qualification advocacy) and/or (a)(vii) (activity conducted in conjunction with qualification advocacy). Consequently, the Complainant asserts that Fortify AZ crossed the \$50,000 threshold to become a "covered person" under A.R.S. § 16-971(7), failed to file one Initial and forty-eight Supplemental VRKA Reports, and failed to disclose original-source donor tracing behind AFC's \$1,300,000 contribution. Finally, the Complainant argues that the Commission cannot exercise prosecutorial discretion or issue a staff dismissal under A.R.S. § 16-977(C) because potential civil penalties exceed \$50,000.

Response

Fortify AZ contends that the Complaint is legally unmeritorious and must be dismissed based on the Commission's controlling authority in Advisory Opinion 2023-01 (AO 23-01). Fortify AZ emphasizes that AO 23-01 established that disbursements for the printing and circulation of initiative petitions, wages for paid circulators, and signature collection are not "campaign media spending."

Excluding the \$1,250,000 paid to AZ Petition Partners, Fortify AZ maintains it has not met the \$50,000 statewide campaign media spending threshold required for "covered person" status. Regarding the remaining \$7,000 disbursement to Marson Media for public relations consulting, Fortify AZ states that the services were not conducted in preparation for or in conjunction with any public communication. Furthermore, even if characterized as campaign media spending, the \$7,000 figure falls well below the \$50,000 threshold, rendering all derivative reporting and donor-tracing allegations inapplicable as a matter of law.

Analysis

1. Applicability of Advisory Opinion 2023-01

Under Commission rules, a person or entity may rely upon an advisory opinion issued by the Commission as an absolute defense in any enforcement proceeding involving conduct that is "indistinguishable in all its material aspects." Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-808(C)(3).

In AO 23-01, the Commission explicitly evaluated whether expenses associated with collecting petition signatures to qualify a ballot measure constitute "campaign media spending" under A.R.S. § 16-971(2). The Commission concluded that standard petition circulation expenses—including payments to professional circulator firms, circulator compensation, petition sheet printing, and signature gathering—do not constitute "campaign media spending" absent an accompanying public communication. Circulation expenses do not become campaign media spending solely because they are campaign-related. Ariz. Citizens Clean Elections Comm'n Advisory Opinion No. 23-01 (Nov. 16, 2023), https://storage.googleapis.com/core.usgovcloudapi.net/public/docs/970-Advisory-Opinion-23-01-approved-by-Commission-11_16_23.pdf. Applying AO 23-01 to the facts presented here:

- The \$1,250,000 disbursed to AZ Petition Partners was paid for professional signature gathering, petition sheet printing, circulator compensation, and ballot-access strategy. Under AO 23-01, these expenses are excluded from campaign media spending calculations.
- The \$7,000 retainer paid to Marson Media represents general public relations and strategy advice. Under Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-801(B), media consulting counts toward campaign media spending only when specifically conducted in preparation for or in conjunction with a qualifying public communication. Even assuming that the \$7,000 retainer qualified as campaign media spending, it does not pull the distinct \$1,250,000 in signature-gathering expenses into the Act.

Because \$7,000 is substantially below the \$50,000 threshold established by A.R.S. § 16-971(7)(a), Fortify AZ was not a "covered person" during the period at issue. Without that the duties under A.R.S. § 16-973 did not arise.

2. Other issues

The Complainant asserts that A.R.S. § 16-977(C) bars staff dismissal or reliance on prosecutorial discretion because potential penalties exceed \$50,000, and that § 16-977(B) mandates an investigation whenever allegations “if true” state a violation.

These arguments confuse factual evaluation with legal interpretation. A determination that the alleged conduct does not constitute a violation as a matter of law under established Commission precedent (AO 23-01) is a legal threshold determination, not an exercise of prosecutorial discretion. Because the alleged facts fail to establish a statutory violation as a matter of law, staff dismissal under Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-811(F) is appropriate.

Conclusion

I have not reviewed evidence that would substantiate the Complaint's assertion that Fortify AZ is a covered person or incurred VRKA disclosure obligations.

The Complaint is dismissed pursuant to Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-811(F).

Thank you for your response. This letter, along with the Complaint and Response, will be provided to the Commission as part of the Executive Director's Report at its next regular meeting.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Collins
Executive Director
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

cc: Alex Logvin, Complainant

Exhibit 1

VERIFIED COMPLAINT UNDER THE VOTERS' RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

A.R.S. Title 16, Chapter 6.1

May 7, 2026

Via Email (ccec@azcleaselections.gov)

Thomas M. Collins

Executive Director

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

1110 West Washington Street, Suite 250

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Director Collins:

I am a qualified Arizona voter. I submit this complaint under A.R.S. § 16-977(A) and A.A.C. R2-20-809 against **Fortify AZ**, a political committee registered with the Arizona Secretary of State (Committee ID 102154), and against its sole disclosed funder, **American Federation for Children** (a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation), as a donor and intermediary whose contributions to a covered person trigger original-source-tracing obligations under A.R.S. §§ 16-972 and 16-973(A)(6)–(7), where Fortify AZ's \$1,257,000 in disbursements to AZ Petition Partners and Marson Media is "campaign media spending" within the meaning of A.R.S. § 16-971(2)(a)(iv) and (a)(vii).

Fortify AZ has spent **\$1,257,000.00** in eight calendar days (March 17–25, 2026) on the paid circulation of an Arizona ESA / school-voucher ballot initiative — every dollar of which is "campaign media spending" under A.R.S. § 16-971(2) — and has filed **zero VRKA reports**. The Voters' Right to Know Act's statewide disclosure threshold under A.R.S. § 16-973(A) is **\$50,000**. Fortify AZ crossed that threshold in a single \$200,000 transaction on **March 17, 2026** and has spent more than **twenty-five times** the threshold in cumulative cycle-to-date campaign media spending in the eight days that followed. The Commission's VRKA filings index, reviewed May 7, 2026, confirms Fortify AZ is not present.

This complaint identifies — with specific dates and amounts drawn from Fortify AZ's own filings with the Secretary of State — **one missed Initial Report and forty-eight missed Supplemental Reports**, for a total of forty-nine discrete violations of A.R.S. § 16-973.

The matter is **time-sensitive**. The Arizona 2026 initiative-filing deadline is **July 2, 2026**, and Fortify AZ is currently using the \$1,257,000 to circulate petitions across the state. Voters confronting paid circulators on the street are entitled to know **who is paying for the campaign** — that is the precise harm the Voters' Right to Know Act exists to prevent. Every day the Initial Report remains unfiled is a day Arizona voters sign a petition without the disclosure the people of Arizona enacted by 72% margin in 2022.

I. Compliance with R2-20-809(C)

This complaint satisfies each requirement of A.A.C. R2-20-809(C):

1. R2-20-809(C)(1): This complaint recites facts describing forty-nine discrete violations of A.R.S. § 16-973 (the Voters' Right to Know Act's reporting requirements) — one missed Initial Report under § 16-973(A) and forty-eight missed Supplemental Reports under § 16-973(B). The factual basis is set forth in Sections II and III.

2. R2-20-809(C)(2): This complaint identifies Fortify AZ (Arizona Secretary of State Committee ID 102154) as the entity alleged to have committed the violations, and American Federation for Children as the intermediary or original source of the funds.

3. R2-20-809(C)(3): This complaint includes supporting documentation. Every triggering disbursement and every triggering contribution is documented on Fortify AZ's own publicly filed reports with the Secretary of State, viewable on seethemoney.az.gov as Filer ID 102154.

4. R2-20-809(C)(4): Each factual allegation identifies its evidentiary basis (personal knowledge or information and belief). All factual allegations rest on personal knowledge from direct review of public records.

5. The contents of this complaint are sworn and will be notarized before filing, as set forth in the Verification page attached hereto.

II. Factual Background

A. The Respondent

1. I, Alex Logvin, am a qualified voter registered in Maricopa County, Arizona (A.A.C. R2-20-809(A)). I am eligible to file this complaint pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-977(A).

2. **Based on personal knowledge and direct review of public records:** Fortify AZ is a political committee registered with the Arizona Secretary of State under Committee ID 102154. Its registered address is **2211 E Highland Avenue, Suite 210, Phoenix, AZ 85016** — the office of InCompliance LLC, the compliance shop principally identified with treasurer Ashley Ragan.

3. **Based on personal knowledge:** Fortify AZ is the registered applicant for an Arizona ESA / school-voucher ballot initiative filed with the Secretary of State for the November 2026 General Election ballot. The initiative is widely reported in Arizona media as one of two competing ESA reform measures circulating in the 2026 cycle. Coverage includes KJZZ ("Groups spend millions to shape Arizona school voucher reform," April 20, 2026); AZ Capitol Times ("Dueling ballot proposals compete to reform Arizona's ESA program," March 20, 2026); AZ Family ("Arizona school voucher ballot measures spark confusion claims," March 25, 2026); and AZ Luminaria ("Competing ESA reform propositions seek ballot spots, sow confusion," May 1, 2026). Each of those publications independently reports that Fortify AZ is funded by **American Federation for Children**.

B. Campaign Media Spending and the Initial Threshold

4. **Based on personal knowledge and direct review of Fortify AZ's publicly filed Schedule E1 disbursements (SeeTheMoney Filer ID 102154, 2026 cycle):** Fortify AZ has made three disbursements totaling \$1,257,000.00 — every one of them payments to vendors directly engaged in the paid circulation of, or paid media supporting, the initiative petition.

#	Date	Amount	Vendor	Cumulative cycle total
1	2026-03-17	\$200,000.00	AZ Petition Partners (paid signature-gathering firm, Tempe AZ)	\$200,000.00
2	2026-03-24	\$1,050,000.00	AZ Petition Partners	\$1,250,000.00
3	2026-03-25	\$7,000.00	Marson Media (Phoenix AZ)	\$1,257,000.00

5. Based on personal knowledge: Cycle-to-date campaign media spending equals **\$1,257,000.00**. Every dollar of that figure was paid to vendors engaged in promoting the circulation of an Arizona statewide ballot-measure petition. The applicable VRKA threshold under A.R.S. § 16-973(A) is **\$50,000** for a statewide campaign. That threshold was crossed in a single transaction on **March 17, 2026** — the \$200,000 payment to AZ Petition Partners.

C. Petition Circulation Is "Campaign Media Spending"

6. A.R.S. § 16-971(2) defines "campaign media spending" by reference to a list of qualifying activities. Two of those activities directly reach Fortify AZ's \$1,257,000 in disbursements to AZ Petition Partners and Marson Media:

a. § 16-971(2)(a)(iv) — qualification advocacy. Section 16-971(2)(a) provides that "campaign media spending" "[m]eans spending monies or accepting in-kind contributions to pay for any of the following: ... (iv) A public communication that promotes, supports, attacks or opposes the qualification or approval of any state or local initiative or referendum." Each paid signature solicitation in a paid signature-gathering operation is a public communication: a paid circulator approaches a member of the public, presents the proposed initiative text, and expressly asks the voter to support its qualification by signing the petition. The paid mass-circulation of an Arizona statewide initiative petition, distributed by paid commercial circulators on the public street, in shopping-center parking lots, at community events, and door-to-door, is on the face of (a)(iv) "[a] public communication that promotes ... the qualification ... of any state or local initiative." The statute's use of the disjunctive "qualification or approval" demonstrates that the legislature contemplated and reached two distinct phases — the qualification phase (signature-gathering and other pre-ballot activity to qualify a measure for the ballot) and the approval phase (post-qualification voting). Both phases are within scope.

b. § 16-971(2)(a)(vii) — activities in conjunction with qualification advocacy. Section 16-971(2)(a)(vii) further provides that "campaign media spending" includes spending for "[r]esearch, design, production, polling, data analytics, mailing or social media list acquisition or any other activity conducted in preparation for or in conjunction with any of the activities described in items (i) through (vi) of this subdivision." Even if a paid signature-gathering operation is not itself characterized as a "public communication" under (a)(iv) standing alone, the operation is, on any reasonable reading, "an activity conducted in preparation for or in conjunction with" the (a)(iv) qualification advocacy. The paid signature-gatherer's entire purpose is to qualify the initiative covered by subpart (iv); paying a commercial signature-gathering firm to conduct that operation is the textbook case of (a)(vii) "in conjunction with" spending. Fortify AZ's \$1,250,000 to AZ Petition Partners and \$7,000 to Marson Media for petition-related media work both fall within (a)(vii).

7. Under either subpart standing alone, and certainly under both read together, Fortify AZ's \$1,257,000 in disbursements is "campaign media spending" within the meaning of A.R.S. § 16-971(2). Any argument that paid signature-gathering for a not-yet-qualified initiative falls outside the Act would read the word "qualification" out of (2)(a)(iv) and ignore the "in conjunction with" hook in (2)(a)(vii); both readings are foreclosed by the statute's plain text.

8. **A.R.S. § 16-971(7)** defines "covered person" as follows:

(a) Means any person whose total campaign media spending or acceptance of in-kind contributions to enable campaign media spending, or a combination of both, in an election cycle is more than \$50,000 in statewide campaigns or more than \$25,000 in any other type of campaigns. For the purposes of this chapter, the amount of a person's campaign media spending includes campaign media spending made by entities established, financed, maintained or controlled by that person.

(b) Does not include:

(i) Individuals who spend only their own personal monies for campaign media spending.

(ii) Organizations that spend only their own business income for campaign media spending.

(iii) A candidate committee.

(iv) A political action committee or political party that receives not more than \$20,000 in contributions, including in-kind contributions, from any one person in an election cycle.

Fortify AZ became a covered person under § 16-971(7)(a) on March 17, 2026 — the date of its first \$200,000 disbursement to AZ Petition Partners — and remains so. Each of the (b) carve-outs is inapplicable on the face of Fortify AZ's own filings:

- **(b)(i) does not apply.** Fortify AZ is a registered political committee, not an individual spending personal monies.
- **(b)(ii) does not apply.** Fortify AZ is funded by transferred contributions from American Federation for Children (\$1,300,000), not by Fortify AZ's own business income.
- **(b)(iii) does not apply.** Fortify AZ is not a candidate committee.
- **(b)(iv) does not apply.** Fortify AZ received \$1,300,000 in contributions from a single person — American Federation for Children — in the 2026 election cycle. That amount is sixty-five times the \$20,000 single-donor cap that defines the (b)(iv) carve-out. The two-contribution split into a \$250,000 transfer on March 17 and a \$1,050,000 transfer on March 23 does not save the carve-out, because (b)(iv) operates on a cycle-aggregate per-person basis ("not more than \$20,000 in contributions ... from any one person in an election cycle"), and AFC's cycle-aggregate to Fortify AZ is \$1,300,000.

D. The Funder: American Federation for Children

9. Based on personal knowledge and direct review of Fortify AZ's publicly filed Schedule C (income) (SeeTheMoney Filer ID 102154, 2026 cycle): Fortify AZ has received exactly two contributions in the 2026 cycle, both from a single source:

#	Date	Amount	Source	City, State
1	2026-03-17	\$250,000.00	American Federation for Children	Washington, DC
2	2026-03-23	\$1,050,000.00	American Federation for Children	Washington, DC
		\$1,300,000.00		

10. Based on personal knowledge and public records: American Federation for Children Inc. is a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt social welfare organization (EIN 33-0627955). AFC's IRS-registered principal office

is in Columbia, Maryland; AFC's political office (the address used on Fortify AZ's Schedule C filing) is in Washington, DC. As a 501(c)(4) entity, AFC is permitted by federal tax law to engage in lobbying and political activity but is not required by federal tax law to publicly disclose its donors. AFC's tax status is confirmed by ProPublica's Nonprofit Explorer (project record at projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/330627955).

11. Based on personal knowledge: The structural feature of the contribution stream is **same-day pass-through**:

Date	Inflow (AFC → Fortify AZ)	Outflow (Fortify AZ → vendor)
2026-03-17	\$250,000 received	\$200,000 disbursed (same day)
2026-03-23	\$1,050,000 received	—
2026-03-24	—	\$1,050,000 disbursed (next business day)
2026-03-25	—	\$7,000 disbursed

The committee received \$250,000 from AFC and disbursed \$200,000 to the petition vendor **on the same day**, then received an additional \$1,050,000 from AFC and disbursed exactly \$1,050,000 to the same petition vendor **the next business day**. The retained float between the two windows is approximately \$43,000 — i.e., the only transactions on Fortify AZ's books in the 2026 cycle as of the date of this complaint are an inbound transfer from a single 501(c)(4) and an outbound payment to a paid signature-gathering firm. The committee has no other operational activity, no other donors, and no other vendors. It exists, on the face of its filings, as a one-purpose pass-through.

E. Fortify AZ Has Filed Zero VRKA Reports

12. Based on personal knowledge and direct review of the VRKA filings index at azsos.gov/elections/campaign-finance/vrka-reporting, confirmed May 7, 2026: Fortify AZ does not appear on the VRKA filer list for the 2025 or 2026 election cycle. The committee has not filed an Initial Report, a Supplemental Report, or an Amended Report.

13. American Federation for Children does not appear on the VRKA filer list either. To the extent AFC's \$1.3 million contribution to Fortify AZ is itself subject to VRKA disclosure as an intermediary's transfer of monies for campaign media spending, no such disclosure has been made.

F. The § 16-973(I) Safe Harbor Does Not Apply Because the Required Intermediary-Tracing Disclosure Is Not Included

14. Based on personal knowledge and direct review of Fortify AZ's periodic Schedule C entries: Fortify AZ's only Schedule C entries for the 2026 cycle are the two contributions of record from American Federation for Children (Washington, DC) on March 17 and March 23, 2026, totaling **\$1,300,000**. American Federation for Children Inc. is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization (EIN 33-0627955). According to AFC's most recent publicly available IRS Form 990, as reported by ProPublica's Nonprofit Explorer, **97.3%** of AFC's approximately \$11.8 million in annual revenue is reported as contributions, with \$0 in program-service revenue and approximately 1.8% from investment income. This revenue mix is, on its face, consistent with an organization that pools contributions from underlying donors and transfers those pooled monies to other entities — and on information and belief based on AFC's publicly filed 990, the \$1,300,000 transferred to Fortify AZ consists overwhelmingly of contributed monies AFC received from underlying donors rather than AFC's own commercial revenue. The actual composition of the \$1,300,000 transfer is a factual question within AFC's own books and within the Commission's authority to resolve.

15. A.R.S. § 16-973(A)(7) specifically and independently requires a covered person to disclose "the identity of each person that acted as an intermediary and that transferred, in whole or in part, traceable monies of more than \$5,000 from original sources to the covered person and the date, amount and source, both original and intermediate, of the transferred monies." A.R.S. § 16-972(D) places a parallel obligation on AFC itself, as a >\$5,000 donor of traceable monies, to disclose to Fortify AZ "the identity of each other person that directly or indirectly contributed more than \$2,500 in original monies being transferred" — but only on Fortify AZ's written request, of which the public record contains no evidence. Fortify AZ's periodic Schedule C lists AFC by name as the contributor of record. The SOS-prescribed Schedule C format contains fields for donor name, address, date, amount, and cumulative — but no field for intermediary identification, no field for original-source tracing, and no field to indicate whether a contribution consists of the donor's own original monies or monies the donor received from other contributors. The structural absence of those fields means the periodic Schedule C cannot, on its face, "include" the intermediary-tracing disclosure that § 16-973(A)(7) requires and § 16-973(I) makes a condition of the safe harbor. The safe harbor language at A.R.S. § 16-973(I) is conditioned on inclusion of "the disclosures required by this section ... **including the requirement to identify the original sources of traceable monies who gave, directly or indirectly, and any intermediaries who transferred, directly or indirectly, more than \$5,000 in traceable monies.**" The condition is not satisfied where (a) the contributor of record's own publicly filed 990 indicates a revenue mix structurally consistent with intermediary status, and (b) the periodic-report format provides no field to disclose either intermediary status or original sources behind the contribution.

III. Violations of the Voters' Right to Know Act

The Commission's rule for computing deadlines, A.A.C. R2-20-802, excludes the day of the triggering event and — where the deadline is five days or fewer — excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays observed by the State.

Violation 1 — Failure to File Initial VRKA Report (A.R.S. § 16-973(A))

16. A.R.S. § 16-973(A) requires a covered person to file an Initial disclosure report within five days of first spending monies or accepting in-kind contributions for campaign media spending totaling \$50,000 or more for a statewide campaign.

17. Fortify AZ's March 17, 2026 payment of \$200,000 to AZ Petition Partners — paid signature-gathering for promoting the qualification of a statewide ballot measure — met the statewide threshold in a single transaction.

18. Applying R2-20-802: excluding the day of the triggering event (Tue Mar 17, 2026); excluding weekends (Mar 21–22), the five business days run Mar 18, 19, 20, 23, and **24**. The Initial Report was due **Tuesday, March 24, 2026**.

19. No Initial Report has been filed. The violation has persisted for **approximately forty-four days** as of the date of this complaint and continues to grow as long as the petition drive continues.

Violations 2 through 49 — Failure to File Supplemental VRKA Reports (A.R.S. § 16-973(B)) (pleaded in the alternative)

20. Alternative pleading. A.R.S. § 16-973(B) opens "After a covered person makes an initial report, each time the covered person spends monies or accepts in-kind contributions totaling an additional \$25,000 or more...." On a literal reading of that opening clause, Supplemental obligations under § 16-973(B) do not accrue until after an Initial report has been filed under § 16-973(A). On that reading, the late-Initial violation in Violation 1 above is the sole § 16-973 violation, and Fortify AZ stands in continuous violation of § 16-973(A) without separate Supplemental obligations attaching.

21. Complainant pleads the forty-eight § 16-973(B) Supplemental violations in the alternative — under a contrary reading on which contemporaneous Supplemental obligations attach to additional \$25,000 increments crossed during a period when an Initial is overdue or unfiled. Under either reading, the **penalty range under A.R.S. § 16-976(A) is unchanged** because the civil penalty is one to three times the amount of undisclosed campaign media spending — not the count of missed filings — and the undisclosed amount of \$1,257,000 is captured by the § 16-973(A) Initial violation alone.

22. Under the alternative-pleading reading, A.R.S. § 16-973(B) requires a covered person to file a Supplemental Report within three days after each additional \$25,000 in cumulative campaign media spending. Fortify AZ's cumulative campaign media spending crossed forty-eight separate \$25,000 thresholds between March 17 and March 25, 2026. The 2026-03-17 AZ Petition Partners \$200,000 expenditure alone crossed the Initial \$50,000 threshold and **six** additional \$25,000 thresholds (\$75K, \$100K, \$125K, \$150K, \$175K, \$200K) in a single day. The 2026-03-24 AZ Petition Partners \$1,050,000 expenditure crossed **forty-two** additional \$25,000 thresholds (\$225K through \$1,250K) in a single day. The 2026-03-25 Marson Media \$7,000 expenditure crossed zero additional thresholds.

23. Total: forty-eight missed Supplemental Reports, bringing the cycle total to forty-nine missed VRKA filings when combined with the missed Initial.

IV. Penalty Considerations

24. Under A.R.S. § 16-976(A), the civil penalty for a VRKA violation is between one and three times the amount of the undisclosed contribution or campaign media spending. Fortify AZ's undisclosed campaign media spending is **\$1,257,000.00**:

	Amount
Statutory minimum (1x undisclosed, A.R.S. § 16-976(A))	\$1,257,000.00
Statutory maximum (3x undisclosed, A.R.S. § 16-976(A))	\$3,771,000.00
1% surcharge to Clean Elections Fund (A.R.S. § 16-976(C); at max)	\$37,710

25. Under A.R.S. § 16-977(C): "In any matter in which the civil penalty for the alleged violation could be greater than \$50,000, any claim or defense by the commission of prosecutorial discretion is not a basis for dismissing or failing to act on the complaint." The minimum civil penalty in this matter (\$1,257,000) exceeds the \$50,000 threshold by more than **twenty-five-fold. Prosecutorial discretion is not available in this matter.**

26. Under A.R.S. § 16-977(B): "If the commission determines that the complaint, if true, states the factual basis for a violation of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this chapter, the commission shall investigate the allegations." The threshold determination is straightforward on the face of this complaint: Fortify AZ's own SOS Schedule E1 documents each triggering disbursement; Fortify AZ's own Schedule C documents the \$1.3 million inflow from AFC; the Commission's own VRKA filings index confirms Fortify AZ has filed nothing. Investigation is therefore mandatory.

V. Statutory Timeline and Demands

I am providing the Commission with the following timeline expectations based on the Commission's own rules:

Action Required	Rule	Deadline
Jurisdictional review and determination	R2-20-809(D)	May 14, 2026
Assign complaint number, confirm receipt	R2-20-809(F)	May 14, 2026
Send respondent copy of complaint	R2-20-810(A)	May 21, 2026
Respondent response deadline	R2-20-810(A)(3)	June 22, 2026 (the next business day after the 30-day count of June 20, a Saturday, per R2-20-802(3))
90-day statutory deadline	A.R.S. § 16-977(C)	August 5, 2026

I request written confirmation of receipt and assignment of a complaint number pursuant to R2-20-809(F) no later than May 14, 2026.

Under A.R.S. § 16-977(C), if the Commission has not taken enforcement action within ninety days after the filing of the complaint, the complainant may bring a civil action to enforce the provisions of the article. The 90-day clock begins May 7, 2026 and runs through **August 5, 2026** — approximately one month after the July 2, 2026 initiative-filing deadline.

VI. Note on Dismissal Authority

The Commission's enforcement framework contains two rules under which the Executive Director can close a complaint without full Commission review. Neither permits dismissal of this complaint on its face.

A.A.C. R2-20-206(A)(3) sits in Article 2 of the Commission's rules. By Article 2's own scope clause, R2-20-201, "These rules provide procedures for processing possible violations of the Citizens Clean Elections Act." Article 2 does not on its face reach Voters' Right to Know Act complaints. Article 8 (R2-20-809 through R2-20-813), governing VRKA complaints, was adopted unanimously in October 2023 specifically because Article 2 did not reach VRKA matters.

A.A.C. R2-20-811(F) does sit in Article 8 and provide that "the Executive Director may dismiss the complaint at any time," including upon completion of an investigation that does not substantiate the allegations. R2-20-811(F) cannot be applied to dismiss the present complaint, for two independent reasons:

1. R2-20-811(F)'s "upon completion of an investigation" language presupposes an investigation having occurred. The rule contemplates dismissal *after* the Executive Director has investigated — not pre-investigation screening on the papers.

2. A.R.S. § 16-977(C) overrides any discretionary dismissal authority in matters where the civil penalty could exceed \$50,000. Discretionary dismissal under R2-20-811(F) is, on its face, an exercise of prosecutorial discretion. Where § 16-977(C)'s prohibition applies — as it does here, because the minimum civil penalty in this matter is \$1,257,000, more than twenty-five-fold the \$50,000 threshold — R2-20-811(F)'s discretionary authority must yield to the statutory prohibition.

This complaint rests entirely on documentary evidence drawn from the Commission's own public-record system: Fortify AZ's own Schedule E1 entries in Fortify AZ's own SOS campaign-finance reports show each triggering expenditure; Fortify AZ's own Schedule C entries show the \$1.3 million inflow from AFC; and the Commission's own VRKA filings index confirms Fortify AZ has filed nothing. There is no factual question to investigate.

VII. Requested Action

I respectfully request that the Commission:

1. Determine that Fortify AZ **violated A.R.S. § 16-973(A)** by failing to file an Initial VRKA Report on or before March 24, 2026, following the crossing of the \$50,000 statewide threshold in the March 17, 2026 payment to AZ Petition Partners;
2. Determine that Fortify AZ **violated A.R.S. § 16-973(B) on forty-eight separate occasions** by failing to file Supplemental VRKA Reports within three days of each \$25,000 cumulative threshold crossed between March 17 and March 25, 2026;
3. Determine that the A.R.S. § 16-973(I) safe harbor does not apply because Fortify AZ's periodic SOS campaign finance reports do not contain the disclosures required by A.R.S. § 16-973(A);
4. Determine that **paid signature-gathering for a proposed statewide ballot initiative is "campaign media spending" under A.R.S. § 16-971(2)(a)(iv) and (a)(vii)**, including for purposes of confirming the §§ 16-971(7) and 16-973(A) covered-person and statewide-threshold determinations;
5. Determine that **a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation that contributes more than \$5,000 of monies to a covered person engaged in campaign media spending is an intermediary or original source whose own donors must be traced and disclosed** under A.R.S. § 16-973(A)(6) and (A)(7);
6. Impose civil penalties under A.R.S. § 16-976(A) of between \$1,257,000 (1x) and \$3,771,000 (3x) the amount of undisclosed campaign media spending, plus the 1% surcharge to the Clean Elections Fund;

7. Require Fortify AZ to file complete retroactive VRKA disclosures — one Initial and forty-eight Supplementals, or equivalent compliant filings — identifying every donor of original monies over \$5,000 with source-tracing through American Federation for Children to its underlying donors, the Campaign Media Spending Manager, traceable-monies on hand at each reporting point, and every disbursement recipient receiving \$10,000 or more, as required by A.R.S. § 16-973(A);
 8. Require American Federation for Children, as the intermediary whose \$1.3 million transfer to Fortify AZ funded the campaign media spending at issue, to disclose **the original sources** of the monies it transferred to Fortify AZ — i.e., AFC's own donors whose contributions were used, in whole or in part, to fund the \$1.3 million transferred to Fortify AZ — under A.R.S. § 16-972 and § 16-973(A)(6);
 9. Apply the factual presumption under A.A.C. R2-20-807 against Fortify AZ to the extent it has failed to maintain records sufficient to allow retroactive compliance;
 10. Confirm that prosecutorial discretion is unavailable in this matter under A.R.S. § 16-977(C). The minimum civil penalty of \$1,257,000 exceeds the \$50,000 threshold by more than twenty-five-fold;
 11. Refer this complaint to the full Commission for a vote — do not dismiss at the staff level under R2-20-206(A)(3) for the reasons set forth in Section VI;
 12. Provide written confirmation of receipt and a complaint number pursuant to R2-20-809(F) no later than May 14, 2026.
-

VIII. Exhibits

- **Exhibit A** — Screenshot of the Commission's VRKA filings index at azsos.gov/elections/campaign-finance/vrka-reporting captured on May 7, 2026, confirming the absence of any VRKA filings by Fortify AZ or American Federation for Children.
- **Exhibit B** — Fortify AZ Schedule C (Income) for the 2026 cycle, on file with the Arizona Secretary of State as part of the periodic report filings of Filer ID 102154, showing two contributions from

American Federation for Children (Washington, DC): \$250,000 on 2026-03-17 and \$1,050,000 on 2026-03-23.

- **Exhibit C** — Fortify AZ Schedule E1 (Operating Expenses) for the 2026 cycle, on file with the Arizona Secretary of State as part of the periodic report filings of Filer ID 102154, showing three disbursements: \$200,000 to AZ Petition Partners on 2026-03-17, \$1,050,000 to AZ Petition Partners on 2026-03-24, and \$7,000 to Marson Media on 2026-03-25 — all categorized as "Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check."
- **Exhibit D** — ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer record for American Federation for Children Inc. (EIN 33-0627955), confirming 501(c)(4) tax status.
- **Exhibit E** — Compilation of public news coverage identifying Fortify AZ as the registered applicant for an Arizona ESA / school-voucher ballot initiative funded by American Federation for Children (KJZZ, AZ Capitol Times, AZ Family, AZ Luminaria, March–May 2026).

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Logvin

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

VERIFICATION

State of Arizona

County of Maricopa

I, Alex Logvin, state that I have read the foregoing complaint and know the contents thereof by personal knowledge derived from direct review of public records — specifically Fortify AZ's campaign finance filings with the Arizona Secretary of State (Filer ID 102154); the Commission's VRKA filings index; ProPublica's publicly available record of American Federation for Children Inc.'s 501(c)(4) tax status; and Arizona news reporting cited herein. No factual allegation rests on unverified second-hand information.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Arizona that the foregoing complaint is true and correct.

Alex Logvin

Date: May 7, 2026

NOTARIZATION

State of Arizona

County of Maricopa

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____

Exhibit A

Screenshot of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission / Arizona Secretary of State
Voters' Right to Know Act (VRKA) filings index at
azsos.gov/elections/campaign-finance/vrka-reporting

Captured May 7, 2026

Showing the most recent VRKA filings of record. The exhibit confirms the absence of any VRKA filings by Fortify AZ (Filer ID 102154) or American Federation for Children. Verified across all eight pages of the public index (programmatic verification, May 7, 2026): no entry on any page matches "Fortify" or "American Federation for Children."



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**NOTICE**

- » **Candidate Portal** will be unavailable for scheduled maintenance the morning of Wednesday, May 6, 2026. (Notice pursuant to A.R.S. § [16-316](#); cf. [16-318](#).)
- » **Business Services** applications, including, but not limited to, Notary, UCC, Trade Name and Trademark, and Partnerships are currently experiencing intermittent service.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

May 25, 2026

Closed for Memorial Day

June 22, 2026Last day to register to vote in the July 21, 2026
Primary Election at 11:59 p.m.**June 24, 2026**

Early voting begins and early ballots mailed

Home / Elections / VRKA Reporting

Voters Right to Know Act (VRKA) Reporting

Voters Right to Know Reporting

The Voters Right to Know Act (VRKA) requires a covered person to file certain disclosures regarding campaign media spending. There are three types of disclosures available to filers. [Initial Report of Campaign Media Spending](#), [Supplemental Report of Campaign Media Spending](#), and [Amended Report of Campaign Media Spending](#).

While a covered person must file with the Office of the Secretary of State, the Citizens Clean Elections Commission has primary enforcement authority under the VRKA.

- » [VRKA Guide](#)

Instructions for Filing

- » Complete the fillable PDF
 - » Be sure to sign and date it
- » Email the completed (signed and dated) form to CampaignFinance@azsos.gov

Completed reports will be posted to this page within 24 hours of receipt

Filed Reports

Depending on your browser/system settings, when clicking on files, you may be asked to download files to your system or it may download automatically to a directory you've

set. This is based on individual browser and user settings.

Filer Name/Title

Search After

Items per page 25

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30 Mar 2026	Arizonans for Responsible Growth	Initial 3.30.2026_Arizonans_for_Responsible_Growth.pdf
20 Mar 2026	Arizonan's for Responsible Growth	Initial 3.20.2026_Arizonans_for_Responsible_Growth_0.pdf
17 Mar 2026	Chispa AZ PAC	Initial 3.17.2026_Chispa_AZ_PAC.pdf
11 Mar 2026	Chispa AZ PAC	Initial 03.11.2026_Chispa_AZ_PAC.pdf
19 Dec 2025	Mi Familia Vota	Initial 12.19.2025_Mi_Familia_Vota.pdf
11 Dec 2025	Win Arizona	Initial 12.11.2025_Win_Arizona_0.pdf
7 Nov 2025	Yes on 409 - Behavioral Health & Emergency Care	Supplemental 11.7.2025_Yes_On_409.pdf
29 Oct 2025	Turning Point PAC - Arizona	Supplemental 10.29.2025_Turning_Point_PAC.pdf
24 Oct 2025	Yes on 409 - Behavioral Health & Emergency Care	Supplemental 10.24.2025_Yes_on_409_0.pdf
10 Oct 2025	Yes on 409 - Behavioral Health & Emergency Care	Supplemental 10.10.2025_Yes_on_409.pdf
3 Oct 2025	Yes on 409 - Behavioral Health & Emergency Care	Supplemental Yes on 409 - Behavioral Health & Emergency Care
26 Sep 2025	Yes on 409 - Behavioral Health & Emergency Care	Supplemental Yes on 409 Sep 26, 2025
19 Sep 2025	Yes On 409 - Behavioral Health & Emergency care	Supplemental 9.19.2025_Yes_On_409_0.pdf
12 Sep 2025	Yes on 409 - Behavioral Health & Emergency Care	Initial 9.12.2025_Yes_On_409.pdf
29 Jul 2025	Turning Point PAC Inc	Initial 7.29.2025_Turning_Point_PAC.pdf
2 Jul 2025	National Association of Realtors Fund	Initial 7.2.2025_National_Assocation_of_Realtors_Fund.pdf
26 Jun 2025	National Association of Realtors Fund	Initial 6.26.2025_National_Realtors_Association_Fund.pdf
23 May 2025	Parks Not Parking Lots	Amended 5.23.2025_Parks_Not_Parking_Lots.pdf
2 May 2025	Parks Not Parking Lots	Initial 5.2.2025_Parks_Not_Parking_Lots_2.pdf

15 Apr 2025	Tucson Metro Chamber PAC	Supplemental  4.15.2025_Tucson_Metro_Chamber_PAC_0.pdf	Chat with us 
11 Mar 2025	Tucson Metro Chamber PAC	Amended  3.11.2025_Tucson_Metro_Chamber_PAC.pdf	
5 Mar 2025	Tucson Metro Chamber PAC	Supplemental  3.5.2025_Tucson_Metro_Chamber_PAC.pdf	
21 Feb 2025	Tucson Metro Chamber PAC	Supplemental  2.21.2025_Tucson_Metro_Chamber_PAC.pdf	
19 Feb 2025	Opportunity Arizona	Amended  2.19.2025_Opportunity_Arizona.pdf	
17 Feb 2025	Tucson Metro Chamber PAC	Amended  2.17.2025_Tucson_Metro_Chamber_PAC_0.pdf	

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- » [SOS Citizen Engagement Manual](#) - English (PDF) 
- » [Signature Verification Guide \(2024\) \(2020\)](#)
- » [Election Complaint Form](#) - English (PDF)
- » [Maricopa County Wait Time Reduction Plan](#) - English (PDF)
- » [Guidance on Polling Place Conduct](#)
- » [Large Print, Accessible Voter Registration Form \(Instructions\)](#) - English (PDF)
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- » [County Recorder Petition Signature Verification Guide 2021](#)
- » [National Mail Voter Registration Form](#) - English (PDF)
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- » [Unofficial Election Night Results Help](#)

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- + What do I need to bring with me on election day?
- + I am experiencing issues registering to vote or updating my voter information on AZMVDNow. How do I proceed?
- + Do I need to put a stamp or extra postage to mail my ballot back?

- + I lost or damaged my ballot-by-mail. How do I get a replacement ballot?
- + I will be out of town during the election. Will USPS forward my ballot-by-mail to my temporary-away address?
- + How do I track my ballot status?
- + Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Contact Elections

Office of the Secretary of State
Elections Division
1700 W Washington St Fl 7
Phoenix AZ 85007-2808

602-542-8683
1-877-THE VOTE

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Exhibit B

Fortify AZ Schedule C (Income) for the 2026 cycle

Captured from the Arizona Secretary of State public-disclosure portal
(seethemoney.az.gov) for Filer ID 102154 on May 5, 2026.

Shows two contributions from American Federation for Children (Washington, DC):

- \$250,000 on 2026-03-17
- \$1,050,000 on 2026-03-23

These two contributions constitute Fortify AZ's entire disclosed income for the 2026 cycle.



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- Vendors

Fortify Az

[Details](#)

Start Year: End Year: Table View:

PAC Income				
				Show 100 entries
Page 1 of 1				
	Date	Received From Name	Amount	Transaction Type
	3/23/2026	American Federation For Children	\$1,050,000.00	Contributions from Corps and LLCs
	3/17/2026	American Federation For Children	\$250,000.00	Contributions from Corps and LLCs
Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries				Page 1 of 1
Export Transactions				

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ADRIAN FONTES
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARIZONA



Exhibit C

Fortify AZ Schedule E1 (Operating Expenses) for the 2026 cycle

Captured from the Arizona Secretary of State public-disclosure portal
(seethemoney.az.gov) for Filer ID 102154 on May 5, 2026.

Shows three disbursements:

- \$200,000 to AZ Petition Partners on 2026-03-17
- \$1,050,000 to AZ Petition Partners on 2026-03-24
- \$7,000 to Marson Media on 2026-03-25

All three disbursements are categorized as 'Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check.'
Schedule E2 (Independent and Ballot Measure Expenditures) is empty for the 2026
cycle.



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- Candidates
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- Organizations
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- Ballot Measures
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- Vendors

Fortify Az

Details

Start Year: 2025 End Year: 2026 Table View: Expenses

PAC Expense				
				Show 100 entries
Page 1 of 1				
	Date	Paid To Name	Amount	Transaction Type
+	3/25/2026	Marson Media	\$7,000.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check
+	3/24/2026	Az Petition Partners	\$1,050,000.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check
+	3/17/2026	Az Petition Partners	\$200,000.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check
Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries				Page 1 of 1
Export Transactions				

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Exhibit D

ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer record for American Federation for Children Inc. (EIN 33-0627955)

Captured from projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/330627955 on May 5, 2026.

Confirms 501(c)(4) tax-exempt social-welfare-organization status. Donations are not tax-deductible. Under federal tax law, a 501(c)(4) is permitted to engage in lobbying and political activity but is not required to publicly disclose its donors -- making the VRKA's original-source tracing requirement (A.R.S. Section 16-973(A)(6)) the only mechanism by which Arizona voters can learn the underlying individual or entity sources whose monies funded the \$1.3 million transferred from AFC to Fortify AZ.

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Nonprofit Explorer

Maryland

Nonprofits

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Donate to ProPublica

American Federation For Children Inc

Columbia, MD • Tax-exempt since May 1996 • EIN: 33-0627955

Subscribe

Receive an email when new data is available for this organization.

Type of Nonprofit

Designated as a 501(c)(4)

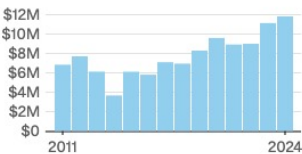
Civic leagues, social welfare organizations and local associations of employees, created to promote community welfare for charitable, educational or recreational purposes.

Category: Educational Institutions and Related Activities / Alliance/Advocacy Organizations (NTEE).

Donations to this organization are not tax deductible.

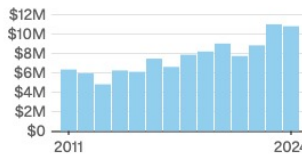
Revenue

\$11.8M (2024)



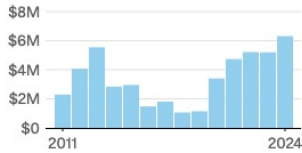
Expenses

\$10.8M (2024)



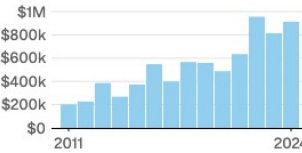
Total Assets

\$6.31M (2024)



Total Liabilities

\$913k (2024)



Source: Form 990 tax filings from 2011 to 2024

Tax Filings by Year

Form 990 is an information return that most organizations claiming federal tax-exempt status must file yearly with the IRS. [Show more](#)

See an issue with the data?

Contact Us

Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2024

Revenue

\$11,825,233

Expenses

\$10,808,906

Net Income

\$1,016,327

Net Assets

\$5,400,212

Notable Sources of Revenue

Percent of Total Revenue

Contributions

\$11,502,035

97.3%

Program Services

\$0

Investment Income

\$213,252

1.8%

Bond Proceeds

\$0

Royalties

\$0

Rental Property Income

\$0

Net Fundraising

\$0

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Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Schedules

XML

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Sales of Assets	\$49,506	0.4%
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$60,440	0.5%

Notable Expenses		Percent of Total Expenses
Executive Compensation	\$1,101,422	10.2%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$94,123	0.9%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$2,099,399	19.4%

Assets/Debt	
Total Assets	\$6,313,490
Total Liabilities	\$913,278
Net Assets	\$5,400,212

Compensation			
Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Thomas Schultz (Chief Executive Officer)	\$383,293	\$0	\$44,649
Elisa Clements Linde (Chief Operating Officer)	\$350,522	\$0	\$17,600
Ryan Cantrell (Vp Government Affairs)	\$316,320	\$0	\$51,974

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US WITH NO MONEY TO BUY MEALS.

Daniel, California

HUNGER IS
A STORY WE
CAN END.

END IT

Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2023

Revenue	\$11,135,289	
----------------	---------------------	--

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$11,010,965	\$124,324	\$4,383,885

Notable Sources of Revenue		Percent of Total Revenue
Contributions	\$11,079,560	99.5%
Program Services	\$0	
Investment Income	\$83,716	0.8%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	-\$40,420	

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Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$12,433	0.1%
Notable Expenses		
Executive Compensation	\$1,057,681	■ 9.6%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$177,543	1.6%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,671,731	■ 15.2%
Assets/Debt		
Total Assets	\$5,198,587	
Total Liabilities	\$814,702	
Net Assets	\$4,383,885	

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Thomas Schultz (Chief Executive Officer)	\$404,096	\$0	\$32,333
Mark Z Dawes (Special Advisor)	\$352,472	\$0	\$53,240
Elisa Clements (Chief Operating Officer)	\$331,094	\$0	\$24,870

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2022

Revenue	\$8,995,479	
Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$8,835,736	\$159,743	\$4,259,561
Notable Sources of Revenue		Percent of Total Revenue
Contributions	\$8,904,961	■ 99.0%
Program Services	\$22,209	0.2%
Investment Income	\$23,722	0.3%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	\$4,881	0.1%
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$39,706	0.4%
Notable Expenses		Percent of Total Expenses
Executive Compensation	\$938,037	■ 10.6%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$0	
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,480,900	■ 16.8%
Assets/Debt		
Total Assets	\$5,215,670	
Total Liabilities	\$956,109	
Net Assets	\$4,259,561	

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
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Filed on Nov. 15, 2023

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Thomas Schultz (Chief Executive Officer)	\$343,560	\$0	\$18,921
Mark Z Dawes (National Director Of Development)	\$271,570	\$0	\$50,267
Jennifer Miller (Cfo/Treasurer)	\$237,871	\$0	\$46,032

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2021

Revenue **\$8,920,295**

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$7,734,161	\$1,186,134	\$4,099,818

Notable Sources of Revenue	Percent of Total Revenue	
Contributions	\$8,835,988	99.1%
Program Services	\$71,455	0.8%
Investment Income	\$488	0.0%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	-\$10,046	
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$22,410	0.3%

Notable Expenses	Percent of Total Expenses	
Executive Compensation	\$633,087	8.2%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$0	
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,890,969	24.4%

Assets/Debt	
Total Assets	\$4,734,302
Total Liabilities	\$634,484
Net Assets	\$4,099,818

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Thomas Schultz (Chief Executive Officer)	\$355,403	\$0	\$14,881
John Schilling (President (Thru 05/31/21))	\$275,674	\$57,750	\$12,147
Mark Z Dawes (National Director Of Development)	\$247,199	\$0	\$45,194

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Filed on Nov. 14, 2022

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2020**Revenue****\$9,596,806**

Expenses

\$9,018,429

Net Income

\$578,377

Net Assets

\$2,913,684**Notable Sources of Revenue****Percent of Total Revenue**

Contributions	\$9,507,100	99.1%
Program Services	\$0	
Investment Income	\$523	0.0%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	\$1,147	0.0%
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$88,036	0.9%

Notable Expenses**Percent of Total Expenses**

Executive Compensation	\$520,361	5.8%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$0	
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,703,827	18.9%

Assets/Debt

Total Assets	\$3,401,526
Total Liabilities	\$487,842
Net Assets	\$2,913,684

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
John Schilling (President)	\$320,706	\$0	\$32,559
Gregory Brock (Chief Executive Officer)	\$318,504	\$0	\$23,545
Mark Z Dawes (National Director Of Development)	\$290,377	\$0	\$45,702

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Filed on Nov. 15, 2021

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2019**Revenue****\$8,291,908**

Expenses

\$8,200,886

Net Income

\$91,022

Net Assets

\$585,307**Notable Sources of Revenue****Percent of Total Revenue**

Contributions	\$8,190,792	98.8%
Program Services	\$77,172	0.9%
Investment Income	\$18,857	0.2%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	-\$6,618	

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Filed on Nov. 17, 2020

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$11,705	0.1%
Notable Expenses		
Executive Compensation	\$452,560	5.5%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$12,000	0.1%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,508,778	18.4%
Assets/Debt		
Total Assets	\$1,144,408	
Total Liabilities	\$559,101	
Net Assets	\$585,307	

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
John Schilling (President)	\$278,434	\$0	\$30,178
Gregory Brook (Chief Executive Officer)	\$275,769	\$0	\$19,570
Mark Z Dawes (National Dir. Of Developmet)	\$238,529	\$0	\$39,367

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2018

Revenue	\$6,951,175	
Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$7,869,420	-\$918,245	\$494,285
Notable Sources of Revenue		Percent of Total Revenue
Contributions	\$6,848,807	98.5%
Program Services	\$74,078	1.1%
Investment Income	\$17,649	0.3%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	-\$1,742	
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$12,383	0.2%
Notable Expenses		Percent of Total Expenses
Executive Compensation	\$459,473	5.8%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$79,500	1.0%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,403,945	17.8%
Assets/Debt		
Total Assets	\$1,061,119	
Total Liabilities	\$566,834	
Net Assets	\$494,285	

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
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Filed on Nov. 15, 2019

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Gregory Brock (Chief Executive Officer)	\$266,273	\$0	\$18,533
John Schilling (President)	\$261,760	\$0	\$26,609
Mark Z Dawes (National Dir. Of Development)	\$208,386	\$0	\$34,608
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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2017

Revenue \$7,097,178

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$6,611,234	\$485,944	\$1,412,530

Notable Sources of Revenue		Percent of Total Revenue
Contributions	\$6,978,586	98.3%
Program Services	\$103,922	1.5%
Investment Income	\$3,603	0.1%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	\$1,311	0.0%
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$9,756	0.1%

Notable Expenses		Percent of Total Expenses
Executive Compensation	\$435,460	6.6%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$0	
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,122,198	17.0%

Assets/Debt	
Total Assets	\$1,812,846
Total Liabilities	\$400,316
Net Assets	\$1,412,530

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
John Schilling (Chief Operating Officer)	\$234,272	\$0	\$20,247
Gregory Brock (Executive Director)	\$230,573	\$0	\$15,287
Mark Z Dawes (National Director Of Development)	\$227,903	\$0	\$29,861

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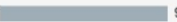
[XML](#)

Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2016**Revenue \$5,809,967**

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$7,464,192	-\$1,654,225	\$926,586

Notable Sources of Revenue**Percent of Total Revenue**

Contributions	\$5,706,067	 98.2%
Program Services	\$100,283	1.7%
Investment Income	\$141	0.0%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	-\$6,212	
Sales of Assets	-\$389	
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$10,077	0.2%

Notable Expenses**Percent of Total Expenses**

Executive Compensation	\$443,613	 5.9%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$99,750	1.3%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,158,777	 15.5%

Assets/Debt

Total Assets	\$1,475,129
Total Liabilities	\$548,543
Net Assets	\$926,586

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
John Schilling (Chief Operating Officer)	\$238,245	\$0	\$25,536
Gregory Brock (Executive Director)	\$231,168	\$0	\$14,632
Mark Z Dawes (Director Of Development)	\$168,682	\$0	\$27,166

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Filed on Nov. 15, 2017

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

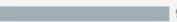
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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2015**Revenue \$6,114,353**

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$6,105,796	\$8,557	\$2,580,811

Notable Sources of Revenue**Percent of Total Revenue**

Contributions	\$6,054,663	 99.0%
Program Services	\$73,025	1.2%
Investment Income	\$53	0.0%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	-\$22,144	
Sales of Assets	\$0	
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	

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Filed on Nov. 13, 2016

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Other Revenue	\$8,756	0.1%
---------------	---------	------

Notable Expenses	Percent of Total Expenses	
Executive Compensation	\$233,088	3.8%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$13,750	0.2%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,213,408	19.9%

Assets/Debt	
Total Assets	\$2,954,134
Total Liabilities	\$373,323
Net Assets	\$2,580,811

Compensation			
Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Kevin P Chavous (Executive Counsel)	\$387,400	\$0	\$25,085
John Schilling (Chief Operating Officer)	\$223,757	\$0	\$20,717
Mark Z Dawes (Director Of Development)	\$219,786	\$0	\$26,410
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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2014

Revenue	\$3,664,953	
----------------	--------------------	--

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$6,247,366	-\$2,582,413	\$2,572,254

Notable Sources of Revenue	Percent of Total Revenue	
Contributions	\$3,575,691	97.6%
Program Services	\$79,450	2.2%
Investment Income	\$193	0.0%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	-\$528	
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$10,147	0.3%

Notable Expenses	Percent of Total Expenses	
Executive Compensation	\$231,540	3.7%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$95,000	1.5%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,188,958	19.0%

Assets/Debt	
Total Assets	\$2,841,150
Total Liabilities	\$268,896

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Filed on Nov. 13, 2015

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Net Assets	\$2,572,254
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Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Kevin P Chavous (External Counsel)	\$390,624	\$0	\$20,678
John Schilling (Chief Operating Officer)	\$218,423	\$0	\$20,493
Gregory Brock (Executive Director)	\$209,015	\$0	\$11,728

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2013

Revenue	\$6,126,381
---------	-------------

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$4,817,968	\$1,308,413	\$5,154,667

Notable Sources of Revenue	Percent of Total Revenue
Contributions	\$6,045,106 98.7%
Program Services	\$70,200 1.1%
Investment Income	\$199 0.0%
Bond Proceeds	\$0
Royalties	\$0
Rental Property Income	\$0
Net Fundraising	\$0
Sales of Assets	-\$52
Net Inventory Sales	\$0
Other Revenue	\$10,928 0.2%

Notable Expenses	Percent of Total Expenses
Executive Compensation	\$211,442 4.4%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$32,050 0.7%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$956,204 19.8%

Assets/Debt

Total Assets	\$5,541,053
Total Liabilities	\$386,386
Net Assets	\$5,154,667

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Kevin P Chavous (External Counsel)	\$374,962	\$0	\$18,990
Mark Z Dawes (Director Of Development)	\$209,297	\$0	\$22,114
John Schilling (Chief Operating Officer)	\$206,326	\$0	\$19,006

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

DD REPUBLICA



American Federation For Children Inc

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Type of Nonprofit

Designated as a 501(c)(4)

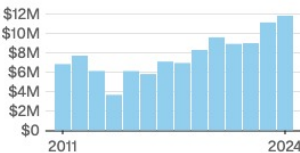
Civic leagues, social welfare organizations and local associations of employees, created to promote community welfare for charitable, educational or recreational purposes.

Category: Educational Institutions and Related Activities / Alliance/Advocacy Organizations (NTEE).

Donations to this organization are not tax deductible.

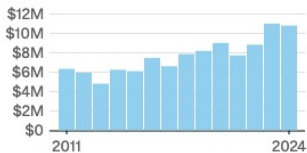
Revenue

\$11.8M (2024)



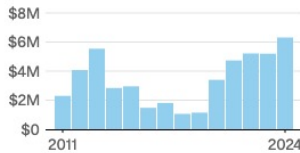
Expenses

\$10.8M (2024)



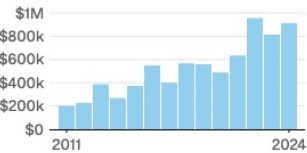
Total Assets

\$6.31M (2024)



Total Liabilities

\$913k (2024)



Source: Form 990 tax filings from 2011 to 2024

Tax Filings by Year

Form 990 is an information return that most organizations claiming federal tax-exempt status must file yearly with the IRS. [Show more](#)

See an issue with the data?

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2024

Revenue

\$11,825,233

Expenses

\$10,808,906

Net Income

\$1,016,327

Net Assets

\$5,400,212

Notable Sources of Revenue

Percent of Total Revenue

Contributions	\$11,502,035	97.3%
Program Services	\$0	
Investment Income	\$213,252	1.8%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	\$49,506	0.4%

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Filed on Sept. 22, 2025

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$60,440	0.5%
Notable Expenses		
		Percent of Total Expenses
Executive Compensation	\$1,101,422	10.2%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$94,123	0.9%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$2,099,399	19.4%
Assets/Debt		
Total Assets	\$6,313,490	
Total Liabilities	\$913,278	
Net Assets	\$5,400,212	

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Thomas Schultz (Chief Executive Officer)	\$383,293	\$0	\$44,649
Elisa Clements Linde (Chief Operating Officer)	\$350,522	\$0	\$17,600
Ryan Cantrell (Vp Government Affairs)	\$316,320	\$0	\$51,974

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2023

Revenue	\$11,135,289	
Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$11,010,965	\$124,324	\$4,383,885
Notable Sources of Revenue		
		Percent of Total Revenue
Contributions	\$11,079,560	99.5%
Program Services	\$0	
Investment Income	\$83,716	0.8%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	-\$40,420	
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	

990

Filed on Nov. 4, 2024

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Other Revenue	\$12,433	0.1%
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Notable Expenses	Percent of Total Expenses	
Executive Compensation	\$1,057,681	9.6%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$177,543	1.6%
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,671,731	15.2%

Assets/Debt	
Total Assets	\$5,198,587
Total Liabilities	\$814,702
Net Assets	\$4,383,885

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Thomas Schultz (Chief Executive Officer)	\$404,096	\$0	\$32,333
Mark Z Dawes (Special Advisor)	\$352,472	\$0	\$53,240
Elisa Clements (Chief Operating Officer)	\$331,094	\$0	\$24,870

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2022

Revenue	\$8,995,479	
----------------	--------------------	--

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$8,835,736	\$159,743	\$4,259,561

Notable Sources of Revenue	Percent of Total Revenue	
Contributions	\$8,904,961	99.0%
Program Services	\$22,209	0.2%
Investment Income	\$23,722	0.3%
Bond Proceeds	\$0	
Royalties	\$0	
Rental Property Income	\$0	
Net Fundraising	\$0	
Sales of Assets	\$4,881	0.1%
Net Inventory Sales	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$39,706	0.4%

Notable Expenses	Percent of Total Expenses	
Executive Compensation	\$938,037	10.6%
Professional Fundraising Fees	\$0	
Other Salaries and Wages	\$1,480,900	16.8%

Assets/Debt	
Total Assets	\$5,215,670
Total Liabilities	\$956,109
Net Assets	\$4,259,561

Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Thomas Schultz (Chief Executive Officer)	\$343,560	\$0	\$18,921

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Filed on Nov. 15, 2023

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Mark Z Dawes (National Director Of Development)	\$271,570	\$0	\$50,267
Jennifer Miller (Cfo/Treasurer)	\$237,871	\$0	\$46,032

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Fiscal Year Ending Dec.

2021

Revenue	\$8,920,295	
Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$7,734,161	\$1,186,134	\$4,099,818
Notable Sources of Revenue		Percent of Total Revenue
Contributions	\$8,835,988	99.1%
Program Services	\$71,455	0.8%

990

Filed on Nov. 14, 2022

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Exhibit E

Compilation of public news coverage identifying Fortify AZ as the registered applicant for an Arizona ESA / school-voucher ballot initiative funded by American Federation for Children.

Sources: KJZZ Phoenix, Arizona Capitol Times, Arizona Family / CBS 5, Arizona Luminaria. March - May 2026.

Exhibit E

Exhibit E: News Coverage Compilation

Public reporting identifying Fortify AZ as funded by American Federation for Children for an Arizona ESA / school-voucher ballot initiative

This exhibit compiles independent news coverage published in March, April, and May 2026 documenting (a) Fortify AZ's role as the registered applicant for an Arizona statewide ESA / school-voucher ballot initiative being circulated for the November 2026 General Election ballot, and (b) Fortify AZ's funding source: American Federation for Children. Each item below identifies the publication, publication date, URL, and a verbatim excerpt from the article relevant to the funding chain at issue in this complaint.

1. KJZZ - "Groups spend millions to shape Arizona school voucher reform"

Published: April 20, 2026

Outlet: KJZZ Phoenix (NPR member station)

URL:

<https://www.kjzz.org/politics/2026-04-20/groups-spend-millions-to-shape-arizona-school-voucher-reform>

KJZZ reported on the dueling 2026 ESA reform initiatives and identified Fortify AZ as the entity behind one of the two competing initiatives, with American Federation for Children supplying the funding.

2. Arizona Capitol Times - "Dueling ballot proposals compete to reform Arizona's ESA program"

Published: March 20, 2026

Outlet: Arizona Capitol Times

URL:

<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2026/03/20/dueling-ballot-proposals-compete-to-reform-arizona-es-a-program/>

Arizona Capitol Times reported on the two competing ballot initiatives related to the state's Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program. The article identifies Fortify AZ as one of the two initiative committees and identifies American Federation for Children as Fortify AZ's funder.

3. Arizona Family (CBS 5 / 3TV) - "Arizona school voucher ballot measures spark confusion claims"

Published: March 25, 2026

Outlet: Arizona's Family (CBS 5 / 3TV broadcast network)

URL:

<https://www.azfamily.com/2026/03/25/arizona-school-voucher-ballot-measures-spark-confusion-claims/>

The Arizona Family broadcast report covered the two ESA reform ballot initiatives circulating concurrently in 2026 and identified Fortify AZ as the entity sponsoring the initiative funded by American Federation for Children.

4. Arizona Luminaria - "Competing ESA reform propositions seek ballot spots, sow confusion"

Published: May 1, 2026

Outlet: Arizona Luminaria (independent newsroom)

URL:

<https://azluminaria.org/2026/05/01/competing-esa-reform-propositions-seek-ballot-spots-sow-confusion/>

The Arizona Luminaria reported on both ESA reform initiatives circulating petitions in spring 2026 and identified Fortify AZ as one of the two initiative committees, funded by American Federation for Children.

5. KJZZ - "Arizona school voucher reform campaign accuses rival effort of obstruction, misinformation"

Published: April 30, 2026

Outlet: KJZZ Phoenix

URL:

<https://www.kjzz.org/politics/2026-04-30/arizona-school-voucher-reform-campaign-accuses-rival-effort-of-obstruction-misinformation>

The KJZZ April 30 follow-up reporting on the dueling ESA initiatives further identifies Fortify AZ and American Federation for Children as the entities behind one of the two initiatives.

Summary

The above five contemporaneous, independently-published news reports - appearing in NPR-affiliated public radio (KJZZ), the daily-of-record for the Arizona legislature (Arizona Capitol Times), a major broadcast network affiliate (Arizona Family/CBS 5), and an independent investigative newsroom (Arizona Luminaria) - uniformly and consistently identify Fortify AZ as (a) the registered applicant for an Arizona statewide ESA / school-voucher ballot initiative for the November 2026 General Election ballot, and (b) funded by American Federation for Children. The funding-source identification is consistent across all five outlets and consistent with Fortify AZ's own disclosed Schedule C income on file with the Arizona

Secretary of State (Filer ID 102154), reproduced as Exhibit B of this complaint, which shows two contributions totaling \$1,300,000 from American Federation for Children (Washington, DC) on March 17 and March 23, 2026.

The news coverage establishes that the existence of Fortify AZ, its purpose (qualifying an ESA ballot initiative for the November 2026 statewide ballot), and its single funding source (American Federation for Children) are all public knowledge - and that the underlying donor-disclosure question that the Voters' Right to Know Act is designed to answer is not merely an academic question but a live public-information matter.

June 12, 2026

Thomas Collins
Executive Director, Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 250
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
ccec@azcleelections.gov
VIA EMAIL ONLY

Re: MUR 26-04: Response to Complaint

Dear Mr. Collins:

This firm represents Fortify AZ (committee ID 102154), a political action committee registered with the Secretary of State, in connection with the above-referenced complaint, which alleges that Fortify AZ is a “covered person” within the meaning of A.R.S. § 16-971(7). The complainant could have saved himself much ink—and the Commission and Fortify AZ much time—if he had reviewed the Commission’s Advisory Opinion 2023-01 before churning out his prolix product. The disbursements upon which the complaint is premised—to wit, costs associated with the printing and circulation of initiative petitions—are not “campaign media spending.” If those expenses are properly excluded, there inarguably is no evidence that Fortify AZ has sponsored more than \$50,000 in campaign media spending during this election cycle.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Fortify AZ is the sponsor of the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Reform and Accountability Act, which the Secretary of State has assigned the serial number I-10-2026 (the “Initiative”). As the complaint recounts, Fortify AZ’s Q1 2026 campaign finance report, which was timely filed with the Secretary of State, disclosed three disbursements: (1) two payments to AZ Petition Partners, totaling \$1,250,000; and (2) one payment to Marson Media for \$7,000.

Fortify AZ has engaged AZ Petition Partners to obtain petition signatures in support of the Initiative. The above-referenced disbursements represent remuneration to AZ Petition Partners for strategic advice on ballot access and for the printing and circulation of petition sheets (to include compensation paid to AZ Petition Partners’ circulator subcontractors). AZ Petition Partners has not provided or participated in any way in the development or formulation of “public communications,” such as mailers, digital advertising, TV or radio advertising, etc., in connection with the Initiative.

The disbursement to Marson Media represents a retainer for public relations and media consulting advice. These services did not pertain specifically or solely to public communications that promote, attack, support, or oppose any identified ballot measure.

DISCUSSION

An entity becomes a “covered person” when its total “campaign media spending” for the election cycle exceeds \$50,000 in connection with statewide ballot measure campaigns. A.R.S. § 16-971(7). “Campaign media spending” is defined, in relevant part, as disbursements for “a public communication that promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes the qualification or approval of any state or local initiative or referendum.” *Id.* § 16-971(2)(iv). A “public communication” is “a paid communication to the public by means of broadcast, cable, satellite, internet or another digital method, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mass mailing or another mass distribution, telephone bank or any other form of general public political advertising or marketing, regardless of medium.” *Id.* § 16-971(17).

A. Disbursements to AZ Petition Partners

Fortify AZ’s payments to AZ Petition Partners were entirely unrelated to any “public communication,” and thus are not “campaign media spending.” The Commission expressly held in Advisory Opinion 2023-01 that “[e]xpenses related only to the collection of ballot measure petition signatures,” including the printing of petition sheets, the recruitment and training of circulators, circulators’ wages, and quality control processes, do not themselves constitute “campaign media spending.”¹

AZ Petition Partners’ services fall squarely within this ambit. As noted above, Fortify AZ’s disbursements to AZ Petition Partners represent compensation for advice on ballot access matters, developing and implementing a strategic plan to qualify the Initiative for the ballot, and out-of-pocket costs associated with those objectives, such as the printing of petition sheets and wages paid to petition circulators. None of these services and activities either constitutes or pertains to “public communications,” as defined in A.R.S. § 16-971(17) and Advisory Opinion 2023-01. It follows that the associated expenditures do not qualify as “campaign media spending” under A.R.S. § 16-971(2)(iv).

Because the disbursements to AZ Petition Partners are “indistinguishable in all [their] material aspects from the transaction or activity” upon which Advisory Opinion 2023-01 was predicated, Fortify AZ is entitled to rely upon that pronouncement as an absolute defense to this enforcement proceeding. Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-208(C)(3). And even if the Commission were inclined to abrogate or materially narrow Advisory Opinion 2023-01, foundational due process principles of fair notice would prohibit the retroactive application of any such change in the Commission’s regulatory position. *See Fed. Commc’ns. Comm’n. v. Fox Television Stations, Inc.*, 567 U.S. 239, 253 (2012) (recognizing in the context of administrative agency enforcement actions “two connected but discrete due process concerns: first, that regulated parties should know what is required of them so they may act accordingly; second, precision and guidance are necessary so that those enforcing the law do not act in an arbitrary or discriminatory way.”).

¹ The Commission’s rationale—*i.e.*, that canvassing and face-to-face advocacy activities are fundamentally different from the types of mass media efforts encapsulated in the definition of “public communication”—was subsequently buttressed by an advisory opinion of the Federal Election Commission, which likewise concluded that field activities are not “public communications” under the cognate federal statute. *See* FEC Adv. Op. 2024-01 (Texas Majority PAC).

B. Disbursement to Marson Media

According to the Commission’s regulations, amounts expended for consulting services constitute campaign media spending only if such services “are specifically conducted in preparation for or in conjunction with” activities that are themselves campaign media spending. Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-801(B); *see also* CCEC Adv. Op. 2024-01.

Marson Media provides Fortify AZ with wide-ranging and multifaceted strategic advice on media relations. To date, Marson Media’s services have not been “specifically conducted in preparation for or in conjunction with” public communications that promote, attack, support, or oppose the qualification or passage of any identified ballot measure. Accordingly, Fortify AZ’s payment of a retainer to Marson Media was not “campaign media spending.” And even if it were, that \$7,000 disbursement does not even remotely approach the \$50,000 “campaign media spending” threshold that is a condition precedent to “covered person” status.

For these reasons, Fortify AZ is not a “covered person,” and the complaint’s associated allegations of ostensible disclosure violations—all of which are contingent upon and derivative of “covered person” status, *see* A.R.S. § 16-973—are inviable. The Commission accordingly should dismiss the complaint without further action. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

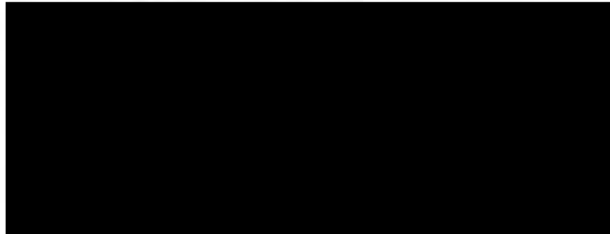
Respectfully,

/s/ Thomas Basile

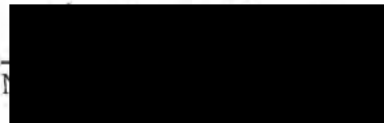
Thomas Basile

State of Arizona)
) ss.
County of Maricopa)

I, Grant Hanna, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that I have read the foregoing response to the complaint in MUR 26-04, and the factual statements and representations contained therein are true and correct.



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of June, 2026.



#679645

My Commission Expires:

January 30, 2029

Thomas M. Collins
Executive Director



**State of Arizona
Citizens Clean Elections Commission**

1110 W. Washington - Suite 250 - Phoenix, Arizona 85007 - Tel (602) 364-3477 - Fax (602) 364-3487 - www.azcleanelections.gov

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT AND RESPONSE OPPORTUNITY

Via E-Mail

September 22, 2026

Austin T. Marshall
Jillian Andrews
Herrera & Arellano LLP
1001 North Central Avenue, Suite 404
Phoenix, AZ 85004

RE: CCEC MUR No. 26-05 Arizona Values Fund

Dear Mr. Marshall & Ms. Andrews:

I am writing to notify you that I have dismissed this Complaint pursuant to Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-206(A)(3).

Complaint

The Complaint alleged that Arizona Values Fund (“AVF”) violated the Citizens Clean Elections Act, specifically A.R.S. § 16-958(B), by failing to file an independent expenditure trigger report for a campaign mailer advocating for a candidate in Legislative District 8 during the 2026 primary election period. The Complainant requested that the Commission find reason to believe a violation occurred, order AVF to file the delinquent report, assess civil penalties, and determine whether AVF crossed the threshold to become a "covered person" under the Voters' Right to Know Act. Exhibit 1.

Response

Respondents submitted a verified response explaining that due to a calendaring error, AVF inadvertently missed the initial filing deadline for the independent expenditure trigger report. Upon discovering the oversight, Respondents contacted the Arizona Secretary of State's Office to submit the late trigger report but were advised that the electronic filing system (Beacon) lacks the technological capability to accept late independent expenditure trigger reports after the due date. Exhibit 2.

Respondents further noted that they filed their 2026 May Post-Election (Q2) PAC report, which fully disclosed the income, donor sources, and independent expenditures in question.

Respondents argued that because the required disclosures are now fully available to the public, AVF has substantially complied with statutory requirements, and strict compliance should be excused due to system limitations.

Additional information

Clean Elections Staff reviewed the record and verified the operational mechanics of the electronic campaign finance system with the Arizona Secretary of State's Office.

The Chief Legal Officer for the Secretary of State's Office confirmed that trigger reports are automatically generated by the filing system when an independent expenditure meeting the statutory threshold is entered. However, transactions must be entered the day *before* the report is due for the expenditure to populate on the daily trigger report. If transactions are entered on the day the report is due, or after, the system cannot retroactively generate the daily trigger report. Exhibit 3.

Conclusion

Under Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-206(A)(3), the Executive Director may close a complaint-generated matter without a "reason to believe" recommendation based upon the Respondent complying with the statute or rule on which the complaint is founded.

Because the underlying independent expenditure activity was subsequently disclosed on AVF's 2026 May Post-Election report, all expenditure amounts and donor information required under the Voters' Right to Know Act and the Clean Elections Act have been fully made accessible to the public.

AVF has cured the reporting omission, as much as possible, through its Q2 filing. Strict technical filing of the late trigger report was rendered impossible by system limitations.

Accordingly, the Complaint is dismissed pursuant to Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-206(A)(3).

Thank you for your response. This letter, along with the Complaint and Response, will be made available to the Commission as part of the Executive Director's Report at the next regular Commission meeting.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Collins
Executive Director
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

cc: Alex Logvin, Complainant

Exhibit 1

VERIFIED COMPLAINT UNDER THE CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS ACT

A.R.S. Title 16, Chapter 6, Article 2 (Citizens Clean Elections Act)

July 2, 2026

Via Email (ccec@azcleanelections.gov)

Thomas M. Collins

Executive Director

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

1110 West Washington Street, Suite 250

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Director Collins:

I am a qualified Arizona voter registered in Maricopa County. I submit this verified complaint under A.R.S. § 16-957 against **Arizona Values Fund** ("AVF"), a political action committee registered with the Arizona Secretary of State (Committee ID 102056), and request that the Commission find reason to believe a violation has occurred and proceed under A.R.S. § 16-957(A).

On or before **June 24, 2026**, AVF paid for and mailed a four-page, full-color campaign mailer to households in **Legislative District 8** supporting **Deborah Nardoizzi**, a candidate in the July 21, 2026 Democratic primary for the Arizona State Senate. The mailer carries AVF's own disclaimer, printed in capital letters: "**PAID FOR BY ARIZONA VALUES FUND. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR ANY CANDIDATE'S AGENT. TOP DONORS AZ ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PROTECTING THE DREAM FUND, ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE, GPL COMMITTEE FOR ARIZONA LEADERSHIP.**" By that disclaimer, AVF itself represents the mailer to be an independent expenditure by an independent committee.

Against that spending, AVF has disclosed **nothing**. It has filed no independent-expenditure report of any kind for this election. Each of its four periodic reports reports "NO ACTIVITY THIS PERIOD" and a \$0.00 balance, the most recent being its 2026 May Pre-Election report (Report ID 385223, filed May 3, 2026). And unlike the independent-expenditure

committees that filed "CCEC Primary Tuesday Trigger" reports for the June 22–28, 2026 period, AVF filed **no such report** — for the very period during which its mailer reached voters.

This complaint identifies a discrete violation of **A.R.S. § 16-958** (Citizens Clean Elections Act). It is time-sensitive: the undisclosed spending advocates a candidate's election during the early-voting period of an election now weeks away, and AVF's non-filing conceals from LD8 voters both the amount of the spending and the sources funding it. This is a Clean Elections Act reporting matter and therefore within the Commission's jurisdiction; the Secretary of State's enforcement authority under A.R.S. § 16-938(A) does not extend to Article 2.

I. The Respondent and the Expenditure

1. I, [REDACTED], am a qualified voter registered in Maricopa County, Arizona. Documentary evidence of my identity as a registered Arizona voter is available on request. A.R.S. § 16-956(A)(7) contemplates "external complaint[s]" such as this one.

2. Based on direct review of public records: Arizona Values Fund is a political action committee registered with the Arizona Secretary of State under Committee ID 102056. Its treasurer of record is **Joseph Wolf** (email jw@fillmorestrategy.com); its address of record is 5343 E Avalon Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85018. These committee-identity facts appear on the face of each of AVF's filed reports (Exhibit A).

3. Based on direct review of AVF's filings (Exhibit A): AVF has filed four periodic reports, each reporting "NO ACTIVITY THIS PERIOD," \$0.00 in cumulative income and expenditures, and a \$0.00 cash balance: (i) 2025 November Post-Election (Q4) (Report ID 315231, filed January 2, 2026); (ii) 2026 March Pre-Election (filed February 26, 2026); (iii) 2026 March Post-Election (Q1) (filed April 10, 2026); and (iv) 2026 May Pre-Election (Report ID 385223, filed May 3, 2026, covering April 1 – May 2, 2026). The May Pre-Election report is AVF's most recent filing of any kind; AVF has filed no report of any kind since May 3, 2026.

4. Based on direct review of the mailer (Exhibit B) and its listing on Campaign Detective (Exhibit C): Beginning on or before June 24, 2026, AVF paid for and disseminated by U.S. mail a four-page, full-color campaign mailer to households in Legislative District 8 supporting Deborah Nardozi's candidacy for the Arizona State Senate. The mailer identifies Nardozi by name and image, styles her "DEMOCRAT FOR STATE SENATE," states that "Now, Deborah is running for State Senate to fight for" a list of policy priorities (Affordable Childcare, Homes For People, Fully Funded Public Schools), and displays a grid of organizational, labor, and individual endorsements. Campaign Detective, which identifies the sponsor as Arizona Values Fund and the beneficiary as Deborah Nardozi for Arizona State Senate (LD8), documents the mailer as received on **June 24, 2026**.

5. Based on direct review of the mailer's disclaimer: The mailer states, in capital letters, "PAID FOR BY ARIZONA VALUES FUND. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR ANY CANDIDATE'S AGENT. TOP DONORS AZ ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PROTECTING THE DREAM FUND, ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE, GPL COMMITTEE FOR ARIZONA LEADERSHIP." By that disclaimer, AVF (a) identifies itself as the payer, (b) asserts that the communication was made independently of and without authorization by any candidate, and (c) names its major donors — the form and substance of an independent-expenditure communication by an independent committee.

6. The mailer is an independent expenditure related to the Legislative District 8 State Senate office. It advocates the election of a clearly identified candidate for that office, is a public communication paid for by a non-candidate committee, and — by its own disclaimer — was not authorized by any candidate. AVF's own characterization forecloses any contention that the communication is something other than an independent expenditure; if it were instead coordinated with the candidate, it would be a reportable contribution, and either way it is reportable.

7. The expenditure exceeds the reporting threshold of A.R.S. § 16-941(D) by a wide margin. A four-page, full-color mailer produced and mailed to households across a legislative district necessarily costs far more than the \$500-per-office threshold that triggers independent-expenditure reporting. The precise amount is not yet public — for the simple reason that AVF has not filed the report that would disclose it — but a district-wide four-page mail piece of this kind is reasonably estimated in the range of \$12,000 to \$15,000. The reporting obligation attaches at \$500.

II. Violation of the Citizens Clean Elections Act

Violation 1 — Failure to File an Independent-Expenditure Trigger Report (A.R.S. § 16-958)

8. A.R.S. § 16-941(D) provides that "any person who makes independent expenditures related to a particular office cumulatively exceeding five hundred dollars in an election cycle ... shall file reports with the secretary of state in accordance with section 16-958 ... identifying the office and the candidate or group of candidates whose election or defeat is being advocated and stating whether the person is advocating election or advocating defeat."

9. A.R.S. § 16-958(B) sets the cadence for those reports. During the **primary election period** — defined by A.R.S. § 16-961(B)(4) as "the nine-week period ending on the day of the primary election" — § 16-958(B)(2) requires the person to file a report "on any Tuesday by which the person has reached the dollar amount for filing an original or supplemental report." For the July 21, 2026 primary, the nine-week primary election period began on or about **May 19, 2026**; the June 2026 spending at issue falls squarely within it.

10. AVF's mailer supporting Nardozzi for the LD8 State Senate office exceeded the \$500-per-office threshold and was received by voters on or before June 24, 2026 — within the June 22–28, 2026 reporting period. Under § 16-958(B)(2), AVF was therefore required to file an original independent-expenditure report no later than **Tuesday, June 30, 2026**,

identifying the office (LD8 State Senate), the candidate (Deborah Nardozi), and that it was advocating her election. **AVF filed no such report — and, in fact, no report of any kind.**

11. That AVF's June 30 deadline was live is confirmed by the conduct of every comparable committee. **On June 30, 2026, the independent-expenditure committees active in the 2026 primary filed their "CCEC Primary Tuesday Trigger" reports for the June 22–28, 2026 period (Exhibit D)** — among them Responsible Leadership for AZ, the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona, the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Arizona Chamber – Moving Arizona Forward PAC, the Arizona Multihousing Association, Restore Order Arizona, House Victory Fund, and Arizonans for Election Integrity. Each of those committees filed a Primary Tuesday Trigger report for the June 22–28 period; AVF — whose own mailer was in voters' hands during that very period — filed none.

12. AVF's failure to file the independent-expenditure report required by § 16-958 is a violation of the Citizens Clean Elections Act.

13. The ninety-day external-complaint limit of A.R.S. § 16-956(A)(7) does not apply. That limit runs from the later of the post-election report or the completion of the canvass. This complaint concerns the July 21, 2026 primary, for which no post-election report has been filed and no canvass has been completed; the limit has not begun to run.

III. Penalty and Remedy

14. A violation of the Citizens Clean Elections Act is enforced by the Commission under A.R.S. § 16-957: upon a finding of reason to believe, the Commission serves an order requiring compliance within fourteen days, and upon continued noncompliance issues a public finding and assesses a civil penalty under the framework of A.R.S. § 16-942, with penalties deposited in the Citizens Clean Elections Fund (§ 16-942(E)).

15. The consequential remedy here, however, is not monetary but disclosure-based and time-sensitive. The purpose of the § 16-958 trigger-report regime is to tell voters, before they vote, who is spending to influence their election. AVF's non-filing defeats that purpose during the early-voting period. The Commission should order AVF to file its delinquent § 16-958 report — identifying the amount, the office, the candidate, and the direction of advocacy — **before the July 21, 2026 primary**, so that LD8 voters learn what is being spent to shape their choice while it still matters.

16. There is a further reason the amount matters, and it is one only AVF can resolve: **the true dollar amount of AVF's independent expenditures is presently unknown to the public and to the Commission precisely because AVF has filed nothing.** That figure is not merely a reporting detail — it is the fact that determines whether AVF has crossed the \$25,000 non-statewide threshold of A.R.S. § 16-971(7)(a) and thereby become a "covered person" subject to the additional source-tracing and disclosure obligations of the Voters' Right to Know Act. AVF's silence forecloses the

Commission's ability to make that threshold determination at all. Compelling the § 16-958 disclosure is therefore the necessary first step: only once AVF reports its spending can the Commission (or the public) determine whether Voters' Right to Know Act coverage has attached.

IV. Requested Action

I respectfully request that the Commission:

- 1. Find reason to believe**, under A.R.S. § 16-957(A), that Arizona Values Fund violated A.R.S. § 16-958 by failing to file the independent-expenditure report due June 30, 2026 for its mailer supporting Deborah Nardozi for the Legislative District 8 State Senate office;
 - 2. Order AVF to file the delinquent § 16-958 report** — disclosing the amount of the independent expenditure, the office, the candidate, and that it advocates her election — on an expedited basis and, in any event, before the July 21, 2026 primary;
 - 3. Upon AVF's disclosure of the amount, determine** whether AVF's cumulative campaign media spending in this non-statewide race has crossed the \$25,000 threshold of A.R.S. § 16-971(7)(a) such that AVF is a "covered person" subject to the Voters' Right to Know Act — a determination the Commission cannot make while AVF's spending remains unreported;
 - 4. Assess civil penalties** for the violation under A.R.S. § 16-957 and § 16-942; and
 - 5. Provide written confirmation** of receipt and a complaint number.
-

V. Reserved Matters (Not Pleaded)

18. This complaint pleads only the deadline that has already passed. AVF's obligations under A.R.S. § 16-958(B)(3) — which, during the last two weeks before the July 21, 2026 primary (on and after approximately July 7, 2026), require an independent-expenditure report within one business day of reaching the threshold — have not yet come due and are not pleaded here. Complainant reserves the right to supplement this complaint if AVF makes further independent expenditures in that window and fails to file the required daily reports.

19. Likewise, AVF is **not yet** pleaded as a "covered person" under the Voters' Right to Know Act. On the documented spending to date (a single mailer), AVF appears to be below the \$25,000 threshold that A.R.S. § 16-971(7)(a) sets for a covered person in a non-statewide campaign — but, as explained in ¶ 16, that appearance rests only on the fragment of spending that happens to be publicly visible, and the true figure cannot be known until AVF files the § 16-958 report it has withheld. Should AVF's independent expenditures in the LD8 race cross that threshold — as the mailer's sender has signaled may occur — the Voters' Right to Know Act disclosure obligations of A.R.S. §§ 16-972 and 16-973 would attach, and Complainant reserves the right to supplement accordingly.

VI. Exhibits

The Secretary of State records in Exhibits A, D, and E are public filings and records available at the links below; they are cited by link in lieu of attachment. Exhibits B and C are reproduced in full at the end of this document.

Exhibit A — AVF's four periodic reports (Committee ID 102056). Each reports "NO ACTIVITY THIS PERIOD" and \$0.00 in income, expenditures, and cash balance, and each bears the committee's name, Committee ID, treasurer (Joseph Wolf), and address of record on its cover:

- [2025 November Post-Election \(Q4\) — Report ID 315231](#)
- [2026 March Pre-Election](#)
- [2026 March Post-Election \(Q1\)](#)
- [2026 May Pre-Election — Report ID 385223, filed May 3, 2026](#)

Exhibit B — The AVF mailer supporting Deborah Nardozi for State Senate (LD8) — reproduced at the end of this document: the disclaimer panel ("PAID FOR BY ARIZONA VALUES FUND. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR ANY CANDIDATE'S AGENT. TOP DONORS AZ ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PROTECTING THE DREAM FUND, ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE, GPL COMMITTEE FOR ARIZONA LEADERSHIP"), the "Democrat for State Senate" cover, the "Now, Deborah is running for State Senate to fight for" interior, and the endorsement panel.

Exhibit C — Campaign Detective listing, campaigndetective.com/view/611/, identifying Arizona Values Fund as the sponsor and Deborah Nardozi (Arizona State Senate, LD8) as the beneficiary and documenting the mailer as received June 24, 2026 — reproduced at the end of this document.

Exhibit D — The June 30, 2026 "CCEC Primary Tuesday Trigger" filings. On June 30, 2026, each of the following committees filed a "2026 CCEC Primary Tuesday Trigger" report for the June 22–28, 2026 reporting period, while Arizona Values Fund filed none:

- [Responsible Leadership for AZ — Report ID 394075](#)

- [Home Builders Association of Central Arizona](#)
- [Southern Arizona Home Builders Association](#)
- [Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)
- [Arizona Chamber – Moving Arizona Forward PAC](#)
- [Arizona Multihousing Association](#)
- [Restore Order Arizona](#)
- [House Victory Fund](#)
- [Arizonans for Election Integrity](#)

Arizona Values Fund's own filing history (Committee ID 102056) ends with its [2026 May Pre-Election report](#), filed May 3, 2026; it filed no trigger report for the June 22–28 period or at any time since.

Exhibit E — Arizona Secretary of State election calendar confirming July 21, 2026 as Primary Election Day (the date on which the § 16-958 filing cadence and the § 16-961(B)(4) primary-election-period calculation depend): azsos.gov/events/primary-election-day/918.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

[EMAIL REDACTED]

[PHONE REDACTED]

[CITY REDACTED]

VERIFICATION

State of Arizona

County of Maricopa

I, [REDACTED], state that I have read the foregoing complaint and know the contents thereof by personal knowledge derived from direct review of public records — Arizona Values Fund's Committee 102056 filings at seethemoney.az.gov (the four periodic reports, including the 2026 May Pre-Election report, Report ID 385223); the mailer supporting Deborah Nardozi and its listing on Campaign Detective (campaigndetective.com/view/611/) reflecting receipt on June 24, 2026; and the Secretary of State's report-search records showing the June 30, 2026 "CEC Primary Tuesday Trigger" filings by comparable committees and the absence of any such filing by Arizona Values Fund. No factual allegation rests on unverified second-hand information.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Arizona that the foregoing complaint is true and correct.

[SIGNATURE REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date: ~~July 2, 2026~~ 07/01/2026 *LR*

NOTARIZATION

State of ~~Arizona~~ Texas *LR*

County of ~~Maricopa~~ Williamson *LR*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of July, 2026.

Lesly Denise Rascoe

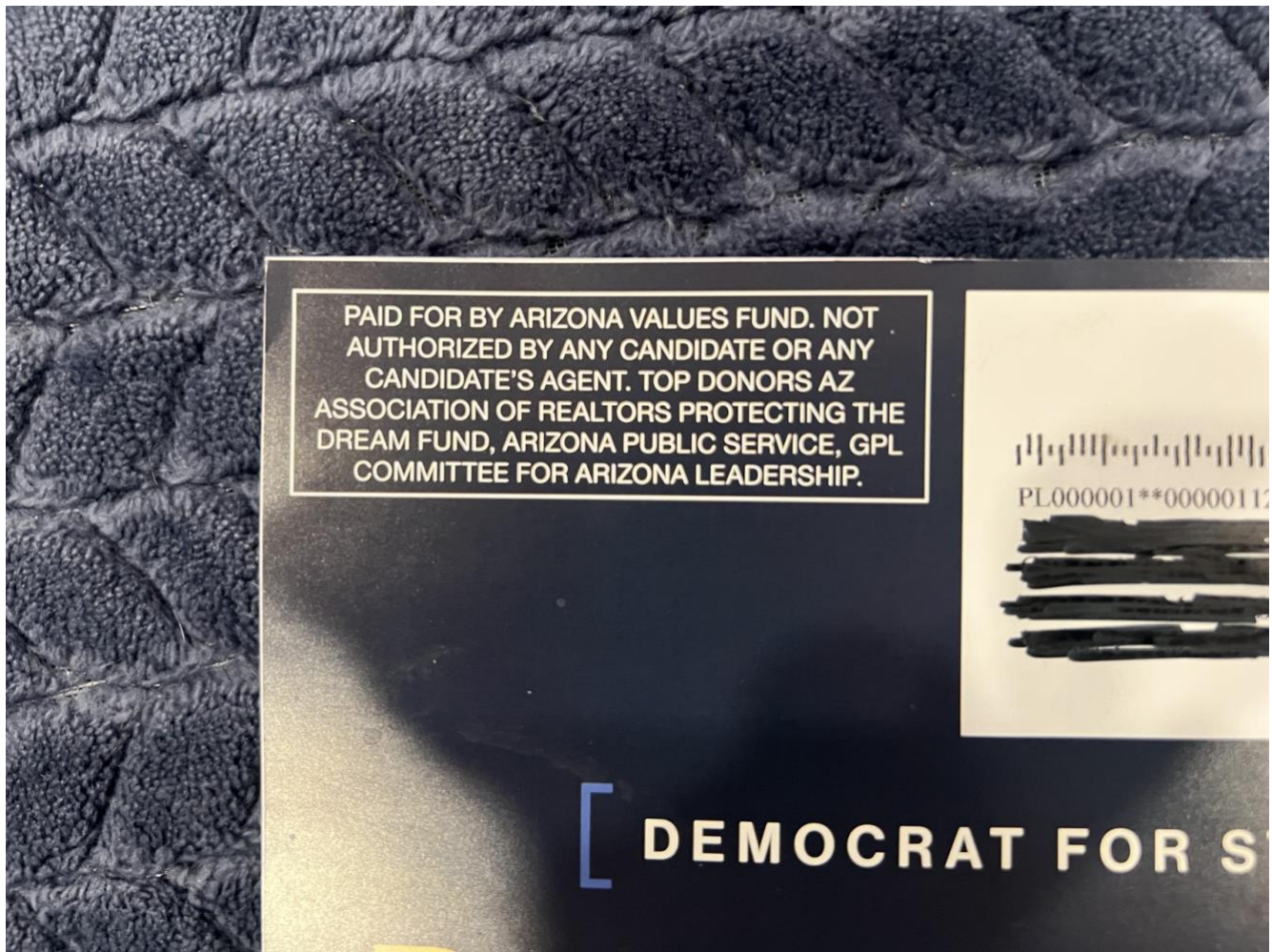
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 09/22/2026

Notarized online using audio-video communication technology



EXHIBIT B — Arizona Values Fund mailer supporting Deborah Nardozzi for State Senate (LD8)



B-1 — Disclaimer panel



B-2 — "Democrat for State Senate" cover

[DEMOCRAT FOR STATE SENATE]

Deborah Nardozzi

Fighting *for* Our Community



Rooted In South Scottsdale

Growing up, Deborah watched her parents, both public school teachers, stretch every dollar to keep the refrigerator full and the lights on, yet still finding a way to help the family down the street. She made South Scottsdale home and raised her family with the same lessons her parents taught her, attending school meetings after long shifts, building a business after bedtime stories, and still finding time to knock doors to organize her neighbors. As a State Representative, she worked to keep life affordable for her fellow parents at school drop-off and neighbors in her community.

Now, Deborah is running for State Senate to fight for:

- Affordable Childcare
- Homes For People
- Fully Funded Public Schools



B-3 — “Now, Deborah is running for State Senate to fight for” interior

EXHIBIT C — Campaign Detective listing (campaigndetective.com/view/611/)

SearchContact

Pro-Deborah Nardozzi (LD-8) Mailer by Arizona Values Fund | AZ

June 24, 2026

State: AZ

District: AZ LD-8

Angle: Positive

Candidate: Deborah Nardozzi

Organization: Arizona Values Fund

Pro-Deborah Nardozzi (AZ State Senate, LD-8), a corporately-backed candidate running against a progressive incumbent, sent on first day of early voting. Paid for by dark money groups under Arizona Values Fund.

Top Donors:

- AZ Association of Realtors Protecting the Dream Fund
- Arizona Public Service
- GPL Committee for Arizona Leadership

Media Type: Mail

Dark money groups send mailer on first day of early voting to support corporately backed candidate against progressive incumbent.

PAID FOR BY ARIZONA VALUES FUND. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR ANY CANDIDATE'S AGENT. TOP DONORS: AZ ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PROTECTING THE DREAM FUND, ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE, GPL COMMITTEE FOR ARIZONA LEADERSHIP.

Pro-Deborah Nardozzi

U.S. Postage

Paid

Phoenix, AZ

Permit #55221

DEMOCRAT FOR STATE SENATE

Deborah Nardozzi



ENDORSED BY



Sally Ann Gonzalez
AZ State Senator
(Democrat)



Lorena Austin
AZ State Representative
(Democrat)



Seth Blattman
AZ State Representative
(Democrat)



Dr. Anish Shah
Former AZ State Representative



Cathy Woods
Phoenix City Council



Anna Hernandez
Phoenix City Council



Tammy Capuli
Phoenix City Council



Randy Keating
Tempe City Council



OD Harris
Chandler City Council



Waki Amberg
Tempe City Council



Neil Gualtero
Former Mayor of Tempe



Bardetta Hodge
Tempe City Council



Tim Cunningham
Former Executive Director
of Maricopa County &
Mesa City Administrations



Arizona

Tempe

June 24, 2026

Formal link: <https://campaigndetective.com/view/611/>

Privacy Policy

Disclaimer

Campaign Detective operates independently of any candidate or candidate campaign.

Project by Alliance for a Better Minnesota — 1600 University Ave W #300, St Paul MN 55104

Sponsor: Arizona Values Fund. Beneficiary: Deborah Nardozzi for Arizona State Senate (LD8). Received June 24, 2026.

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Exhibit 2



Austin T. Marshall

1001 North Central Avenue, Suite 404
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

July 10, 2026

Via Email (ccec@azcleaselections.gov)

Thomas M. Collins
Citizens Clean Elections Commission
1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 250
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: MUR 26-05 – Response to Complaint

Dear Mr. Collins:

This firm represents Arizona Values Fund and its Chairman and Treasurer Joe Wolf (collectively “Respondents”) and writes in response to the notice of MUR 26-05, received July 2, 2026, and its accompanying complaint (the “Complaint”). The contents of this response are verified by Mr. Wolf. The Commission should take no further action on the Complaint, which alleges that Arizona Values Fund failed to file independent expenditure trigger reports required under A.R.S. § 16-958(B).

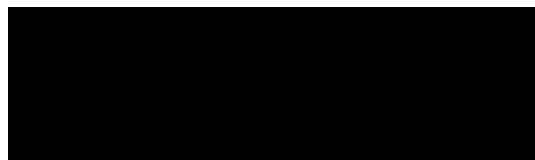
Due to a calendaring mistake, Respondents inadvertently missed the filing deadline for the relevant independent expenditure trigger report. Immediately upon realizing the error and within days of the filing deadline, Respondents contacted the Arizona Secretary of State’s office to rectify the situation by filing the late report. The office responded that its electronic filing system Beacon does not have the technological capacity to allow filers to file a late independent expenditure trigger report (as it does with regularly scheduled campaign finance reports for political action committees and candidates). Thus, the Secretary’s filing system now makes it impossible to comply with the trigger report requirement.

Nonetheless, Respondents have since filed their 2026 May Post-Election (Q2) PAC report that covers the time period in question. The report, attached to this response as exhibit A, discloses the money Arizona Values Fund received (including any intermediaries and original sources as required by the Voter’s Right to Know Act, A.R.S. §§ 16-971 to 16-979) and all independent expenditures Arizona Values Fund made. Thus, all information that would have been included in the independent expenditure trigger report is now publicly available.

Even if, in spite of Respondents' good faith efforts, the Commission were to find a reason to believe that Respondents violated A.R.S. § 16-958, the Commission's enforcement procedures permit Respondents to "provide any explanation to the commission, comply with the order [stating with reasonable particularity the nature of the violation and requiring compliance within fourteen days], or enter into a public administrative settlement with the commission." A.R.S. § 16-957(A). The Commission can only make a public finding of non-compliance and issue a civil penalty if the respondent "*remains* out of compliance" upon "expiration of the fourteen days." A.R.S. § 16-957(B) (emphasis added).

By publicly disclosing the independent expenditure activity on the May Post-Election report, Respondents have already substantially complied with any prospective order the Commission may issue. And any ability to strictly comply with A.R.S. § 16-957(A) by specifically filing a late independent expenditure report is now a technological impossibility because of the Secretary's filing system. Thus, strict compliance should be excused. *See Leibsohn v. Hobbs*, 254 Ariz. 1, 7–9 ¶¶ 24–32 (2022) (forgiving strict compliance with statutory requirements because "the Secretary made it impossible for the Committee to comply").

Please let me know if I can provide any further information regarding Arizona Values Fund or the allegations in the Complaint.

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Austin T. Marshall.

Austin T. Marshall

VERIFICATION

State of Arizona

County of Maricopa

I, Joe Wolf, state that I am the Chairman and Treasurer of Arizona Values Fund. I have read the foregoing response and know the contents thereof to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

[Redacted Signature]

Joe Wolf

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of July, 2026.

LIANE ROUZAUD

Notary Public Name

[Redacted Signature]

Notary Public Signature

My Commission Expires: 12-24-2029

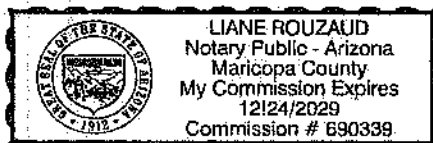


Exhibit A



Campaign Finance Report

Arizona Values Fund
Committee #: 102056
Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Treasurer: Wolf, Joseph
5343 E Avalon Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85018
Phone: (571) 225-7281
Email: jw@fillmorestrategy.com

Amended 2026 May Post-Election (Q2)

Election Cycle: 2026
Date Filed: July 9, 2026
Reporting Period: May 3, 2026-June 30, 2026
Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Summary of Finances

Cash Balance at Beginning of Reporting Period:	\$0.00
Total Cash Receipts this Reporting Period:	\$135,000.00
Total Cash Disbursements this Reporting Period:	\$112,377.27
Cash Balance at End of Reporting Period:	\$22,622.73

Report ID: 397120

Summary of Activity

Income	Schedule	This Period			Total to Date
		Cash	Other	Total	
Personal and Family Contributions	C1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Individual Contributions	C2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contributions from Political Committees	C3a,b,c	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00
Business Contributions	C4a,b,c	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Small Contributions	C5	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CCEC Funding and Matching	C6	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Qualifying Contributions	C7	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loans Made to this Committee	L1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Receipts, including Interest and Dividends	R1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfers from Other Committees	T1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash Surplus from Previous Committee	S1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income		\$135,000.00	\$0.00	\$135,000.00	\$135,000.00

Expenditures	Schedule	This Period			Total to Date
		Cash	Other	Total	
Operating Expenses	E1	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Independent & Ballot Measure Expenditures	E2a,b,c	\$102,377.27	\$0.00	\$102,377.27	\$102,377.27
Contributions to Committees/Businesses	E3a -E3f	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Small Expenses	E4	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfers to Other Committees	T1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loans Made by This Committee	L2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disposal of Surplus Cash	S1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures		\$112,377.27	\$0.00	\$112,377.27	\$112,377.27
Bill Payments for Previous Expenditures	D1	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Cash Disbursed		\$112,377.27			

102056 Arizona Values FundJurisdiction: **Arizona Secretary of State****Amended May Post-Election (Q2)**

Covers 05/03/2026 to 06/30/2026

Schedule C3b - Contributions from PACs

		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	201800383 - Committee for Arizona Leadership	06/16/2026	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Address:	400 E Van Buren St, Ste 555, Phoenix, AZ 85004		Cash	
Trans. Type:	Contributions from PACs			
Memo:	Intermediary source: Greater Phoenix Leadership. No original sources over \$5,000			
Name:	201600637 - AZ Assoc. of REALTORS' Protecting the American Dream Fund	06/17/2026	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Address:	516 E. Willetta St., Phoenix, AZ 85004		Cash	
Trans. Type:	Contributions from PACs			
Memo:	No original sources over \$5,000.			
Name:	102010 - Responsible Tourism Coalition	06/30/2026	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Address:	2211 E Highland Ave, Ste 210, Phoenix, AZ 85016		Cash	
Trans. Type:	Contributions from PACs			
Memo:	Orginal Source: AirBnB 888 Brannan Street, San Francisco, CA 94103			
Total of Contributions from PACs			\$110,000.00	
Total of Refunds Given			\$0.00	
Net Total of Contributions from PACs			\$110,000.00	

Schedule C4b - Contributions from Corporations/LLCs

Schedule C4b - Contributions from Corporations/LLCs		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	Arizona Public Service.	06/16/2026	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
Address:	400 N 5th St, Phoenix, AZ 85004		Cash	
Trans. Type:	Contributions from Corps and LLCs			
Memo:	Orginal Source: Arizona Public Service			
Total of Contributions from Corps/LLCs			\$25,000.00	
Total of Refunds Given			\$0.00	
Net Total of Contributions from Corps/LLCs			\$25,000.00	

Schedule E1 - Operating expenses

		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	Fillmore Partners	06/30/2026	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Address:	5343 E Avalon Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85018		Cash	
Category:	Professional Services - Consultants			
Total of Operating Expenses			\$10,000.00	
Total of Refunds, Rebates, and Credits Received			\$0.00	
Net Total of Operating Expenses			\$10,000.00	

102056 Arizona Values FundJurisdiction: **Arizona Secretary of State****Amended May Post-Election (Q2)**

Covers 05/03/2026 to 06/30/2026

Schedule E2a - Independent expenditures

		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	AMS Communications, Inc	06/19/2026	\$22,860.00	\$102,377.27
Address:	24 Mandana Circle , Oakland , CA 94610		Cash	
Trans. Type:	Independent Expenditure - Pay Cash/Check			
Category:	Communications - Mailings			
Benefits:	101862 - Deborah for Arizona			
Name:	AMS Communications, Inc	06/19/2026	\$24,800.00	\$102,377.27
Address:	24 Mandana Circle , Oakland , CA 94610		Cash	
Trans. Type:	Independent Expenditure - Pay Cash/Check			
Category:	Communications - Mailings			
Benefits:	100940 - Consuelo Hernandez for State Rep-Dist 21			
Name:	AMS Communications, Inc	06/19/2026	\$27,025.00	\$102,377.27
Address:	24 Mandana Circle , Oakland , CA 94610		Cash	
Trans. Type:	Independent Expenditure - Pay Cash/Check			
Category:	Communications - Mailings			
Benefits:	201800416 - Alma for Arizona			
Name:	AMS Communications, Inc	06/25/2026	\$27,692.27	\$102,377.27
Address:	24 Mandana Circle , Oakland , CA 94610		Cash	
Trans. Type:	Independent Expenditure - Pay Cash/Check			
Category:	Communications - Mailings			
Benefits:	201800416 - Alma for Arizona			
Total of Independent Expenditures			\$102,377.27	
Total of Refunds, Rebates, and Credits Received			\$0.00	
Net Total of Independent Expenditures			\$102,377.27	



Thomas Collins <thomas.collins@azcleelections.gov>

RE: Request related to complaint

1 message

Luke Douglas [REDACTED] >

Thu, Aug 20, 2026 at 2:49 PM

To: Thomas Collins <thomas.collins@azcleelections.gov>, "Hartman-Tellez, Karen" [REDACTED]

Hello Tom,

I spoke with our campaign finance team about this. The trigger reports are automatically generated when an Independent Expenditure is added that meets the threshold. The transactions need to be added the day before the report is due in order for the expenditure to show up on the daily trigger report. The report you attached is in fact a daily trigger report; if there is no activity on the report it can be due to the fact that transactions were added the day the report was due.



Best regards,

Luke Douglas

Chief Legal Officer

Arizona Secretary of State's Office

Arizona Secretary of State | <https://azsos.gov>1700 W. Washington St., 7th Fl. | Phoenix, AZ 85007*This message and any messages in response to the sender of this message may be subject to a public records request.***From:** Thomas Collins <thomas.collins@azcleelections.gov>**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2026 10:15 AM**To:** Luke Douglas [REDACTED]; Hartman-Tellez, Karen [REDACTED]**Subject:** Request related to complaint

Use Caution- This email originated from an external sender. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report any suspicious emails by using the 'Report' button in Outlook.

Luke and Karen

I am evaluating a response from a committee regarding a complaint on failure to file trigger reports under ARS 16-958.

I have two things I am trying to confirm, ultimately for a report that would be public.

- 1) Is it correct that Beacon does not permit "late" filing of trigger reports?
- 2) A) Would someone please provide me with information about what the report I have attached to this email represents, and B) what a user would do to cause such a report to publish?

As far as what See the Money states, the attached report represents what was published as a trigger report for Arizona Values PAC. But this report isn't a trigger report, at least to the best of my knowledge. The PAC's ID is 102056 if you care to review it in context.

This is not a public records request. Nor am I seeking to compel anything.

If you choose to provide the relevant information, I request it no later than 8/20/26.

Thank you,

Tom

--

Thomas M. Collins

Executive Director

Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission

www.azcanelections.gov

Office: 602-364-3477

Mobile: 602-397-6362

STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

MUR No. 26-07

STATEMENT OF REASONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission (the “Commission”), the Executive Director hereby provides the Statement of Reasons.

This Statement addresses a multi-pronged Complaint. It recommends that the Commission find reason to believe that violations of the Act and Rules occurred respecting large campaign signs deployed by two participating candidates for Corporation Commissioner, Nick Myers and Kevin Thompson.

It recommends that the Commission find no reason to believe or otherwise dismiss the Complaint with respect to:

- 1) Joint Expenditures – No Reason to Believe
- 2) Unreported, unreimbursed campaign services – No Reason to Believe
- 3) Excess early contributions – Otherwise dismiss.

If the Commission concludes that there may be reason to believe that these three issues do involve violations or should not be dismissed, Staff recommends that the Commission have Staff reevaluate and prepare appropriate documentation to ensure additional consideration of those issues.

Background

Alex Logvin filed a complaint on July 15, 2026, containing several allegations against participating candidates for Corporation Commissioner Nick Myers and Kevin Thompson. Exhibit 1. The Complaint focuses on the following issues:

1. Campaign Signage & Unreported Costs

The campaigns deployed large slate signs across at least seven cities, but reported spending only \$3,843.57—enough for roughly 38 signs, the Complaint alleges. Most payments occurred *after* signs were already photographed in public. *Id.* If an unbilled vendor, consultant, or third party financed these signs without upfront payment, it constitutes an unreported, illegal in-kind contribution and a reporting failure. *Id.*

2. Joint expenditures

On June 8, Myers paid Thompson \$1,281.19 directly. On June 18, Myers paid vendor Convergent PrintGroup \$2,562.38, noting Thompson owed him half (\$1,281.19). Complaint ¶ 18.1a. Participating candidates are forbidden from transferring money between campaigns. *Id.* Under Clean Elections rules, failing to reimburse a joint expense within seven days automatically converts the unpaid share into a prohibited candidate-to-candidate contribution. *Id.* Thompson omitted the June 8 payment from his Q2 report, while Myers mislabeled it as a "reimbursement" for an invoice issued days later, the Complaint alleges. *Id.*

3. Political Consulting Services (The Resolute Group LLC)

Both campaigns printed the phone number of consulting firm *The Resolute Group LLC* as their official attribution contact on signs, and Thompson's treasurer is a manager at the firm. Complaint ¶¶ 18.1, 18.2. Neither campaign reported paying the firm. *Id.* A corporate entity providing campaign consulting or design services for free constitutes an illegal corporate in-kind contribution and an unreported expenditure. *Id.*

4. Three Over-Limit Individual Early Contributions

Both campaigns accepted individual early contributions above the statutory \$220 limit. Complaint at ¶ 18.3a. Thompson retained a \$220 excess for 128 days before issuing a refund (violating the 60-day refund deadline). *Id.* Myers accepted excess contributions from two individuals (\$310 and \$250 total) that were never refunded. *Id.*

Response

The Candidates filed a notarized response on August 6, 2026. Exhibit 2. The Response states that the large signs referenced in the Complaint were leftover inventory produced, fully paid for, and used during the 2022 election cycle. After 2022, the campaigns treated the materials as valueless and maintained no official inventory. These signs were placed by volunteers, and there was no unbilled vendor to claim. The expenditures on the candidates' reports regarding signs were for 2026 yard signs, and the joint expenditure was proper.

The Response states that the political consulting firm named in the Complaint was not used in 2026, but its phone number remained on the signs from 2022 when the firm was used. Finally, the Response states that the three excess contributions should be handled through the Commission's audit process.

Analysis

Large Campaign Signs

The major issue in the Complaint is the source of funds for the two candidates' large campaign signs. The Complaint correctly claims that the large campaign signs are largely unaccounted for in the candidates' reports. In an apparent effort to understand the reports, the Complaint looks to a relatively small expenditure on signs that were reported. *See, e.g.,* Complaint ¶¶ 9–15.

The Response states that the large campaign signs were left over from the candidates' 2022 election and were deployed by volunteers. Response at Section II. As discussed further in MUR 26-10, Commission rules require the campaigns to account for these signs, notwithstanding their prior use. A.A.C. R2-20-702.01 ("A participating candidate may use assets such as signs, pamphlets, and office equipment from a prior election cycle only after the candidate's current campaign pays for the assets in an amount equal to the fair market value of the assets, which amount shall in no event be less than one-fifth (1/5) the original purchase price of such assets."). Consequently, there is reason to believe that the candidates may have violated the Act and Rules by failing to report and properly account for the large campaign signs.

Joint Expenditure

Under A.A.C. R2-20-110(A)(4), a joint expenditure occurs when two or more candidates agree to share the cost of goods or services. Participating candidates may engage in joint expenditures subject to the following:

1. Joint expenditures must be authorized in advance by all participating candidates and allocated fairly among them.
2. An allocated share paid by one candidate on behalf of another campaign must be reimbursed within seven days.
3. If a candidate's fairly allocated share is not reimbursed, the unreimbursed amount "shall be deemed a contribution to that candidate by the campaign committee of the candidate obligated to reimburse the share" (subpart c), and the obligated candidate must reimburse the Citizens Clean Elections Fund (subpart d).

The Complaint asserts that the respondents violated A.A.C. R2-20-110(A)(4) by making prohibited inter-committee transfers and accepting impermissible candidate-to-candidate contributions. Specifically, the complainant alleges:

1. The Myers committee paid \$2,562.38 to sign vendor Convergent PrintGroup on June 18, 2026, noting that half was owed by the Thompson committee, but the Thompson committee failed to reimburse its \$1,281.19 share within seven days. By operation of R2-20-110(A)(4)(c), the Complaint argues this unreimbursed balance converted into a prohibited inter-committee contribution. Complaint ¶ 18.1a.

2. A separate \$1,281.19 payment made by the Myers committee to the Thompson committee on June 8, 2026—three days prior to the Thompson committee's June 11 vendor disbursement—violated the rule's required sequence of advance authorization followed by post-expenditure reimbursement.

The Response asserts that there was only one payment to Convergent on June 8, and the payments between committees were made prior to the placement of the order.

Respondents' campaign finance reports are, admittedly, confusing. As of July 6, the reports filed by each candidate showed:

Myers	1,281	Thompson Reimbursement
Thompson	1,281	Convergent – Signs
Myers	2,562	Convergent – Signs

The Complaint highlights this to conclude that there were, in effect, two different transactions and that Thompson failed to reimburse Myers. Complaint ¶ 18.1a. The Response asserts that there was a single Convergent expenditure. Thompson later amended his reports to document that transaction.

Schedule E1 - Operating expenses

	Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name: Frys Address: 3232 S Mill Ave, Tempe, AZ 85282 Trans. Type: Rebate or Refund from Operating Expense Original Date: 10/30/2025 Original Amount: (\$49.53)	03/31/2026	\$(24.76) Cash	\$24.77
Name: Nathaniel Charles Phillips Address: 13440 N 44th St, Phoenix, AZ 85032 Trans. Type: Rebate or Refund from Operating Expense Original Date: 11/05/2025 Original Amount: (\$130.00)	03/31/2026	\$(72.00) Cash	\$218.00
Name: Biltmore Pro Print Address: 3108 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016 Category: Communications - Flyers/handouts/door hangers	04/15/2026	\$477.59 Cash	\$1,610.00
Name: Roosevelt Strategies Group Address: 3030 N Central, Suite 609, Phoenix, AZ 85012 Category: Professional Services - Consultants	04/15/2026	\$828.00 Cash	\$1,656.00
Name: Convergent PrintGroup Address: 3940 W Montecito, Phoenix, AZ 85019 Trans. Type: Rebate or Refund from Operating Expense Memo: Reimbursement for shared sign costs from Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner Original Date: 06/08/2026 Original Amount: (\$2,562.38)	06/08/2026	\$(1,281.19) Cash	\$1,281.19
Name: Convergent PrintGroup Address: 3940 W Montecito, Phoenix, AZ 85019 Category: Communications - Advertising	06/08/2026	\$2,562.38 Cash	\$1,281.19
Name: Biltmore Pro Print Address: 3108 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016 Category: Communications - Flyers/handouts/door hangers	06/15/2026	\$486.26 Cash	\$1,610.00
Name: 100484 - Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner Address: 2362 W Bonnie Ln, Queen Creek, AZ 85142 Category: Communications - Signs Memo: Reimbursement for 1/2 of sign expense totaling \$2562.38 on June 18, 2026	06/18/2026	\$1,281.19 Cash	\$1,281.19
Name: Mohave Free Press Address: 3211 E Snavely Ave, Kingman, AZ 86409 Category: Communications - Newspapers Memo: Check #1060	06/19/2026	\$317.50 Cash	\$317.50
Name: 100 Squared Financial Address: 3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, Phoenix, AZ 85012 Category: Professional Services - Accountant/bookkeeper	07/09/2026	\$1,050.00 Cash	\$1,750.00

Filed on 08/31/2026

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In any event, confusing as they may be, the Quarter 2 reports do not show a violation of R2-20-110(A)(4) on their face, despite the Complaint's assertions. Complaint ¶ 18.1a. The total expenditure to Convergent remains the same under those reports, and each candidate's net share is 50 percent.

The Complaint asserts that the rule requires an expenditure followed by a reimbursement as a matter of law. *Id.* ("The June 8 sequence ('reimbursement' paid three days before the expense) independently violates the rule's advance-authorization-then-reimbursement structure.").

By its plain language, however, A.A.C. R2-20-110(A)(4) mandates that an allocated share must be reimbursed within seven days, but it does not restrict cost allocations to post-vendor reimbursements or invalidate prior or contemporaneous transfers. Subpart (c) deems an allocation a contribution only when a candidate fails to reimburse their fairly allocated share. Because both reports accept and report the 50/50 cost split for the shared Convergent PrintGroup expenditure, no unreimbursed balance exists; where a report establishes an agreed-upon split for a

single vendor order, there is no violation simply due to the timing or order of the reimbursement. To be sure, the confusion in the reports stems in part from the candidates choosing to document the transaction in different ways, leading to (1) a double booking of the expense by Myers, and (2) a direct payment of only his share by Thompson. A payment by one candidate reimbursed by the other would generally simplify campaign finance reporting, but the rule only requires a fair allocation.

Resolute Group

The Complaint alleges that uncompensated services were provided by a political consulting firm based on two principal facts: (1) The Resolute Group phone number is listed as the contact on the large signs, and (2) the manager of Resolute Group is the treasurer of Thompson's campaign. Although these facts could support an inference that there were undisclosed or uncompensated services under some circumstances, they do not do so here.

First, as the Complaint itself notes, Thompson's report does disclose payments to his treasurer's other firm, One Hundred Squared Financial, LLC. Complaint ¶ 15.3. The relationship between the role of treasurer and the services provided by One Hundred Squared ("Accountant/bookkeeper") limits the inference that another service was being provided without compensation by the treasurer's other company. Second, the Response states that the contact number for the reused signs was Resolute Group because that company served as a consultant in 2022. Response at Section V.

For example, Thompson's 2022 committee reported numerous payments in 2022 to The Resolute Group, principally for advertising.

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner

[Details](#)Start Year: End Year: Table View:

Candidate All Transactions

The Resolute Group

Show10▼entries

Page1▼of 1

	Date▼	Amount◇	Transaction Type◇	Received From Or Paid To◇
	10/5/2022	\$27,500.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	The Resolute Group,
	9/26/2022	\$22,375.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	The Resolute Group,
	9/23/2022	\$47,500.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	The Resolute Group,
	9/23/2022	\$40,000.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	The Resolute Group,
	7/13/2022	\$15,000.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	The Resolute Group,
	6/21/2022	\$50,000.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	The Resolute Group,
	10/11/2021	\$810.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	The Resolute Group,

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

Page1▼of 1

Export Transactions

Consequently, there is no reason to believe a violation occurred.

Excess individual contributions

The Complaint alleges that Thompson received an excess contribution from one donor and that Myers received excess contributions from two donors.

18.3a. **Over-limit early contributions (A.R.S. § 16-945(A)(1)).** Independent of the signage matters, both respondents accepted early contributions from individuals exceeding the **\$220 per-contributor limit** set by the published 2025-2026 biennial adjustments under A.R.S. § 16-959 (**Exhibit 18**), as shown on the respondents' own itemized C2 schedules (**Exhibit 19**):

(a) **Thompson:** Vicki Mayo: two \$220 contributions on November 23, 2025 (\$440 cycle-to-date, twice the limit); the committee refunded \$220 on **March 31, 2026, 128 days after receipt**, far outside the sixty-day refund window of A.R.S. § 16-913(C).

(b) **Myers:** Venkatesh Inti: \$310 cycle-to-date (\$210 on 7/10/2025 + \$100 on 3/31/2026); no refund appears on any report. Ken Robinson: \$250 cycle-to-date (\$210 on 3/10/2025 + \$40 on 9/17/2025, exclusive of his separately itemized \$5 qualifying contribution); no refund appears.

See also Complaint Exhibit 19.

Ordinarily, where a Commission audit or other routine review occurred and there was this kind of isolated excess contribution, staff would resolve the matter by

requiring the excess donation be refunded and would not take the matter to the Commission on a complaint.

Commission rule R2-20-206(A)(2) allows the Executive Director to "recommend that the Commission find that there is no reason to believe that a violation of a statute or rule over which the Commission has jurisdiction has been committed or is about to be committed, or that the Commission otherwise dismiss a complaint...". Here, I recommend that the Commission otherwise dismiss this portion of the Complaint.

Thompson's March refund of the additional \$220 resolved the issue before it came to the attention of Commission staff. Myers reported a refund to Venkatesh Inti.

100484 Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner		Amended Primary Recap Report		
Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State		Covers 07/15/2026 to 07/22/2026		
Schedule C2 - Individual contributions		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	Inti, Venkatesh	07/21/2026	\$(90.00)	\$220.00
Address:	3027 Hartman Way, San Diego, CA 92117		Cash	
Occupation:	CDO, Avantus			
Trans. Type:	Refunded Contribution			
Memo:	Refund over donation for seed money			
Original Date:	03/31/2026			
Original Amount:	\$100.00			
Total of Individual Contributions			\$0.00	
Total of Refunds Given			(\$90.00)	
Net Total of Individual Contributions			(\$90.00)	

Myers appears to still owe a \$30 refund to Ken Robinson. This would leave Myers approximately \$120 over the spending limit for the primary. I believe that Staff can resolve this via the auditing process.

To put this in perspective, R2-20-106(K) allows Staff to "waive the return of funds if: 1. The Commission staff determines the amount to be returned is de minimis; 2. The Commission staff determines the cost of recovery exceeds the amount of the return; 3. The funds to be returned shall not exceed \$25; and 4. The Commission is notified of any waiver of the return of funds." Here, pursuing additional sanctions beyond determining the amount of money to be repaid to the Fund via the audit process would cost more than the value of the resulting shortfall.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the Commission should determine there is reason to believe a violation of the Act and Rules has occurred with respect to the large signs.

The Commission should determine there is no reason to believe a violation occurred with respect to the joint expenditure for yard signs and the issue regarding The Resolute Group. The Commission should otherwise dismiss the matter with respect to the three excess contributions.

If the Commission determines by an affirmative vote of at least three (3) of its members that it has reason to believe a respondent has violated a statute or rule over which the Commission has jurisdiction, the Commission shall notify such respondent of the Commission's finding setting forth: (i) the sections of the statute or rule alleged to have been violated; (ii) the alleged factual basis supporting the finding; and (iii) an order requiring compliance within fourteen (14) days. During that period, the Respondent may provide any explanation to the commission, comply with the order, or enter into a public administrative settlement with the commission. A.R.S. § 16-957(A) & A.A.C. R2-20-208(A).

After the Commission finds reason to believe that a violation of a statute or rule over which the Commission has jurisdiction has occurred, the Commission shall conduct an investigation. A.A.C. R2-20-209(A). The Executive Director may subpoena all of the Respondent's records documenting disbursements, debts, or obligations to the present, and may authorize an audit.

Upon expiration of the fourteen (14) days, if the commission finds that the alleged violator remains out of compliance, the commission shall make a public finding to that effect and issue an order assessing a civil penalty in accordance with A.R.S. § 16-942, unless the commission publishes findings of fact and conclusions of law expressing good cause for reducing or excusing the penalty. A.R.S. § 16-957(B).

After fourteen (14) days and upon completion of the investigation, the Executive Director will recommend whether the Commission should find probable cause to believe that a violation of a statute or rule over which the Commission has jurisdiction has occurred. A.A.C. R2-20-214(A). Upon a finding of probable cause that the alleged violator remains out of compliance, by an affirmative vote of at least three (3) of its members, the Commission may issue of an order and assess civil penalties pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-957(B). A.A.C. R2-20-217.

Exhibit 1

VERIFIED COMPLAINT UNDER THE CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS ACT

A.R.S. Title 16, Chapter 6, Article 2 (Citizens Clean Elections Act)

July 15, 2026

Via Email (ccec@azcleelections.gov)

Thomas M. Collins

Executive Director

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

1110 West Washington Street, Suite 250

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Director Collins:

I am a qualified Arizona voter registered in Maricopa County. I submit this verified complaint under A.R.S. § 16-957 against **Kevin Thompson**, a participating candidate for Arizona Corporation Commissioner, and his candidate committee **KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner** (SOS Committee #101859, treasurer Youssef Khalaf), and against **Nick Myers**, a participating candidate for Arizona Corporation Commissioner, and his candidate committee **Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner** (SOS Committee #100484, treasurer Ray Malnar), and request that the Commission find reason to believe violations of the Citizens Clean Elections Act have occurred and proceed under A.R.S. § 16-957(A).

Both respondents are **participating candidates** in the July 21, 2026 Republican primary: both committees itemize five-dollar qualifying contributions on Schedule C7 of their campaign finance reports, both accept early contributions at the \$220 individual limit, and, as of their most recent certified reports, neither has yet received Clean Elections funding (Schedule C6: \$0.00). This complaint is time-sensitive for precisely that reason: it concerns conduct that bears directly on the respondents' eligibility for, and the integrity of, the public funding they are seeking: **\$147,836 each** in primary election funding under the Commission's published 2026 amounts.

To be direct about the relief sought: **no public money should be disbursed to these campaigns while these violations stand unresolved, and the Commission should decertify or deny funding if they are established.** Each respondent

obtained his participating-candidate certification by signing, under oath, the certification A.R.S. § 16-947(B) requires: that he "has complied with the restrictions of section 16-941, subsection A during the election cycle to date" and that his committee's campaign finance reports "are complete and accurate." On the facts below, those oaths were false when made. The Commission holds every lever it needs: before the initial disbursement it must review "all relevant facts and circumstances" (A.A.C. R2-20-106(B)); it "may refuse to distribute funds ... in cases in which the Commission finds evidence of fraud or illegal activity committed by the participating candidate" (R2-20-106(G)); no disbursement may issue until each candidate swears, again under penalty of perjury, that all reports "are complete and accurate" (R2-20-106(A)), an oath neither respondent can truthfully give; and on a preponderance finding of non-compliance the Commission "may decertify a candidate, deny or suspend funding, [or] order repayment of funds" (R2-20-222(A)). And if the Commission's investigation establishes that the value involved exceeds the ten-percent threshold of A.R.S. § 16-942(C), the statute's command is not discretionary: the consequence is **disqualification of the candidate or forfeiture of office**, a consequence the Commission has imposed on a sitting officeholder before and the Arizona Supreme Court has unanimously upheld. *Smith v. Ariz. Citizens Clean Elections Comm'n*, 212 Ariz. 407, 132 P.3d 1187 (2006). The complainant asks the Commission to resolve these questions **before** \$295,672 of public money goes out the door, while the remedy is still a disbursement decision rather than clawback litigation.

The core facts are simple and appear on the face of the respondents' own certified filings and on the face of their own campaign signs. The two campaigns have jointly deployed a fleet of large-format (approximately 48" × 47") slate signs across the Phoenix metropolitan area, in cities including Phoenix, Mesa, Chandler, Tempe, Scottsdale, Gilbert, and Queen Creek (photographed and measured in Phoenix, Chandler, and Tempe: ¶¶ 5-6, 13). Across every report both committees have filed this cycle (through the Myers committee's Quarter 2 report filed July 13, 2026), the entire disclosed vendor cost of that program is **\$3,843.57**: \$1,281.19 paid by the Thompson committee to Convergent PrintGroup (June 11, 2026) and \$2,562.38 paid by the Myers committee to the same vendor (June 18, 2026). Two inter-committee money flows ride alongside: the Myers committee paid the Thompson committee \$1,281.19 on June 8, 2026 (memo: "Reimbursement for shared sign costs"; three days *before* the vendor payment it purportedly reimburses), and the Myers committee's June 18 itemization records under oath that half of its own vendor payment, another \$1,281.19, was the Thompson committee's share: "Reimbursement for 1/2 from Kevin Thompson later." The Thompson committee reports **none of it**: neither the June 8 money it received, nor the June 18 debt its slate partner swears it owes, appears on any schedule of its five-times-certified Quarter 2 report. Neither committee reports any in-kind contribution or any outstanding vendor obligation. At an Arizona vendor's quoted prices (roughly \$100 per sign even at quantities of 200), the disclosed dollars account for roughly thirty-eight signs; even at the cheapest published national discount tier, fewer than two hundred. The documented deployment, scale, and condition of the signage cannot be reconciled with the committees' certified reports.

For a participating candidate, that discrepancy is not merely a reporting problem. Participating candidates may accept **nothing** beyond qualifying contributions and limited early contributions (A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(1)). If any portion of the respondents' signage was financed by any person other than the committees themselves (a vendor, a consultant, an allied committee, or any third party), each respondent has accepted a prohibited contribution, subject to the ten-fold penalty of A.R.S. § 16-942(A), and, above the threshold of A.R.S. § 16-942(C), to mandatory disqualification or forfeiture of office.

I. The Respondents

1. I, Alex Logvin, am a qualified voter registered in Maricopa County, Arizona. Documentary evidence of my identity as a registered Arizona voter is available on request. A.R.S. § 16-956(A)(7) contemplates external complaints such as this one.

2. Based on direct review of public records: KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner is a candidate committee registered with the Arizona Secretary of State (Committee ID 101859); its address of record is 7140 E Monte Ave, Mesa, AZ 85209, and its treasurer of record is Youssef Khalaf. Kevin Thompson is a sitting Arizona Corporation Commissioner seeking re-election in the July 21, 2026 Republican primary.

3. Based on direct review of public records: Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner is a candidate committee registered with the Arizona Secretary of State (Committee ID 100484); its treasurer of record is Ray Malnar, 4420 W Bush Bean Way, San Tan Valley, AZ 85144. Nick Myers is a sitting Arizona Corporation Commissioner seeking re-election in the same primary.

4. Both candidates are participating candidates. Both committees' 2026 reports itemize \$5 qualifying contributions on Schedule C7 (the Myers committee's Amended Interim Report itemizes hundreds, many bearing the memo "E-Qual Online QC"); both committees' individual contributions cluster at the \$220 early-contribution limit published in the Commission's 2026 Candidate Guide; and both committees carry "CCEC Funding and Matching" (Schedule C6) lines on their reports, each showing \$0.00 received to date. The Thompson committee's Amended Quarter 2 report also reflects the transmittal of qualifying contributions to the Secretary of State (Schedule C7 adjustment of -\$3,290.00 in the period).

4.1. Both candidates certified compliance under oath to obtain their participating status. A.R.S. § 16-947(B) conditions a candidate's funding application on a signed certification, under oath, that "[t]he candidate has complied with the restrictions of section 16-941, subsection A during the election cycle to date," that his committees "have filed all campaign finance reports required under article 1 of this chapter during the election cycle to date and that they are complete and accurate," and that the candidate "will not accept private contributions." Both respondents' committees filed the Commission-application companion reports (styled "Interim Report") in mid-June 2026, reflecting funding applications made on or about June 11-15, 2026: after the June 8 inter-committee payment, and while the reporting omissions described below were already embedded in their filed reports. On the facts set out in this complaint, each respondent's § 16-947(B) certification was false when made.

II. Statement of Facts

The signs

5. Personal knowledge: On June 13, 2026, I photographed jointly branded Thompson/Myers slate signs at three separate locations: (a) near Chandler Boulevard & 50th Street, Phoenix (GPS approx. 33.3054, -111.9763); (b) Ray Road, Chandler (GPS approx. 33.3198, -111.9111); and (c) Rural Road, Tempe (GPS approx. 33.3347, -111.9281). The photographs, with embedded capture dates and GPS coordinates, are attached as **Exhibits 1-10**.

6. Personal knowledge: I measured a deployed sign at the Phoenix location: approximately **48 inches tall by 47 inches wide**, corrugated plastic, mounted on steel rebar (Exhibits 2, 3, 5). Each sign reads "KEVIN THOMPSON / NICK MYERS / REPUBLICANS FOR CORPORATION COMMISSION" and carries two parallel attribution lines: "PAID FOR BY KEVIN THOMPSON FOR CORPORATION COMMISSIONER. AUTHORIZED BY KEVIN THOMPSON. (602) 402-1238" and "PAID FOR BY NICK MYERS FOR CORPORATION COMMISSIONER. AUTHORIZED BY NICK MYERS. (602) 402-1238" (Exhibits 1, 6). The rebar at the measured location was visibly rusted as of June 13, 2026 (Exhibit 5).

7. Based on direct review of public records: The telephone number printed in both committees' attribution lines, (602) 402-1238, is the published business line of **The Resolute Group LLC** (Arizona Corporation Commission entity 1937682), a political consulting firm, not the telephone of record of either committee or either treasurer. The Thompson committee's treasurer, Youssef Khalaf, is both a Member and Manager of The Resolute Group LLC and the firm's statutory agent of record, per the firm's Corporation Commission filings (Exhibit 14). Neither committee discloses any payment to The Resolute Group LLC on any 2026-cycle report.

8. These same signs are the subject of my June 13, 2026 complaint to the Secretary of State under A.R.S. § 16-925(D)(4) (disclosure size), docketed as **SOS-CF-2026-018** and accepted for initial review on June 25, 2026. The deployment of the signs is therefore already established in a state enforcement record.

The money: what the committees' own certified reports show

9. Based on direct review of the committees' filings: The Myers committee's Amended 2026 Interim Report (Report ID 393763, period April 1 - June 11, 2026, filed June 12, 2026; **Exhibit 11**) itemizes a Schedule E1 disbursement of **\$1,281.19** on **June 8, 2026** to "101859 - KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner," categorized "**Communications - Signs**," memo: "**Reimbursement for shared sign costs**." It was the only disbursement so categorized on any report of either committee until the Myers committee's Quarter 2 report re-itemized it and added the June 18 Convergent PrintGroup payment (¶ 29); no Thompson committee report carries the "Communications - Signs" category at any time.

10. Based on direct review of the committees' filings: The Thompson committee's Amended 2026 Quarter 2 report (Report ID 396886, period April 1 - June 30, 2026, filed July 6, 2026; **Exhibit 12**) itemizes a Schedule E1 disbursement of **\$1,281.19** on **June 11, 2026** (the identical amount, three days later) to Convergent PrintGroup, 3940 W Montecito, Phoenix, AZ 85019, categorized "Communications - Advertising."

10.1. The Thompson committee certified its Quarter 2 report five times without correcting any of the omissions alleged here. The committee filed an original Quarter 2 on June 15, 2026 (Report ID 385680), fifteen days before the period ended, and amended it on June 19 (ID 394024), twice on June 24 (IDs 394083, 394084; the eve of the Secretary of

State's June 25 docketing of the complainant's sign-disclosure complaint against these same committees, SOS-CF-2026-018), and again on July 6, 2026 (ID 396886, the operative version). Across five certifications the committee restated its opening balance, swung its reported receipts from positive \$6,970.00 to negative \$945.00 before settling at negative \$895.00 in the operative version, and belatedly added an omitted June 15 disbursement, while never once reporting the June 8 receipt from the Myers committee, any sign-related obligation, or any in-kind contribution.

11. The Thompson committee never reported receiving the Myers committee's \$1,281.19. The June 8, 2026 payment falls squarely within the Thompson committee's Amended Quarter 2 reporting period. That report (filed July 6, 2026, twenty-eight days after the payment) shows \$0.00 in contributions from political committees (Schedule C3), \$0.00 in other receipts (Schedule R1), and \$0.00 in transfers (Schedule T1), for both the period and the cycle to date (Exhibit 12).

12. Neither committee accounts for the signs on any other line. Both committees report \$0.00 in in-kind contributions on every 2026-cycle report (every "Other" column is \$0.00); neither committee itemizes any outstanding extension of credit; the Thompson committee reports \$0.00 on Schedule D1 (bill payments for previous expenditures) for the entire cycle. Total cycle-to-date expenditures for all purposes are \$28,558.02 (Thompson) and \$29,852.45 (Myers, per its Quarter 2 report).

13. Personal knowledge: The three photographed locations are not isolated examples: they are the locations I stopped to document. I have personally observed these jointly branded signs at dozens of intersections and rights-of-way across at least seven municipalities (Phoenix, Mesa, Chandler, Tempe, Scottsdale, Gilbert, and Queen Creek), spanning the metropolitan area from Phoenix and Scottsdale through the East Valley; the deployment is metropolitan in scale, not localized.

14. Information and belief, based on published and quoted market prices (Exhibit 13): The online price calculator of Think! Graphics, an Arizona print shop in Tempe, quoted the following for a 48" × 48" corrugated-plastic sign (4 mil, single-sided) on July 14, 2026: **\$107.36** for one; **\$4,976.00 for fifty (\$99.52 per sign)**; and **\$19,880.00 for two hundred (\$99.40 per sign)**. For a national comparison floor, Tampa Printing's published tiered price list for the same size runs from \$66.99-\$79.99 per sign at single quantities down to **\$19.80-\$27.66 per sign** at quantities of 50-99. All figures are before rebar or mounting hardware. At those prices, the combined **\$3,843.57** in sign-vendor payments on both committees' certified reports accounts for roughly **38 signs at Arizona-vendor prices**, and at most roughly **194 signs** even at the cheapest published national bulk tier.

15. The scale, geographic spread, physical condition, and **timing** of the deployed signage cannot be reconciled with the committees' certified reports. The complainant's photographs establish the fleet standing in three municipalities, on already-rusted mounting hardware, on **June 13, 2026**: two days after the only vendor payment then in existence (\$1,281.19, June 11) and **five days before** the payment that represents roughly two-thirds of all sign money either committee has ever reported (the Myers committee's \$2,562.38 of June 18). Signs photographed on June 13 were not bought with money paid on June 18. At least one of the following is necessarily true: (a) the committees made expenditures for signage they have not reported; (b) the vendor produced and delivered signage on credit that neither committee has ever itemized (although A.A.C. R2-20-110(B)(1) required any extension of credit to be reported as an expenditure "in an amount equal to the full future payment obligation, as of the date the contract, promise or agreement is made," and R2-20-104(D)(6) forbids a certified candidate to "incur debt, or make an expenditure in excess of the amount of cash on hand" before qualifying for funding) or the committees otherwise owe vendors amounts they

have not reported; or (c) some person other than the committees financed the signage, in whole or in part, as an in-kind contribution the committees have not reported.

How campaigns that pay The Resolute Group report it, and how the respondents don't

15.1. Based on direct review of public records: In the 2026 cycle, at least five Arizona candidate committees itemize regular payments to The Resolute Group LLC as operating expenses on their campaign finance reports: George Khalaf for State Representative - District 3 (#102036; ~\$1,000-\$1,250 per month), Michael Way for State Representative - District 15 (\$1,000-\$1,375 per month), Joseph Chaplik for AZ (~\$550 per month), Vote Wilmeth (\$50 per month), and Alex for Arizona (\$50 per month) (**Exhibit 15**). The Khalaf committee (the committee of The Resolute Group's own managing partner) categorizes its monthly Resolute retainer as "Professional Services - Consultants" and a \$2,032.20 payment as "Professional Services - Telemarketing/auto dialers" on its 2026 Quarter 1 report (**Exhibit 16**), and a \$1,250.00 Resolute payment as "Professional Services - Website/graphic design" on its 2025 Cumulative report (November 15, 2025; publicly available at seethemoney.az.gov and incorporated by reference).

15.2. Based on direct review of public records: The same Khalaf committee's 2026 Quarter 1 report also itemizes, on Schedule C1, an **in-kind contribution** of \$357.22 in "Goods/Services" from George Khalaf, occupation "**Partner, The Resolute Group**," transaction type "In-Kind Contribution" (**Exhibit 16**). The professionals who operate The Resolute Group therefore demonstrably know how to report both cash payments to the firm and in-kind goods and services associated with it.

15.3. Based on direct review of public records: Against that benchmark, the respondents' reports show **no payment to The Resolute Group LLC by either committee at any time in the 2026 cycle, and no in-kind contribution from any source**, even though Resolute's business telephone is the public contact printed in both committees' attribution lines on every sign, and Resolute's member/manager is the Thompson committee's treasurer. The Thompson committee does pay a bookkeeping firm, "100 Squared Financial," itemized on its 2026 Quarter 1 report at **3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, Phoenix, AZ 85012: the identical address and suite as The Resolute Group**. That firm is **One Hundred Squared Financial, LLC** (Arizona Corporation Commission Business ID 23000193), whose **sole member/manager and statutory agent is Youssef Khalaf: the Thompson committee's own treasurer (Exhibit 17)**. The treasurer's professional network thus bills the respondents' campaigns commercially for the services it chooses to invoice (Mr. Khalaf's own LLC collects bookkeeping fees from the Thompson committee and at least fifteen other Arizona committees), which forecloses any suggestion that services flowing to these campaigns from that office are casual volunteering. The one entity in that office whose services are visible on the respondents' own signage is the one entity neither committee reports paying.

III. Violations of the Citizens Clean Elections Act

Violation 1: Acceptance of prohibited contributions by participating candidates (A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(1))

16. A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(1) provides that a participating candidate "[s]hall not accept any contributions, other than a limited number of five-dollar qualifying contributions as specified in section 16-946 and early contributions as specified in section 16-945," subject to exceptions not relevant here.

17. The Thompson committee accepted \$1,281.19 from the Myers committee on June 8, 2026: a payment the Myers committee itemizes under oath and the Thompson committee does not report in any form. A payment from another candidate's committee is not a qualifying contribution, and it cannot be an early contribution: A.R.S. § 16-945(A) permits a participating candidate to accept early contributions "only from individuals." On its face, its acceptance by a participating candidate is prohibited by § 16-941(A)(1), and the making of it is independently and flatly prohibited by A.R.S. § 16-913(A) ("A candidate committee shall not make contributions to a candidate committee for another candidate."). If the respondents contend the payment was a genuine cost-sharing reimbursement rather than a contribution, that contention founders on their own filings: the "reimbursement" preceded the vendor payment it purportedly reimburses by three days, and the receiving committee never booked it at all. There is no characterization of this transaction under which both committees' certified reports are lawful and accurate.

18. The unaccounted-for signage is a prohibited in-kind contribution to the extent any third party financed it. As set forth in ¶¶ 5-15 (the documented metropolitan-scale deployment, the \$3,843.57 in total reported vendor payments, and the timing that places two-thirds of that money after the fleet was already standing), the respondents' certified reports cannot account for the cost of the sign fleet bearing their own names and attributions. To the extent the Commission's investigation establishes that any person provided signage, sign production, distribution, or placement services without full and contemporaneous payment by the committees, each respondent accepted a contribution prohibited by § 16-941(A)(1), in an amount equal to the fair market value of what was provided.

18.1. The Resolute Group's unreported role is a violation on its own, on either of the only two available theories. The Resolute Group LLC's involvement in the respondents' campaigns is not a matter of inference: it is printed on the respondents' own signs: the firm's business telephone, (602) 402-1238, appears as the public attribution contact in **both** committees' paid-for-by lines on every documented sign (¶¶ 6-7). Serving as the attribution contact for a candidate's campaign advertising is itself a campaign service, and it is ordinarily accompanied by the design, production, compliance, and placement coordination that a consulting firm exists to sell. Yet neither committee's reports show any payment to The Resolute Group at any time in the 2026 cycle (¶ 15.3), and both committees report \$0.00 in in-kind contributions from any source (¶ 12). Only two possibilities exist, and each is a violation:

(a) **The committees paid The Resolute Group and did not report it.** Unitemized, unreported disbursements violate the reporting requirements of A.R.S. § 16-926(B)(3) and are subject to the per-day penalties of § 16-942(B); or

(b) **The Resolute Group provided its services without charge.** A limited liability company's free services can never be lawful support for a participating candidate: § 16-941(A)(1) forbids acceptance of any contribution other than qualifying contributions and early contributions, § 16-945(A) permits early contributions "only from individuals," and the individual-volunteer concept cannot extend to a for-profit firm's services. The acceptance is subject to the ten-fold penalty of § 16-942(A).

18.1a. **The joint-expenditure rule makes the inter-committee violations mechanical (A.A.C. R2-20-110(A)(4)).** The Commission's own rule governs exactly this fact pattern: "A joint expenditure is made when two or more candidates agree to share the cost of goods or services. Candidates may make a joint expenditure on behalf of one or more other campaigns, but must be authorized in advance by the other candidates involved in the expenditure, and must be reimbursed **within seven days.**" Subpart (c) supplies the consequence: "If a fairly allocated share of any joint expenditure is not reimbursed to a candidate, the unreimbursed amount ... **shall be deemed a contribution to that candidate by the campaign committee of the candidate obligated to reimburse the share,**" and subpart (d) requires the unreimbursed share to be repaid to the Citizens Clean Elections Fund. Applied here: the Myers committee paid the joint sign vendor \$2,562.38 on June 18, 2026, recording under oath that half was the Thompson committee's share to be reimbursed "later." No reimbursement appears on any report of either committee within seven days, or at all, through the Myers committee's Quarter 2 report filed July 13 and the Thompson committee's Amended Quarter 2 filed July 6. By operation of R2-20-110(A)(4)(c), the unreimbursed **\$1,281.19 is deemed an inter-committee contribution between the two respondent committees:** under either reading of the rule's text, one respondent candidate committee made it and the other accepted it, and A.R.S. § 16-913(A) prohibits the making while § 16-941(A)(1) prohibits a participating candidate's acceptance. Both respondents are before the Commission. No investigation is required to establish this violation; it follows from the rule and the respondents' own certified filings. The June 8 sequence ("reimbursement" paid three days before the expense) independently violates the rule's advance-authorization-then-reimburse structure.

18.2. The value of what The Resolute Group provides is not speculative: the firm's usual and normal charges are printed on its own clients' certified reports: \$1,000 to \$1,050 per month for consulting, \$1,250 for website/graphic design, \$2,032.20 for telemarketing, and retainers ranging from \$50 to \$1,375 per month across five campaigns, including the campaign of the firm's own managing partner (§§ 15.1-15.2; Exhibits 15-16). At the firm's own documented rates, campaign services spanning the respondents' 2026 candidacies would be valued in the thousands of dollars per candidate at minimum.

18.2a. **No lawful amendment can cure the omission: the arithmetic forecloses it.** The Commission should anticipate that the respondents may respond to this complaint by amending their reports to disclose sign and consulting expenditures at realistic scale. Such an amendment would not resolve the violation; it would prove it. A participating Corporation Commission candidate's entire lawful funding before Clean Elections disbursement is capped at **\$38,869:** the \$36,959 aggregate early-contribution limit plus \$1,910 in personal monies (Exhibit 18). The Thompson committee's certified reports already account for **\$30,215.00** in total income (\$28,935.00 in early contributions and \$1,280.00 in candidate loans), of which \$28,558.02 is spent; its maximum lawful additional funding from all sources combined is therefore approximately **\$8,654**. The Myers committee's certified reports account for **\$30,332.56** in total income through its Quarter 2 report, leaving remaining lawful capacity of approximately **\$8,536**. These figures are computed generously to the respondents: even if every five-dollar line item on the committees' C2 individual-contribution schedules were re-treated as a qualifying contribution excluded from the limit under § 16-945(A)(3) (ninety-seven such items (\$485.00) for Thompson and five (\$25.00) for Myers), the Thompson committee's maximum lawful additional funding rises only to approximately **\$9,139**, and the Myers committee's to approximately **\$8,566**. Any amendment disclosing previously unreported sign production, distribution, or consulting costs materially beyond those amounts would, by the committees' own arithmetic, describe spending that **no lawful source could have financed**, establishing that the difference was borne by a prohibited contributor, in violation of § 16-941(A)(1), subject to the ten-fold penalty of § 16-942(A), and, above the \$36,959 threshold, to mandatory disqualification or forfeiture of office under § 16-942(C).

18.3a. **Over-limit early contributions (A.R.S. § 16-945(A)(1)).** Independent of the signage matters, both respondents accepted early contributions from individuals exceeding the **\$220 per-contributor limit** set by the published 2025-2026 biennial adjustments under A.R.S. § 16-959 (**Exhibit 18**), as shown on the respondents' own itemized C2 schedules (**Exhibit 19**):

(a) **Thompson:** Vicki Mayo: two \$220 contributions on November 23, 2025 (\$440 cycle-to-date, twice the limit); the committee refunded \$220 on **March 31, 2026, 128 days after receipt**, far outside the sixty-day refund window of A.R.S. § 16-913(C).

(b) **Myers:** Venkatesh Inti: \$310 cycle-to-date (\$210 on 7/10/2025 + \$100 on 3/31/2026); no refund appears on any report. Ken Robinson: \$250 cycle-to-date (\$210 on 3/10/2025 + \$40 on 9/17/2025, exclusive of his separately itemized \$5 qualifying contribution); no refund appears.

None of these items involves any five-dollar component that could be recharacterized as a qualifying contribution; each is an accepted contribution in excess of the early-contribution limit on the face of the certified filings, in violation of § 16-941(A)(1), and the Inti and Robinson excesses remain held today. The amounts are modest; the pattern is not: ninety-one Thompson contributors (excluding Ms. Mayo, whose total reached exactly \$220.00 only after the late refund) and eighty-three Myers contributors sit at exactly \$220.00, demonstrating that both committees administer the limit deliberately, which makes the acceptance and months-long retention of the excesses above knowing, not inadvertent.

18.3b. As to the **Myers committee** and The Resolute Group, no innocent construction is available even in theory. The Thompson committee might contend that its treasurer, a Resolute member/manager, merely listed his work telephone. Nick Myers's treasurer is Ray Malnar, not Mr. Khalaf; the Myers committee has no officer, vendor, or disclosed relationship of any kind with The Resolute Group on any report it has ever filed; and yet The Resolute Group's business line is printed as the Myers committee's own attribution contact on every sign. A firm whose telephone answers for a campaign is serving that campaign; the Myers committee reports neither paying for that service nor receiving it in kind.

Violation 2: Reporting violations by statewide candidates (A.R.S. § 16-942(B), predicated on the reporting requirements of Title 16, Chapter 6)

19. A.R.S. § 16-942(B) provides that "the civil penalty for a violation by or on behalf of any candidate of any reporting requirement imposed by this chapter shall be ... three hundred dollars per day for candidates for statewide office," doubled "if the amount not reported for a particular election cycle exceeds ten percent of the adjusted primary or general election spending limit," capped at "twice the amount of expenditures or contributions not reported," with the candidate and the candidate's campaign account "jointly and severally responsible."

20. The reporting requirements of A.R.S. § 16-926 are "reporting requirement[s] imposed by this chapter." Each respondent has violated them on the face of its own filings:

(a) **Thompson:** failure to report the June 8, 2026 receipt of \$1,281.19 from the Myers committee in any category of the Amended Quarter 2 report (§ 16-926(B)(2), (B)(4)); failure to itemize sign-related in-kind contributions, outstanding

obligations, or disbursements sufficient to account for the committee's documented signage (§ 16-926(B)(2)(a)(xiii), (B)(2)(a)(xiv), (B)(3)); and a false treasurer certification (§ 16-926(B)(5)).

(b) **Myers:** a materially inaccurate disbursement description (a June 8 "[r]eimbursement" for a June 11 vendor payment) and the same failure to itemize sign-related in-kind contributions, outstanding obligations, or disbursements sufficient to account for the committee's documented signage (§ 16-926(B)(2)(a)(xiii), (B)(2)(a)(xiv), (B)(3)), together with false treasurer certifications on the Amended Quarter 1 and Amended Interim reports (§ 16-926(B)(5)).

21. Daily penalties under § 16-942(B) accrue, for statewide candidates, at **\$600 per day per candidate:** the statutory \$300 as biennially adjusted for 2025-2026 under A.R.S. § 16-959 (Exhibit 18, "Late Filing Penalty ... Statewide \$600"). Should the Commission's investigation establish that the amount not reported exceeds ten percent of the adjusted primary election spending limit for Corporation Commission candidates (approximately **\$14,784**, i.e., ten percent of the published \$147,836 limit), the penalty doubles to **\$1,200 per day**, capped at twice the amount not reported.

Violation 3: The § 16-942(C) threshold (disqualification or forfeiture of office)

22. A.R.S. § 16-942(C) provides that "[a]ny campaign finance report filed indicating a violation of section 16-941, subsections A or B ... involving an amount in excess of ten percent of the sum of the adjusted primary election spending limit and the adjusted general election spending limit for a particular candidate **shall result in disqualification of a candidate or forfeiture of office.**" Based on the Commission's published 2026 amounts for Corporation Commission candidates (\$147,836 primary; \$221,754 general; sum \$369,590), that threshold is approximately **\$36,959** per candidate, a figure consistent with the Commission's own published aggregate early-contribution limit for the office (\$36,959).

23. Whether the prohibited-contribution value here exceeds \$36,959 per candidate is a question only the Commission's investigation can answer, because the respondents' own reports conceal the figure. The complainant does not ask the Commission to presume the threshold is met; the complainant asks the Commission to **find the number** (by obtaining the respondents' sign vendor invoices, orders, payment records, and communications) and to apply § 16-942(C) as written if the number is what the visible deployment suggests it may be.

IV. Jurisdiction

24. The Commission has jurisdiction over violations of the Citizens Clean Elections Act (A.R.S. §§ 16-940 through 16-961), including §§ 16-941 and 16-942, and enforces them through the process of A.R.S. § 16-957. The Secretary of State's investigative exclusivity under A.R.S. § 16-938(A) does not displace the Commission's parallel authority under the Act. *Arizona Advocacy Network v. State*, 250 Ariz. 109 (App. 2020); accord 2025 Elections Procedures Manual, ch. 14 (noting § 16-938(A) invalidated as applied to the Commission). Section 16-942(B) is itself a Clean Elections Act penalty provision, enforceable by the Commission, for reporting violations "imposed by this chapter."

25. For completeness: the complainant has separately pursued the sign-face disclosure violation before the Secretary of State (SOS-CF-2026-018, § 16-925(D)(4), docketed June 25, 2026), and is pursuing the § 16-926 report-completeness violations with the Secretary of State as filing officer. This complaint pleads the Clean Elections Act violations (the prohibited-contribution and participating-candidate matters) that lie uniquely with the Commission.

26. The ninety-day external-complaint limit of A.R.S. § 16-956(A)(7) does not apply. This complaint concerns the July 21, 2026 primary, for which no post-election report has been filed and no canvass completed; the limit has not begun to run.

V. Why This Matter Is Urgent

27. Neither respondent had received Clean Elections funding as of his most recent certified report (Schedule C6: \$0.00 for both), but the window is closing by the day: the qualifying period ended **July 14, 2026** (one week before the July 21 primary, A.R.S. § 16-961(B)(3)); both respondents transmitted their qualifying contributions weeks ago; the primary election period is already running; and once the Secretary of State's verification completes, each candidate need only file the R2-20-106(A) sworn statement and disbursement of **\$147,836 each** follows essentially immediately (§ 16-951; R2-20-106), with general-election funding of \$221,754 to follow for primary winners. The Commission decided a certification-stage matter this cycle (MUR 26-01) in which a pending complaint concerning a candidate's compliance with participating-candidate restrictions was resolved when the candidate withdrew from Clean Elections funding.

28. The complainant respectfully submits that the Commission should resolve, or at minimum be actively investigating, whether these respondents have accepted prohibited contributions **before** disbursing \$295,672 of public money to their campaigns. Once disbursed, the remedy becomes repayment litigation; before disbursement, the remedy is a certification decision made with full information.

VI. Requested Action

I respectfully request that the Commission:

1. Find reason to believe, under A.R.S. § 16-957(A), that each respondent violated A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(1) (prohibited contributions) and that reporting violations subject to A.R.S. § 16-942(B) have occurred;

2. Investigate using the Commission's compulsory powers, noting that each respondent has already covenanted, as a condition of certification, to "keep and furnish to the Commission all documentation relating to expenditures, receipts, funding, books, records (including bank records for all accounts)" and to "permit an audit or examination" of all receipts and expenditures (A.A.C. R2-20-104(C)(6)-(7)), including by obtaining from the respondents and their vendors: all invoices, orders, proofs, and payment records for the jointly branded signage (including from Convergent PrintGroup); all records of the June 8, 2026 inter-committee payment; and all records of any goods or services provided to either campaign by The Resolute Group LLC or any affiliate, together with evidence of payment;

3. Withhold disbursement of Clean Elections funding to both respondents, and decertify or deny funding on the merits. Specifically: (a) in the R2-20-106(B) pre-disbursement review of "all relevant facts and circumstances," treat this complaint and the respondents' own filings as evidence of illegal activity warranting refusal to distribute funds under R2-20-106(G); (b) decline to accept any R2-20-106(A) pre-disbursement sworn statement that the respondents' reports are "complete and accurate," because on the record above neither respondent can truthfully make it; (c) on a preponderance finding under R2-20-222(A), **decertify the respondents or deny or suspend their funding**, and order repayment to the Fund of the unreimbursed joint-expenditure share (R2-20-110(A)(4)(d)); and (d) treat each respondent's § 16-947(B) certification of compliance as false when made. At minimum, expedite this investigation (see R2-20-226(B)) so that no disbursement issues before the Commission's findings;

4. Assess civil penalties: under § 16-942(A), ten times the amount of any contribution accepted in violation of § 16-941(A)(1), including ten times each over-limit early-contribution excess identified in ¶ 18.3a; and under § 16-942(B), \$600 per day per candidate as biennially adjusted (doubled above the ten-percent threshold) for the reporting violations, for which each candidate and his campaign account are jointly and severally responsible;

5. Apply A.R.S. § 16-942(C) as written (disqualification of the candidate from the ballot or forfeiture of office) if the investigation establishes that the value involved exceeds ten percent of the sum of the adjusted primary and general election spending limits (approximately \$36,959 per candidate). The provision is mandatory ("shall result in disqualification of a candidate or forfeiture of office"). The Commission has enforced it against a sitting officeholder, and the Arizona Supreme Court unanimously affirmed. *Smith v. Ariz. Citizens Clean Elections Comm'n*, 212 Ariz. 407, 132 P.3d 1187 (2006). Because both respondents are sitting Corporation Commissioners, forfeiture of office remains an available and appropriate remedy even after the election calendar has run; and

6. Provide written confirmation of receipt and a MUR number.

VII. Supplemental Matters

29. The Myers committee filed its 2026 Quarter 2 report (Report ID 385459) on July 13, 2026 (**Exhibit 20**). It confirms and extends the violations pleaded above: it discloses a second Convergent PrintGroup sign payment (\$2,562.38, June 18, 2026) whose sworn memo ("To be shared expense. Reimbursement for 1/2 from Kevin Thompson later") establishes

a \$1,281.19 obligation of the Thompson committee that the Thompson committee's five-times-certified Quarter 2 report nowhere discloses; fronting another candidate committee's half of a vendor invoice is itself an extension of value prohibited by § 16-913(A) and, on the Thompson side, a contribution a participating candidate may not accept (§ 16-941(A)(1), § 16-945(A)). The report also shows the Myers committee closing the quarter with **\$80.11** in cash: a committee that cannot lawfully receive more than approximately \$8,500 in additional private funding (§ 18.2a), certifying that a multi-city large-format sign program cost it \$3,843.57, while it awaits \$147,836 in public money.

30. The complainant pleads the two available theories of The Resolute Group's unreported role in the alternative (§ 18.1) because the respondents' own filings foreclose any third possibility; which alternative is true (unreported payments or prohibited in-kind) is knowable only from the firm's and the committees' records, which the document requests in § VI.2 are designed to obtain. The complainant reserves the right to supplement with the correct characterization once those records are produced.

VIII. Verification

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. Statements identified as made on personal knowledge are made on personal knowledge; statements identified as based on review of public records or on information and belief are so based, and the sources are identified in the text.

Executed on July 15, 2026, at Tempe, Arizona.

Alex Robert Logvin

Alex Logvin

1074 W Maria Ln

Tempe, AZ 85284

alex.logvin@gmail.com

602-703-9404

State of Indiana)

County of Daviess is.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 14 day of July, 2026, by Alex Logvin.

Ransome Swords

Ransome Swords

Notary Public

My commission expires: 12/22/2033

Ransome Swords
Electronic Notary Public
State of Indiana
Commission #: NP0767714
My commission expires Dec 22, 2033

IX. Exhibits

- **Exhibits 1-10:** Photographs taken June 13, 2026 (embedded dates and GPS coordinates): measured 48" × 47" jointly branded slate sign, attribution close-ups, and deployed signs at Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix (1-8); Ray Rd, Chandler (9); Rural Rd, Tempe (10).
- **Exhibit 11:** Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner, Amended 2026 Interim Report (Report ID 393763, period 4/1-6/11/2026, filed 6/12/2026): the \$1,281.19 "Communications - Signs" payment to the Thompson committee, memo "Reimbursement for shared sign costs." (excerpt: Summary of Activity page and the Schedule E1 page showing the \$1,281.19 payment; complete report, Report ID 393763, publicly available at <https://seethemoney.az.gov/PublicReports/2026/9C658FA6-2420-4D08-A05E-EE8F2AD093F5.pdf> and incorporated by reference)
- **Exhibit 12:** KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner, Amended 2026 Quarter 2 report (Report ID 396886, period 4/1-6/30/2026, filed 7/6/2026): the \$1,281.19 Convergent PrintGroup payment; \$0.00 C3/R1/T1/D1; \$0.00 in-kind. (excerpt: Summary of Activity page and the Schedule E1 page showing the Convergent PrintGroup payment; complete report, Report ID 396886, publicly available at <https://seethemoney.az.gov/PublicReports/2026/85C2094A-FEB5-4146-9875-D223C6F5065B.pdf> and incorporated by reference)
- **Exhibit 13:** Sign-pricing evidence supporting the cost estimates in ¶ 14: (i) Think! Graphics (Tempe, Arizona) online price-calculator quotations for a 48" × 48" coroplast sign, retrieved July 14, 2026 (\$107.36 for one; \$4,976.00 for fifty; \$19,880.00 for two hundred); and (ii) Tampa Printing's published tiered price listing for the same size (\$66.99-\$79.99 per sign at single quantities; \$19.80-\$27.66 per sign at quantities of 50-99; saved July 8, 2026, rendered July 14, 2026).
- **Exhibit 14:** Arizona Corporation Commission record for The Resolute Group LLC (Business ID 1937682, retrieved July 14, 2026): principals George Khalaf, Joanna De La Cruz, and Youssef Khalaf (Members and Managers); statutory agent Youssef Khalaf; principal office 3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, Phoenix, AZ 85012.
- **Exhibit 15:** Comparator table: itemized payments to The Resolute Group LLC by five Arizona candidate committees, 2026 cycle (compiled from seethemoney.az.gov itemizations), with reported categories.
- **Exhibit 16:** George Khalaf for State Representative - District 3 (#102036), 2026 Quarter 1 report (filed 4/14/2026): monthly Resolute retainer categorized "Professional Services - Consultants"; Schedule C1 in-kind contribution of \$357.22 "Goods/Services" from "Khalaf, George — Partner, The Resolute Group," transaction type "In-Kind Contribution." (excerpt: the Schedule C1 page showing the \$357.22 in-kind contribution and the Schedule E1 page showing Resolute Group payments categorized "Professional Services - Consultants"; complete report, Report ID 315937, publicly available at <https://seethemoney.az.gov/PublicReports/2026/9D692A7D-1713-44EF-85E0-A19EF218DB61.pdf> and incorporated by reference)
- **Exhibit 17:** Arizona Corporation Commission record for One Hundred Squared Financial, LLC (Business ID 23000193, retrieved July 9, 2026): sole principal (Member and Manager) and statutory agent: Youssef Khalaf; character of business "Accounting and Bookkeeping"; principal office 3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

- **Exhibit 18:** Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Act 2025-2026 Participating Candidate Expenditure & Contribution Limits (biennial adjustments pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-959), published by the Secretary of State; Corporation Commissioner row: \$147,836 primary / \$221,754 general spending limits; \$36,959 aggregate and \$220 individual early-contribution limits; \$1,910 personal monies; \$600/day statewide late-filing penalty.
- **Exhibit 19:** Excerpts of the respondents' itemized C2 schedules showing the over-limit early contributions identified in ¶ 18.3a (Mayo \$440 and late refund; Inti \$310; Robinson \$250).
- **Exhibit 20:** Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner, 2026 Quarter 2 report (Report ID 385459, period 4/1-6/30/2026, filed 7/13/2026): Convergent PrintGroup \$2,562.38 (6/18/2026, "Communications - Signs," memo "To be shared expense. Reimbursement for 1/2 from Kevin Thompson later"); \$0.00 in-kind; no extension of credit itemized; ending cash \$80.11. (excerpt: the report summary page showing the \$80.11 ending cash balance and the Schedule E1 page showing the \$2,562.38 Convergent PrintGroup payment; complete report, Report ID 385459, publicly available at <https://seethemoney.az.gov/PublicReports/2026/211077F6-E1CC-4037-A8BB-FEA3C258ECCA.pdf> and incorporated by reference)

(The campaign finance reports cited above are public filings; each is excerpted here, cited by its full seethemoney.az.gov URL, and incorporated by reference in its entirety. Each report is cited by its Report ID and filing date as of the date of this complaint; any version at the cited URL bearing a later filing date or different Report ID reflects a post-complaint amendment.)

EXHIBITS 1-10

Photographs taken June 13, 2026 (embedded dates and GPS coordinates): measured 48" x 47" jointly branded Thompson/Myers slate sign, attribution close-ups, and deployed signs at Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix (1-8); Ray Rd, Chandler (9); Rural Rd, Tempe (10)

Exhibit 1 - IMG_8682.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:46 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3054, -111.9763 - Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix, AZ



Exhibit 2 - IMG_8683.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:46 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3055, -111.9763 - Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix, AZ

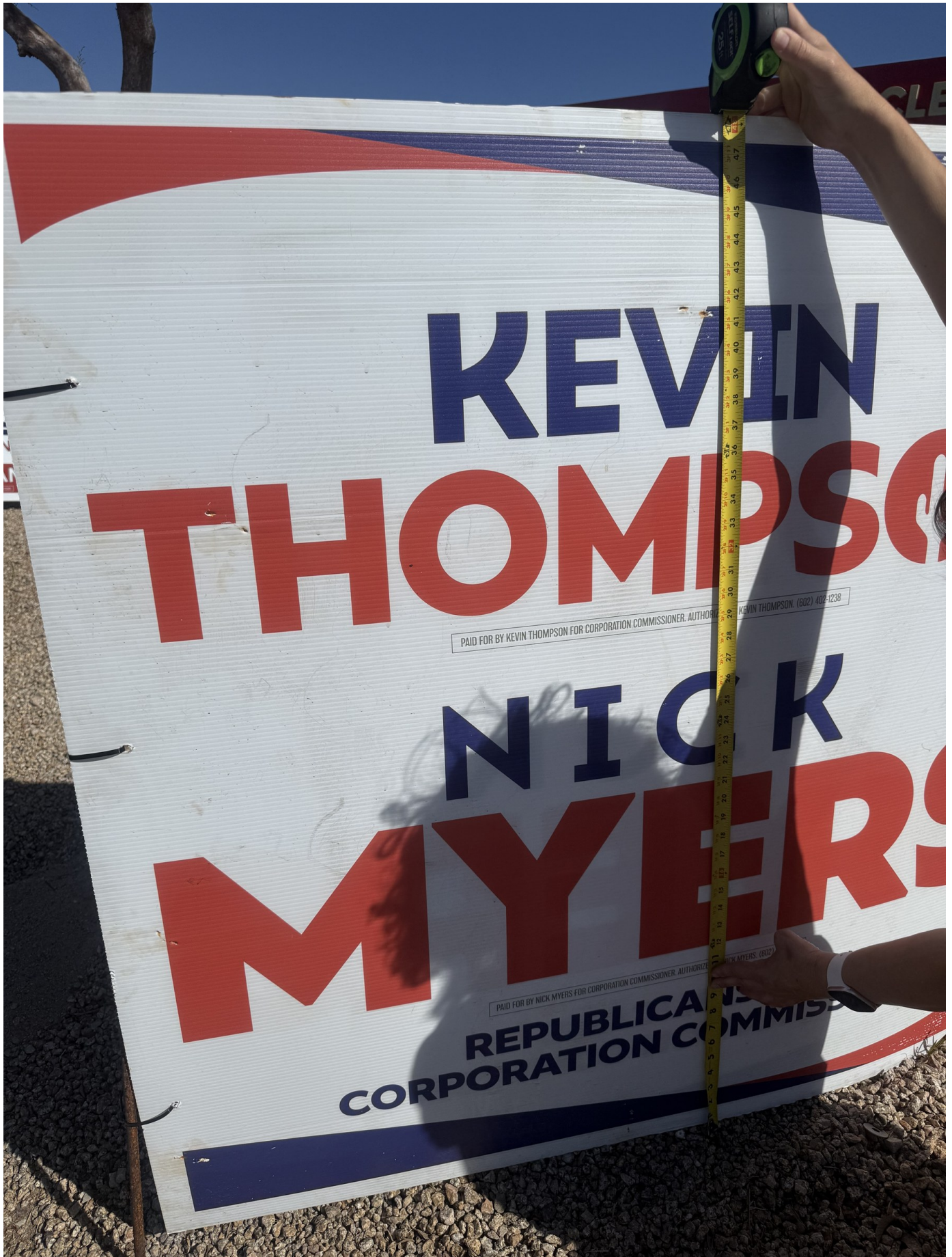


Exhibit 3 - IMG_8684.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:46 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3055, -111.9763 - Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix, AZ



Exhibit 4 - IMG_8685.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:46 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3055, -111.9763 - Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix, AZ



Exhibit 5 - IMG_8686.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:47 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3055, -111.9763 - Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix, AZ



Exhibit 6 - IMG_8687.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:47 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3055, -111.9763 - Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix, AZ



Exhibit 7 - IMG_8688.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:47 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3055, -111.9762 - Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix, AZ



Exhibit 8 - IMG_8689.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:47 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3055, -111.9762 - Chandler Blvd & 50th St, Phoenix, AZ



Exhibit 9 - IMG_8690.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 8:59 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3198, -111.9111 - Ray Rd, Chandler, AZ



Exhibit 10 - IMG_8691.jpeg - captured June 13, 2026, 9:04 a.m. (MST)

GPS (photo EXIF): 33.3347, -111.9281 - Rural Rd, Tempe, AZ



EXHIBIT 11

**Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner
Amended 2026 Interim Report (period 4/1/2026 - 6/11/2026)**

Report ID 393763 | Filed 6/12/2026

Pages included in this excerpt: Summary of Activity; Schedule E1 page showing the \$1,281.19 payment to the Thompson committee, memo "Reimbursement for shared sign costs"

EXCERPT - complete report is publicly available at:

<https://seethemoney.az.gov/PublicReports/2026/9C658FA6-2420-4D08-A05E-EE8F2AD093F5.pdf>

and is incorporated by reference.

This citation is to the version bearing Report ID 393763, filed 6/12/2026; a document at this URL bearing a different Report ID or filing date reflects an amendment made after this complaint was submitted.

Summary of Activity

Income	Schedule	This Period			Total to Date
		Cash	Other	Total	
Personal and Family Contributions	C1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,132.56
Individual Contributions	C2	\$1,945.00	\$0.00	\$1,945.00	\$26,305.00
Contributions from Political Committees	C3a,b,c	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Business Contributions	C4a,b,c	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Small Contributions	C5	\$460.00	\$0.00	\$460.00	\$1,415.00
CCEC Funding and Matching	C6	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Qualifying Contributions	C7	\$4,505.00	\$0.00	\$4,505.00	\$7,745.00
Loans Made to this Committee	L1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Receipts, including Interest and Dividends	R1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfers from Other Committees	T1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash Surplus from Previous Committee	S1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income		\$6,910.00	\$0.00	\$6,910.00	\$36,597.56

Expenditures	Schedule	This Period			Total to Date
		Cash	Other	Total	
Operating Expenses	E1	\$3,108.87	\$0.00	\$3,108.87	\$22,721.54
Independent & Ballot Measure Expenditures	E2a,b,c	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contributions to Committees/Businesses	E3a -E3f	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Small Expenses	E4	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$88.00
Transfers to Other Committees	T1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loans Made by This Committee	L2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disposal of Surplus Cash	S1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures		\$3,108.87	\$0.00	\$3,108.87	\$22,809.54
Bill Payments for Previous Expenditures	D1	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Cash Disbursed		\$3,108.87			

Schedule E1 - Operating expenses

		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	Anedot	04/01/2026	\$9.10	\$867.21
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Name:	Nathaniel Phillips	04/14/2026	\$96.00	\$308.00
Address:	13440 N 44th St, Phoenix, AZ 85032		Cash	
Category:	Miscellaneous - Petitions			
Name:	Renee Young	04/14/2026	\$687.00	\$5,447.00
Address:	3676 E Leah Ln, Gilbert, AZ 85234		Cash	
Category:	Miscellaneous - Petitions			
Name:	Anedot	05/12/2026	\$20.50	\$867.21
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Name:	Anedot	05/14/2026	\$22.50	\$867.21
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Name:	Anedot	05/15/2026	\$9.10	\$867.21
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Name:	Anedot	05/18/2026	\$10.60	\$867.21
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Memo:	anedot			
Name:	Biltmore Pro Print	05/29/2026	\$955.17	\$955.17
Address:	3108 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Advertising			
Name:	Anedot	06/01/2026	\$3.47	\$867.21
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Memo:	stripe transfer fee			
Name:	Multiple Contributors	06/07/2026	\$9.60	\$1,641.10
Address:			Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Memo:	anedot			
Name:	101859 - KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner	06/08/2026	\$1,281.19	\$1,281.19
Address:	7140 E Monte Ave, Mesa, AZ 85209		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Signs			
Memo:	Reimbursement for shared sign costs			

EXHIBIT 12

**KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner
Amended 2026 Quarter 2 Report (period 4/1/2026 - 6/30/2026)**

Report ID 396886 | Filed 7/6/2026

*Pages included in this excerpt: Summary of Activity; Schedule E1 page showing the \$1,281.19
Convergent PrintGroup payment*

EXCERPT - complete report is publicly available at:

<https://seethemoney.az.gov/PublicReports/2026/85C2094A-FEB5-4146-9875-D223C6F5065B.pdf>

and is incorporated by reference.

This citation is to the version bearing Report ID 396886, filed 7/6/2026; a document at this URL bearing a different Report ID or filing date reflects an amendment made after this complaint was submitted.

Summary of Activity

Income	Schedule	This Period			Total to Date
		Cash	Other	Total	
Personal and Family Contributions	C1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Individual Contributions	C2	\$2,395.00	\$0.00	\$2,395.00	\$28,935.00
Contributions from Political Committees	C3a,b,c	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Business Contributions	C4a,b,c	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Small Contributions	C5	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CCEC Funding and Matching	C6	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Qualifying Contributions	C7	(\$3,290.00)	\$0.00	(\$3,290.00)	\$0.00
Loans Made to this Committee	L1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,280.00
Other Receipts, including Interest and Dividends	R1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfers from Other Committees	T1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash Surplus from Previous Committee	S1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income		(\$895.00)	\$0.00	(\$895.00)	\$30,215.00

Expenditures	Schedule	This Period			Total to Date
		Cash	Other	Total	
Operating Expenses	E1	\$3,390.54	\$0.00	\$3,390.54	\$27,711.04
Independent & Ballot Measure Expenditures	E2a,b,c	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contributions to Committees/Businesses	E3a -E3f	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Small Expenses	E4	\$73.82	\$0.00	\$73.82	\$846.98
Transfers to Other Committees	T1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loans Made by This Committee	L2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disposal of Surplus Cash	S1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures		\$3,464.36	\$0.00	\$3,464.36	\$28,558.02
Bill Payments for Previous Expenditures	D1	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Cash Disbursed		\$3,464.36			

Schedule E1 - Operating expenses

		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	Biltmore Pro Print	04/15/2026	\$477.59	\$1,610.00
Address:	3108 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Flyers/handouts/door hangers			
Name:	Roosevelt Strategies Group	04/15/2026	\$828.00	\$1,656.00
Address:	3030 N Central, Suite 609, Phoenix, AZ 85012		Cash	
Category:	Professional Services - Consultants			
Name:	Convergent PrintGroup	06/11/2026	\$1,281.19	\$1,281.19
Address:	3940 W Montecito, Phoenix, AZ 85019		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Advertising			
Name:	Biltmore Pro Print	06/15/2026	\$486.26	\$1,610.00
Address:	3108 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Flyers/handouts/door hangers			
Name:	Mohave Free Press	06/19/2026	\$317.50	\$317.50
Address:	3211 E Snively Ave, Kingman, AZ 86409		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Newspapers			
Total of Operating Expenses			\$3,390.54	
Total of Refunds, Rebates, and Credits Received			\$0.00	
Net Total of Operating Expenses			\$3,390.54	

EXHIBIT 12a

Thompson committee 2026 Quarter 2 report versions - summary-page changes across
the five filed versions (June 15 - July 6, 2026)

Exhibit 12a - Five certifications of the same Quarter 2 report

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner (Committee #101859) - 2026 Quarter 2 campaign finance report, Arizona Secretary of State (seethemoney.az.gov). The committee filed and certified five successive versions of the same Quarter 2 report. The Summary of Finances page (page 1) of each version follows, in filing order:

Version	Report ID	Date filed (on report)	Report title (on report)
Version 1 (original)	385680	June 15, 2026	2026 Quarter 2
Version 2 (amended)	394024	June 19, 2026	Amended 2026 Quarter 2
Version 3 (amended)	394083	June 24, 2026	Amended 2026 Quarter 2
Version 4 (amended)	394084	June 24, 2026	Amended 2026 Quarter 2
Version 5 (current)	396886	July 6, 2026	Amended 2026 Quarter 2

Note: dates shown are the "Date Filed" values printed on each report's Summary of Finances page. Complete copies of each version are retained at research/thompson_101859/cfr_filings/ and remain retrievable from seethemoney.az.gov by Report ID.



Campaign Finance Report

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner

Committee #: 101859

Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Treasurer: Khalaf, Youssef

7140 E Monte Ave, Mesa, AZ 85209

Phone: (480) 586-6472

Email: kthomp2120@gmail.com

Candidate Name: THOMPSON, KEVIN

Office Sought: Corporation Commissioner

2026 Quarter 2

Election Cycle: **2026**
Date Filed: **June 15, 2026**
Reporting Period: **April 1, 2026-June 30, 2026**
Jurisdiction: **Arizona Secretary of State**

Summary of Finances

Cash Balance at Beginning of Reporting Period:	\$6,701.34
Total Cash Receipts this Reporting Period:	\$6,970.00
Total Cash Disbursements this Reporting Period:	\$2,658.66
Cash Balance at End of Reporting Period:	\$11,012.68

Report ID: 385680



Campaign Finance Report

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner

Committee #: 101859

Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Treasurer: Khalaf, Youssef

7140 E Monte Ave, Mesa, AZ 85209

Phone: (480) 586-6472

Email: kthomp2120@gmail.com

Candidate Name: THOMPSON, KEVIN

Office Sought: Corporation Commissioner

Amended 2026 Quarter 2

Election Cycle:	2026
Date Filed:	June 19, 2026
Reporting Period:	April 1, 2026-June 30, 2026
Jurisdiction:	Arizona Secretary of State

Summary of Finances

Cash Balance at Beginning of Reporting Period:	\$6,016.34
Total Cash Receipts this Reporting Period:	\$6,970.00
Total Cash Disbursements this Reporting Period:	\$2,976.16
Cash Balance at End of Reporting Period:	\$10,010.18

Report ID: 394024



Campaign Finance Report

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner

Committee #: 101859

Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Treasurer: Khalaf, Youssef

7140 E Monte Ave, Mesa, AZ 85209

Phone: (480) 586-6472

Email: kthomp2120@gmail.com

Candidate Name: THOMPSON, KEVIN

Office Sought: Corporation Commissioner

Amended 2026 Quarter 2

Election Cycle:	2026
Date Filed:	June 24, 2026
Reporting Period:	April 1, 2026-June 30, 2026
Jurisdiction:	Arizona Secretary of State

Summary of Finances

Cash Balance at Beginning of Reporting Period:	\$6,016.34
Total Cash Receipts this Reporting Period:	(\$945.00)
Total Cash Disbursements this Reporting Period:	\$2,976.16
Cash Balance at End of Reporting Period:	\$2,095.18

Report ID: 394083



Campaign Finance Report

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner

Committee #: 101859

Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Treasurer: Khalaf, Youssef

7140 E Monte Ave, Mesa, AZ 85209

Phone: (480) 586-6472

Email: kthomp2120@gmail.com

Candidate Name: THOMPSON, KEVIN

Office Sought: Corporation Commissioner

Amended 2026 Quarter 2

Election Cycle:	2026
Date Filed:	June 24, 2026
Reporting Period:	April 1, 2026-June 30, 2026
Jurisdiction:	Arizona Secretary of State

Summary of Finances

Cash Balance at Beginning of Reporting Period:	\$6,016.34
Total Cash Receipts this Reporting Period:	(\$895.00)
Total Cash Disbursements this Reporting Period:	\$2,978.10
Cash Balance at End of Reporting Period:	\$2,143.24

Report ID: 394084



Campaign Finance Report

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner

Committee #: 101859

Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Treasurer: Khalaf, Youssef

7140 E Monte Ave, Mesa, AZ 85209

Phone: (480) 586-6472

Email: kthomp2120@gmail.com

Candidate Name: THOMPSON, KEVIN

Office Sought: Corporation Commissioner

Amended 2026 Quarter 2

Election Cycle:	2026
Date Filed:	July 6, 2026
Reporting Period:	April 1, 2026-June 30, 2026
Jurisdiction:	Arizona Secretary of State

Summary of Finances

Cash Balance at Beginning of Reporting Period:	\$6,016.34
Total Cash Receipts this Reporting Period:	(\$895.00)
Total Cash Disbursements this Reporting Period:	\$3,464.36
Cash Balance at End of Reporting Period:	\$1,656.98

Report ID: 396886

EXHIBIT 13

Tampa Printing published tiered price listing for 48" x 48" corrugated-plastic yard signs
(saved July 8, 2026; rendered July 14, 2026)



DESIGN APPAREL PRINT ACCELERATOR HYPE STORE BLOG

CONTACT US

Products About Us Templates

Login / Register Cart 0

Coroplast Signs (Banners, Signs, Large Format)

Home ▶ Banners, Signs, Large Format ▶ Coroplast Signs



Short Description

This product is good for

Long Description

Price / Quote Calculator

Share Product

Size ?

Width (Inch)

Height (Inch)

46

x

36

Allowed width limit, min : 12 and max : 46

Allowed height limit, min : 12 and max : 36

Quantity

1

Grommets ?

None

H-Stakes ?

None

Sides

Single Sided

Total: \$107.36





Coroplast Signs (Banners, Signs, Large Format)

Home ▶ Banners, Signs, Large Format ▶ Coroplast Signs



Short Description

This product is good for

Long Description

Price / Quote Calculator

Share Product

Size ?

Width (Inch)

46

Height (Inch)

36

Quantity

50

Grommets ?

None

H-Stakes ?

None

Sides

Single Sided

Thickness

Total: \$4,976.00





DESIGN APPAREL PRINT ACCELERATOR HYPE STORE BLOG

CONTACT US

Products About Us Templates

Login / Register Cart 0

Coroplast Signs (Banners, Signs, Large Format)

Home ▶ Banners, Signs, Large Format ▶ Coroplast Signs



Short Description

This product is good for

Long Description

Price / Quote Calculator

Share Product

Size ?

Width (Inch)

46

Height (Inch)

36

Quantity

200

Grommets ?

None

H-Stakes ?

None

Sides

Single Sided

Thickness

Total: \$19,880.00





Large Panel Signs

Coroplast Signs									
48" (h) x 48"(w)									
Quantity	1	2 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 24	25 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 249	250 - 499	500+
1 Color, 1 Side	\$66.99	\$49.99	\$38.49	\$35.99	\$21.00	\$19.80	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing
2 Colors, 1 Side	\$66.99	\$49.99	\$38.49	\$35.99	\$21.30	\$20.40	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing
3 Colors, 1 Side	\$66.99	\$49.99	\$38.49	\$35.99	\$21.90	\$21.08	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing
Full Color, 1 Side	\$66.99	\$49.99	\$38.49	\$35.99	\$22.40	\$21.99	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing
1 Color, 2 Sides	\$79.99	\$57.99	\$44.99	\$39.99	\$29.70	\$23.81	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing
2 Colors, 2 Sides	\$79.99	\$57.99	\$44.99	\$39.99	\$30.68	\$25.11	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing
3 Colors, 2 Sides	\$79.99	\$57.99	\$44.99	\$39.99	\$31.44	\$26.70	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing
Full Color, 2 Sides	\$79.99	\$57.99	\$44.99	\$39.99	\$31.73	\$27.66	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing	Call For Pricing

Price Is Per Unique Image

COROPLAST YARD SIGNS

48"(H) X 48"(W)

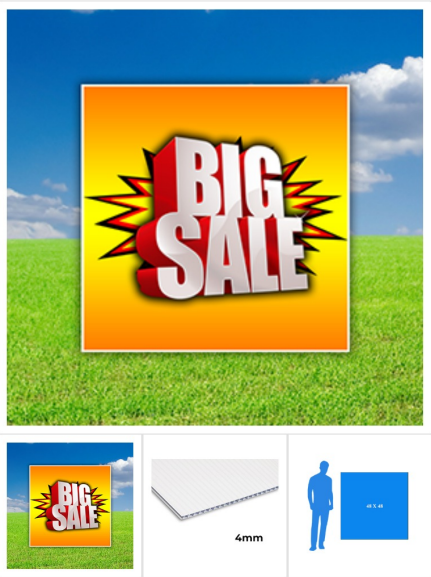
Our Corrugated Plastic signs work great for outdoor use. They are an excellent option for real estate signs, parking signs, and election signs. They are compatible with wire stakes and metal frames.

Features:

- Double side printing is available
- Indoor and outdoor use, waterproof and UV safe

Standard Material Options:

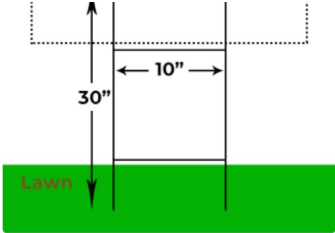
- 4mm White Coroplast



DON'T FORGET YOUR STEP STAKES!



Quantity	1 - 50	51 - 100	101 - 150	151 - 250	250+
15"(h) x 15"(w)	\$0.70 / each	\$0.65 / each	\$0.60 / each	\$0.50 / each	call for pricing
10"(h) x 30"(w)	\$1.20 / each	\$1.10 / each	\$1.00 / each	\$0.80 / each	call for pricing

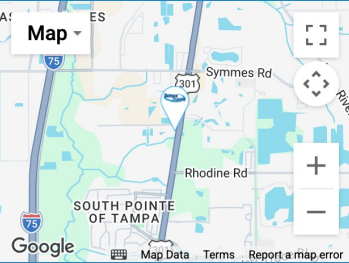


ADDRESS

11881 US-301 Riverview, FL 33578

We're located between Rhodine and Symmes on the West side of US-301.

LOCATION



HOURS

Mon-Fri: 9:00am-5:00pm

Sat: Closed

Sun: Closed

EXHIBIT 14

Arizona Corporation Commission record - The Resolute Group LLC (Business ID 1937682, retrieved July 14, 2026)



Arizona Business Center

Login

Register

Business Search ⓘ

Home > Business Search > Business Information

Back

Business Name

The Resolute Group LLC

State of Formation/Jurisdiction

Date of Formation

01/03/2019

Period of Duration

Perpetual

Business Type

Domestic Limited Liability Company

Principal Office Address

3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, PHOENIX, AZ, Maricopa, 85012, United States

Status Date

01/03/2019

Business ID

1937682

Mailing Address

-

Management Structure

Manager Managed

Business Status

Active

Reason for Status

In Good Standing

Character of Business

888888-Other-Other - Consulting

Statutory Agent Information

Agent Type

Individual

Physical Address Attention

-

Effective Date

-

Agent Name

YOUSSEF KHALAF

Statutory Agent Address (Physical Address)

4584 E RUFFIAN RD, GILBERT, AZ, Maricopa, 85297, United States

Status

Active

Mailing Address Attention

-

Mailing Address

4584 E RUFFIAN RD, GILBERT, AZ, Maricopa, 85297, United States

Principals Information (3)

Title	Principal Type	Name	Attention	Address	Mailing Address	Date Taking Office	Term of Office
Member and Manager	Individual	George Khalaf	-	3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, PHOENIX, AZ, Maricopa, 85012, United States	-	-	-
Member and Manager	Individual	Joanna De La Cruz	-	3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, PHOENIX, AZ, Maricopa, 85012, United States	-	-	-
Member and Manager	Individual	Youssef Khalaf	-	3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, PHOENIX, AZ, Maricopa, 85012, United States	-	01/2024	-

Filing History

Name History

Stat. Agent History

Service History

Restructuring History

Microfilm History

Filing Number	Filing Date/Time	Effective Date	Filing Type	Filing Status	View Document
25032414076382	03/26/2025 03:41 PM	03/17/2025	Articles of Amendment - LLC	Approved	
25020617420941	02/06/2025 05:42 PM	02/06/2025	Statement of Change - LLC Principal Address/Stat Agent	Approved	
23020618359923	02/06/2023 06:35 PM	02/06/2023	Statement of Change - Member/Manager Addresses	Approved	
23020617309741	02/06/2023 05:30 PM	02/06/2023	Statement of Change - LLC Principal Address/Stat Agent	Approved	
19010915393387	01/12/2019 01:05 AM	01/03/2019	Articles of Organization	Approved	

Items per page: 10 1 - 5 of 5 < >

EXHIBIT 15

Comparator table - itemized 2026-cycle payments to The Resolute Group LLC by five
Arizona candidate committees (compiled from seethemoney.az.gov itemizations)

The Resolute Group LLC — Payer Comparator Analysis

Compiled 2026-07-09 from seethemoney.az.gov AdvancedSearch (Expenditures, vendor "Resolute", cycle 2026) + committee report PDFs. Purpose: establish (a) how Arizona candidate committees that use The Resolute Group LLC report those payments, and (b) the usual and normal charges for Resolute's services (§ 16-926(D) valuation standard; § 16-941(A)(1) in-kind valuation).

1. Committees paying The Resolute Group, 2026 cycle (61 itemized transactions)

Committee	Cadence / amounts	Reported category (from report PDFs where pulled)
George Khalaf for State Representative - District 3 (#102036)	~\$1,000-\$1,250/month retainer, Jan 2025 - Mar 2026; + \$1,250 (11/15/25); + \$2,032.20 (3/11/26)	"Professional Services - Consultants" (monthly retainer); "Professional Services - Website/graphic design" (\$1,250); "Professional Services - Telemarketing/auto dialers" (\$2,032.20)
Michael Way for State Representative - District 15	\$1,000-\$1,375/month, Feb 2025 - Dec 2025; five -\$1,000 refunds 3/31/2026	Operating expenses (refunds booked "Rebate or Refund from Operating Expense")
Joseph Chaplik for AZ	~\$550/month (occasional \$1,100/\$1,650)	Operating expenses
Vote Wilmeth	\$50/month, Jan 2025 - Mar 2026	Operating expenses
Alex for Arizona	\$50/month (+\$700 5/7/25, +\$150 3/13/26)	Operating expenses

Resolute address of record on all itemizations: **3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, Phoenix, AZ 85012.**

2. The in-kind proof point (Khalaf's own books)

George Khalaf for State Representative - District 3, **2026 Q1 report (filed 4/14/2026)**, Schedule C1:

Name: Khalaf, George — 03/21/2026 — \$357.22 — Goods/Services — Occupation: Partner, The Resolute Group — Trans. Type: In-Kind Contribution

The Resolute Group's own managing partner's campaign reports (a) monthly cash payments to Resolute as itemized operating expenses AND (b) goods/services from a Resolute partner as an itemized in-kind contribution. The network that runs Thompson's treasury demonstrably knows both reporting obligations.

3. Thompson (#101859) and Myers (#100484), same cycle

- Payments to The Resolute Group LLC: **\$0.00 — none, on any report, either committee, entire cycle.**
- In-kind contributions reported: **\$0.00** (every "Other" column on every report).
- Yet: the attribution phone number on both committees' jointly branded 48" slate signs is **(602) 402-1238 — The Resolute Group's business line**; Thompson's treasurer **Youssef Khalaf is a Resolute member/manager** (AZCC entity 1937682).
- Thompson's committee pays **100 Squared Financial** (bookkeeping, \$700-\$1,200) — which as of Thompson's 2026 Q1 report is itemized at **3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, Phoenix, AZ 85012 — The Resolute Group's identical address and suite** (in 2025 Q3 itemized at 216 N 18th Ave #200, also a Khalaf-associated address). Roosevelt Strategies Group (consulting, \$828-\$2,340/mo across both committees) sits in the same building, Suite 609.

4. The inference

Every other campaign in the Resolute orbit pays Resolute monthly and reports it. The two committees whose *signs carry Resolute's phone number* report no payment to Resolute and no in-kind from anyone. Either Resolute (or an affiliate) provides services to the Thompson/Myers campaigns without charge — an in-kind contribution that is unreported (§ 16-926(B)(2)(a)(xiii)) and, because both are participating candidates and Resolute is an LLC (not an individual), categorically prohibited (§ 16-941(A)(1), § 16-945(A)) — or payments exist that appear on no report. The usual-and-normal-charges benchmark for whatever Resolute provides is documented above: \$50-\$1,375/month retainers plus per-service billing.

Source files

- Raw 61-transaction sweep: [seethemoney.az.gov AdvancedSearch](https://seethemoney.az.gov/AdvancedSearch) (re-run: `sos_search_transactions category=Expenditures vendor_name=Resolute cycle=2026`)
- Khalaf #102036 reports: [research/khalaf_102036/cfr_filings/](#) (2026 Q1 + 2025 Cumulative, PDF + txt)
- Thompson/Myers reports: [research/thompson_101859/cfr_filings/](#), [research/myers_100484/cfr_filings/](#)

EXHIBIT 16

**George Khalaf for State Representative - District 3 (#102036)
2026 Quarter 1 Report (period 1/1/2026 - 3/31/2026)**

Report ID 315937 | Filed 4/14/2026

Pages included in this excerpt: Schedule C1 page showing the \$357.22 "In-Kind Contribution" from "Khalaf, George - Partner, The Resolute Group"; Schedule E1 page showing payments to The Resolute Group categorized "Professional Services - Consultants"

EXCERPT - complete report is publicly available at:

<https://seethemoney.az.gov/PublicReports/2026/9D692A7D-1713-44EF-85E0-A19EF218DB61.pdf>

and is incorporated by reference.

This citation is to the version bearing Report ID 315937, filed 4/14/2026; a document at this URL bearing a different Report ID or filing date reflects an amendment made after this complaint was submitted.

Schedule C1 - Personal and family contributions

Schedule C1 - Personal and family contributions		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	Khalaf, George	03/21/2026	\$357.22	\$357.22
Address:	11063 E Sahuaro Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85259		Goods/Services	
Occupation:	Partner, The Resolute Group			
Trans. Type:	In-Kind Contribution			
Total of Personal and Family Contributions			\$357.22	
Total of Refunds Given			\$0.00	
Net Total of Personal and Family Contributions			\$357.22	

Schedule E1 - Operating expenses

		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	Anedot	03/06/2026	\$7.18	\$3,223.10
Address:	1340 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70122		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Name:	Anedot	03/08/2026	\$10.70	\$3,223.10
Address:	1340 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70122		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Name:	Cavalier, LaMonte	03/11/2026	\$504.00	\$2,154.00
Address:	15255 N Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ 85260		Cash	
Occupation:	Consultant, Team Elohim LLC			
Category:	Miscellaneous - Petitions			
Name:	Fusion Web	03/11/2026	\$250.00	\$250.00
Address:	3019 W Topeka Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85027		Cash	
Category:	Professional Services - Website/graphic design			
Name:	The Resolute Group	03/11/2026	\$1,050.00	\$8,382.20
Address:	3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, Phoenix, AZ 85012		Cash	
Category:	Professional Services - Consultants			
Name:	The Resolute Group	03/11/2026	\$2,032.20	\$8,382.20
Address:	3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, Phoenix, AZ 85012		Cash	
Category:	Professional Services - Telemarketing/auto dialers			
Name:	Anedot	03/13/2026	\$229.48	\$3,223.10
Address:	1340 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70122		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Name:	MailChimp	03/13/2026	\$27.84	\$41.76
Address:	512 Means St, Suite 404, Atlanta, GA 30318		Cash	
Category:	Overhead - Software			
Name:	Digital Revolution	03/16/2026	\$600.00	\$3,600.00
Address:	10810 N Tatum Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85028		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Advertising			
Name:	Anedot	03/22/2026	\$28.03	\$3,223.10
Address:	1340 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70122		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Name:	GoDaddy	03/23/2026	\$13.08	\$54.21
Address:	14455 N Hayden Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85260		Cash	
Category:	Overhead - Software			
Name:	Anedot	03/24/2026	\$4.30	\$3,223.10
Address:	1340 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70122		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			

EXHIBIT 17

Arizona Corporation Commission record - One Hundred Squared Financial, LLC
(Business ID 23000193, retrieved July 9, 2026)



Business Search

Home > Business Search > Business Information

Back

Business Name
One Hundred Squared Financial, LLC
State of Formation/Jurisdiction

Date of Formation
07/01/2019
Period of Duration
Perpetual

Business Type
Domestic Limited Liability Company
Principal Office Address
Youssef Khalaf ~ 3030 N Central Ave, Suite 1001, PHOENIX, AZ, Maricopa, 85012, United States
Status Date
07/01/2019

Business ID
23000193
Mailing Address
-
Management Structure
Manager Managed

Business Status
Active
Reason for Status
In Good Standing

Character of Business

888888-Other-Accounting and Bookkeeping

Statutory Agent Information

Agent Type
Individual
Physical Address Attention
-
Effective Date
-

Agent Name
YOUSSEF KHALAF
Statutory Agent Address (Physical Address)
4584 E RUFFIAN RD, GILBERT, AZ, Maricopa, 85297, United States

Status
Active
Mailing Address Attention
-

Mailing Address
4584 E RUFFIAN RD, GILBERT, AZ, Maricopa, 85297, United States

Principals Information (1)

Title	Principal Type	Name	Attention	Address	Mailing Address	Date Taking Office	Term of Office
Member and Manager	Individual	Youssef Khalaf	-	1616 E Indian School Road, Suite 480, PHOENIX, AZ, Maricopa, 85016, United States	-	07/2019	-

Filing History

Filing Number	Filing Date/Time	Effective Date	Filing Type	Filing Status	View Document
25020617420932	02/06/2025 05:42 PM	02/06/2025	Statement of Change - LLC Principal Address/Stat Agent	Approved	
23100818329443	10/08/2023 06:32 PM	10/08/2023	Statement of Change - LLC Principal Address/Stat Agent	Approved	
19070112274218	07/01/2019 05:33 PM	07/01/2019	Articles of Organization	Approved	

EXHIBIT 18

Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Act 2025-2026 Participating Candidate Expenditure &
Contribution Limits (biennial adjustments pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-959)

Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Act

2025-2026 Participating Candidate Expenditure & Contribution Limits

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-959(A)

Office	Primary Election Spending Limits A.R.S. § 16-961(G)	General Election Spending Limits A.R.S. § 16-961(H)	Independent Expenditure Reporting Threshold A.R.S. § 16-941(D)	Maximum Early Contributions (Aggregate) A.R.S. § 16-945(A)(2)	Maximum Early Contributions (Individual) A.R.S. § 16-945(A)(1)	Maximum Personal Money Contributions A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(2)
Governor	\$1,141,328	\$1,711,992	\$970	\$76,880	\$220	\$1,910
Secretary Of State	\$295,743	\$443,615	\$970	\$73,936	\$220	\$1,910
Attorney General	\$295,743	\$443,615	\$970	\$73,936	\$220	\$1,910
Treasurer	\$147,836	\$221,754	\$970	\$36,959	\$220	\$1,910
Superintendent of Public Instruction	\$147,836	\$221,754	\$970	\$36,959	\$220	\$1,910
Corporation Commissioner	\$147,836	\$221,754	\$970	\$36,959	\$220	\$1,910
Mine Inspector	\$73,943	\$110,915	\$970	\$18,486	\$220	\$1,910
Legislature	\$23,099	\$34,649	\$970	\$5,775	\$220	\$970

Other Adjustments of Concern to Committees

Late Filing Penalty A.R.S. § 16-942(B)		Petty Cash Account Limits A.R.S. § 16-948(C)	
Statewide	Legislative	Expenditure	Balance
\$600	\$220	\$220	\$1,910

Administrative Adjustments

Commissioner Per Diem Salary A.R.S. § 16-955(G)	CCEC 2023-2024 Calendar Year Spending Limit Coefficient A.R.S. § 16-949(A)
\$370	\$9

EXHIBIT 19

Excerpts of the respondents' itemized C2 schedules - over-limit early contributions
(Mayo \$440 and late refund; Inti \$310; Robinson \$250)

Exhibit 19 — Over-Limit Early Contributions: Schedule C2 Excerpts

Compiled 2026-07-14. The line items below are reproduced verbatim from Schedule C2 (Individual contributions) of campaign finance reports filed with the Arizona Secretary of State by KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner (Committee #101859) and Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner (Committee #100484). Source PDFs were downloaded from seethemoney.az.gov; report IDs and filing dates appear on each report's Summary of Finances page.

1. Mayo, Vicki — Thompson committee (#101859)

As itemized: 8711 N Via La Serena, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 — Occupation: Partner, Mayo Global.

Date	Amount	Cycle to Date	Source report
11/23/2025	\$220.00	\$440.00	Amended 2025 Quarter 4, Report ID 393909, filed 06/14/2026 — Schedule C2, PDF p. 6
11/23/2025	\$220.00	\$440.00	Same report (ID 393909) — Schedule C2, PDF p. 7 (second, separate itemization of the same date and amount)
03/31/2026	(\$220.00)	\$220.00	Amended 2026 Quarter 1, Report ID 393908, filed 06/14/2026 — Schedule C2. Itemized as: Trans. Type "Refunded Contribution"; Original Date 11/23/2025; Original Amount \$220.00

The report itemizes two separate \$220.00 contributions from Vicki Mayo on 11/23/2025, for a cycle-to-date total of \$440.00. One \$220.00 contribution was refunded on 03/31/2026 — 128 days after receipt — leaving \$220.00 cycle-to-date.

2. Inti, Venkatesh — Myers committee (#100484)

As itemized: 3027 Hartman Way, San Diego, CA 92117 — Occupation: CDO, Avantus.

Date	Amount	Cycle to Date	Source report
07/10/2025	\$210.00	\$210.00	Amended 2025 Quarter 3, Report ID 393755, filed 06/12/2026 — Schedule C2 (memo: "anedot")
03/31/2026	\$100.00	\$310.00	Amended 2026 Quarter 1, Report ID 393762, filed 06/12/2026 — Schedule C2 (memo: "anedot")

Cycle-to-date total: \$310.00. No refund to this contributor appears on any report through the committee's 2026 Q2 report.

3. Robinson, Ken — Myers committee (#100484)

As itemized: 32078 S Agarita Dr, Oracle, AZ 85623 — Occupation: retired.

Date	Amount	Cycle to Date	Source report
03/10/2025	\$210.00	\$210.00	Amended 2025 Quarter 1, Report ID 363713, filed 01/15/2026 — Schedule C2 (memo: "anedot")
09/17/2025	\$40.00	\$250.00	Amended 2025 Quarter 3, Report ID 393755, filed 06/12/2026 — Schedule C2 (memo: "casg")

Cycle-to-date total: \$250.00. No refund to this contributor appears on any report through the committee's 2026 Q2 report. (A separate \$5.00 "Robinson, Ken K" item dated 09/17/2025 appears on the same committee's \$5 qualifying-contribution schedule; it is not included above.)

Source files. Report PDFs and extracted text retained at research/thompson_101859/cfr_filings/ and research/myers_100484/cfr_filings/ (filenames encode report period and filing date). Each report is retrievable from seethemoney.az.gov by committee number and report ID.

EXHIBIT 20

**Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner
2026 Quarter 2 Report (period 4/1/2026 - 6/30/2026)**

Report ID 385459 | Filed 7/13/2026

*Pages included in this excerpt: Report summary page showing \$80.11 Cash Balance at End;
Schedule E1 page showing the \$2,562.38 Convergent PrintGroup payment, memo "To be
shared expense. Reimbursement for 1/2 from Kevin Thompson later"*

EXCERPT - complete report is publicly available at:

<https://seethemoney.az.gov/PublicReports/2026/211077F6-E1CC-4037-A8BB-FEA3C258ECCA.pdf>

and is incorporated by reference.

This citation is to the version bearing Report ID 385459, filed 7/13/2026; a document at this URL bearing a different Report ID or filing date reflects an amendment made after this complaint was submitted.



Campaign Finance Report

Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner
Committee #: 100484
Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Treasurer: Malnar, Ray
4420 W Bush Bean Way, San Tan Valley, AZ 85144
Phone: (480) 331-7747
Email: info@nickmyers.us
Candidate Name: Myers, Nick
Office Sought: Corporation Commissioner

2026 Quarter 2

Election Cycle: 2026
Date Filed: July 13, 2026
Reporting Period: April 1, 2026-June 30, 2026
Jurisdiction: Arizona Secretary of State

Summary of Finances

Cash Balance at Beginning of Reporting Period:	\$9,586.89
Total Cash Receipts this Reporting Period:	\$645.00
Total Cash Disbursements this Reporting Period:	\$10,151.78
Cash Balance at End of Reporting Period:	\$80.11

Report ID: 385459

Schedule E1 - Operating expenses

		Date	Amount	Cycle To Date
Name:	Anedot	06/09/2026	\$4.14	\$921.61
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Memo:	expedited expense for stripe transfer			
Name:	Anedot.com	06/11/2026	\$0.50	\$0.50
Address:	Website, Online, AZ 85207		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Memo:	Stripe fee expedited			
Name:	Anedot	06/13/2026	\$45.50	\$921.61
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Memo:	anedot plus \$.50 anedot adjust			
Name:	Anedot	06/14/2026	\$6.60	\$921.61
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Memo:	anedot			
Name:	Anedot	06/18/2026	\$2.30	\$921.61
Address:	PO Box 84314, Baton Rouge, LA 70898		Cash	
Category:	Administration - Bank fees/service charge			
Memo:	anedot			
Name:	Convergent PrintGroup	06/18/2026	\$2,562.38	\$2,562.38
Address:	3940 W Montecito, Phoenix, AZ 85019		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Signs			
Memo:	To be shared expense. Reimbursement for 1/2 from Kevin Thompson later			
Name:	Mohave Free Press	06/23/2026	\$317.50	\$317.50
Address:	3211 E Snively Ave, Kingman, AZ 86409		Cash	
Category:	Communications - Advertising			
Name:	Myers, Nick	06/30/2026	\$4,108.63	\$4,108.63
Address:	2362 W Bonnie Ln, Queen Creek, AZ 85142		Cash	
Occupation:	OWNER, OWNER OF COMPANY			
Category:	Travel - Mileage			
Memo:	Partial Millage Reimbursement			
Total of Operating Expenses			\$10,151.78	
Total of Refunds, Rebates, and Credits Received			\$0.00	
Net Total of Operating Expenses			\$10,151.78	

Exhibit 2

RESPONSE OF RESPONDENTS KEVIN THOMPSON AND NICK MYERS TO VERIFIED COMPLAINT: CCEC MUR NO. 26-07

July 20, 2026

Via Email (ccec@azcleanelections.gov)

Thomas M. Collins

Executive Director

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

1110 West Washington Street, Suite 250

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: CCEC MUR No. 26-07, Response of Respondents Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers

Dear Director Collins:

Pursuant to Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-205(A), Respondents Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers, and their respective candidate committees Kevin Thompson for Corporation Commissioner (SOS Committee #101859) and Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner (SOS Committee #100484), jointly submit this response to the Verified Complaint filed by Alex Logvin on July 15, 2026, and docketed as MUR No. 26-07. For the reasons below, the Respondents respectfully request that the Commission find no reason to believe that a violation of the Citizens Clean Elections Act occurred, decline to withhold or delay Clean Elections disbursement to either committee, and take no further action on this complaint.

I. This Complaint Is the Latest Installment in a Pattern of Retaliatory Filings, Not a Good-Faith Compliance Concern

Before turning to the substance, the Commission should have the full context in which this complaint arrives. Mr. Logvin is not a disinterested member of the public who happened upon an isolated compliance concern. On June 13, 2026, he spent the better part of a morning traveling to multiple intersections across the Phoenix metropolitan area to photograph, measure, and GPS-tag a single style of campaign sign belonging to the Respondents. He has since used that material as raw content for successive filings against the same two candidates: first a complaint to the Secretary of State (SOS-CF-2026-018) manufacturing a dispute over disclosure-text sizing, and now this complaint, which recycles

the same photographs and measurements into a far more sweeping, and far more damaging, theory timed to arrive one week before the July 21 primary and to threaten the candidates' public funding on the eve of the election. That timing, and the escalating severity of each successive filing built from the same handful of photographs, is not the profile of someone raising a genuine compliance question as it arises. It is the profile of a person using the Commission's complaint process itself as a tool to burden and disadvantage two candidates because of their candidacy. Arizona's public policy disfavors exactly this kind of retaliatory use of official process to punish or deter protected activity. The same policy underlies the state's anti-SLAPP protections against meritless, harassment-driven filings, see A.R.S. § 12-751 et seq., and the Commission is entitled to weigh that pattern in deciding how much benefit of the doubt this complaint's inferential leaps deserve, particularly where, as shown next, the theory's central factual premise does not hold up.

II. The Slate Signs Photographed by the Complainant Are Leftover Signage from the Respondents' 2022 Campaign, Not a Product of Any 2026 Expenditure

The complaint's financial theory rests entirely on one mistaken assumption: that the approximately 48" x 47" jointly branded slate signs the complainant photographed on June 13, 2026, were produced and purchased during the current election cycle, such that their cost must appear somewhere on the committees' 2026 disbursement schedules. That assumption is incorrect.

The signs at issue were produced for the Respondents' 2022 election cycle. Once that cycle ended, the campaigns treated this signage as spent, valueless material, the ordinary fate of a yard sign after an election, and did not retain it as any kind of campaign asset or maintain any centralized inventory of it. A number of the original signs were simply retained after that cycle, and it is campaign volunteers, not either committee, who redeployed a portion of that old stock in this cycle, again on their own initiative and without any 2026 purchase order or paid vendor or consultant involvement. Other signs from the same original stock were disposed of or given away for purposes having nothing to do with either campaign, including, to the Respondents' knowledge, at least a portion repurposed by their recipients as material for backyard structures. That disposition underscores the point: this was material the campaigns had already fully used, fully paid for four years earlier, and considered worthless by the time the 2026 cycle began. Neither committee has purchased, produced, or paid for any sign of this design or dimension during the 2026 cycle. That is precisely why no 2026 disbursement schedule contains a vendor payment corresponding to the complainant's estimate of the fleet's replacement cost: no such expenditure occurred in this cycle, because no such purchase was made in this cycle.

This also bears on the physical condition referenced in the complaint. The complaint treats a rusted rebar stake photographed at one location on June 13, 2026 (Exhibit 5) as though it were significant. Old signage redeployed by volunteers over multiple cycles will show varying degrees of wear depending on how it was individually stored or handled, and the condition of any individual sign or stake, including whatever surface oxidation appears in a single photograph, is neither uniform across that stock nor indicative of when a given sign was last placed. The single example the complaint highlights does not establish, and is not representative of, the condition of that stock generally, and it certainly does not establish that the signage was produced or paid for in this cycle.

This signage was never a campaign asset to begin with. It was simply retained after 2022, redeployed in this cycle by volunteers on their own initiative, and in part discarded or given away entirely apart from either campaign. Accordingly, the Respondents do not maintain, and have no occasion or ability to maintain, a running count of how many signs remain in circulation or exactly where each has been placed at any given time. Neither committee has an obligation to track the movements of a physical object that generated no 2026 expenditure and imposes no current or ongoing cost on either committee. The complainant's estimate that "the disclosed dollars account for roughly 38 signs" is not an unexplained gap; it is the predictable result of pricing a 2026 vendor invoice against a sign stock that neither committee produced or purchased in that period.

III. The Committees' Disclosed Sign-Vendor Payments Are for the Committees' Current-Cycle Yard Signs: A Different Product from the Signage at Issue

The complaint conflates two different things: (1) the leftover 2022-cycle slate signs addressed above, and (2) the standard yard signs the committees actually did purchase this cycle from Convergent PrintGroup. These are different products at different price points, and the committees' certified reports disclose the latter accurately. The \$1,281.19 payment from the Thompson committee and the \$2,562.38 payment from the Myers committee to Convergent PrintGroup reflect the committees' current-cycle yard sign order, not the 2022 slate signs the complaint photographs and measures. The complainant's unit-cost analysis (Exhibit 13), built around 48" x 48" coroplast pricing, has no application to the different, smaller sign the committees actually purchased and disclosed. There is no unexplained gap between deployment and disclosure; the complaint has simply priced the wrong sign.

IV. The June 8, 2026 Inter-Committee Payment Was the Myers Committee's Share of the Disclosed 2026 Yard Sign Order

The \$1,281.19 payment from the Myers committee to the Thompson committee on June 8, 2026, was the Myers committee's agreed share of the cost of the committees' shared, current-cycle yard sign order, the same order reflected in the June 11 and June 18 Convergent PrintGroup payments discussed above. The two committees, running a joint campaign, agreed to split the cost of that shared purchase, consistent with the joint-expenditure practice contemplated by A.A.C. R2-20-110(A)(4). The payment has no connection to the 2022-cycle slate signage that is the subject of the complaint's central theory.

To the extent the Commission's review identifies any itemization on either committee's report that would benefit from clarification regarding this transaction, the Respondents confirm that Kevin Thompson has indicated to Nick Myers that any such reconciliation will be addressed appropriately, a matter properly resolved through the audit process contemplated by A.A.C. R2-20-104(C)(6)-(7), through which the Commission may examine the underlying records for itself. That is, at most, a bookkeeping question to be resolved in that process, not evidence of a prohibited contribution. The underlying transaction was a legitimate, arm's-length allocation of a shared, disclosed campaign expense between two committees running a joint campaign, precisely the arrangement the Commission's joint-expenditure rule is designed to accommodate.

More generally, and apart from the itemized contributions addressed in Section VI below, Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers believe, based on their own review, that their respective committees'

campaign finance reports accurately reflect their 2026 receipts and expenditures. The two committees' treasurers will work together to reconcile any potential differences the Commission's review may identify, so that the record is complete and accurate in every particular.

V. The Telephone Number Printed on the 2022-Cycle Signs Is a Legacy Artifact, Not Evidence of a Current Undisclosed Relationship

The complaint places substantial weight on the fact that the attribution line on the 2022-cycle signs lists a telephone number associated with The Resolute Group LLC. That number appears on the signs because it was the contact number in use when the original sign artwork was designed and the signs were printed four years ago; the signs have not been redesigned or reprinted since. Its presence on four-year-old signage says nothing about what services, if any, the Respondents' committees are currently receiving from that firm or any other vendor in the 2026 cycle, and a printed phone number on old signage is not evidence of a current unreported in-kind contribution. Any current-cycle vendor relationships either committee maintains are addressed through the committees' ordinary, ongoing disclosure obligations and are not properly established by inferences drawn from artwork printed in 2022.

VI. The Itemized Contributions Identified in the Complaint Are Under Review

The Respondents are reviewing the itemized contributions identified in the complaint (Exhibit 19) against their underlying records. To the extent that review identifies any contribution that exceeded the applicable early-contribution limit, the affected committee will process any necessary refund and file any corrective amendment without delay, consistent with A.R.S. § 16-913(C). This is, at most, an isolated administrative matter to be resolved through the Commission's ordinary compliance process. It is unrelated to, and provides no support for, the sign-fleet financing theory that drives the complaint's request for emergency relief, and it comes nowhere near the statutory thresholds in A.R.S. § 16-942(C) that the complaint invokes.

VII. The Complaint Mischaracterizes the Candidates' Certifications as Guarantees of Perfection Rather Than Good-Faith, Knowledge-Based Statements

The complaint repeatedly asserts that the Respondents' certifications were "false when made" (see, e.g., ¶¶ 4.1, 18.2a) because their reports have since become the subject of dispute. That framing overstates what the candidates' certifications actually say and what the law requires them to say. The certification contemplated by A.R.S. § 16-947(B) and the pre-disbursement statement contemplated by A.A.C. R2-20-106(A) are, like sworn statements generally, good-faith certifications made to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief at the time, not warranties that every itemization in a multi-page campaign finance report is free of any possible clerical question, now or in hindsight. Notably, the complainant's own verification of this very complaint is framed the identical way: he declares his complaint "true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief," not as an unqualified guarantee against error. The Respondents' certifications were made on the same good-faith basis, reflecting their honest belief, and their treasurers' professional judgment, that the reports were accurate at the time each was signed. A subsequent question about an itemization, even one the Commission ultimately asks the committees to correct, does not transform an honest, knowledge-based certification made months earlier into a false statement. The complaint's attempt to equate the two proves too much:

under the complainant's own theory, any campaign whose report is ever amended or clarified would have certified falsely, a standard no participating candidate could ever satisfy and one the statute does not impose.

VIII. The Requested Relief: Withholding \$295,672 in Public Funding Is Not Warranted

The Commission's pre-disbursement review under A.A.C. R2-20-106(B) calls for consideration of "all relevant facts and circumstances." Those facts and circumstances, properly understood, disclose no violation of A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(1): the signage the complaint treats as unaccounted-for was never purchased in this cycle and required no 2026 expenditure to produce; the sign-vendor payments the committees did make this cycle are properly disclosed and correspond to a different product entirely; and the inter-committee payment the complaint treats as a prohibited contribution was a legitimate shared-expenditure reimbursement for that same disclosed, current-cycle purchase. There is no "evidence of fraud or illegal activity" within the meaning of A.A.C. R2-20-106(G) that would justify refusing to distribute funds to either candidate, and no basis to withhold the sworn statement contemplated by R2-20-106(A). The Respondents respectfully request that the Commission decline to delay certification or disbursement on the basis of this complaint.

IX. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Respondents Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers respectfully request that the Commission find no reason to believe that either Respondent violated A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(1) or any applicable reporting requirement, decline to withhold or delay Clean Elections disbursement to either committee, and take no further action on this complaint. The Respondents reserve the right to supplement this response should additional information become relevant, and remain available to provide any documentation the Commission may request.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Thompson

7140 E. Monte Ave.

Mesa, AZ 85209

State of Arizona)

County of Maricopa) ss.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this ____ day of July, 2026, by Kevin Thompson.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

Nick Myers

4420 W. Bush Bean Way

San Tan Valley, AZ 85144

State of Arizona)

County of Maricopa) ss.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this ____ day of July, 2026, by Nick Myers.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

MUR No. 26-10

STATEMENT OF REASONS OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission (the “Commission”), the Executive Director hereby provides the Statement of Reasons for the recommendation that the Commission find reason to believe that violations of the Citizens Clean Elections Act and Commission rules (collectively, the “Act”) occurred.

Background

Merissa Caldwell filed a Complaint on August 13, 2016. The Complaint alleges that Commissioner Nick Myers and Commissioner Kevin Thompson, participating candidates in the 2026 election for the Arizona Corporation Commission, used campaign signs and rebar stakes purchased with public Clean Elections funds in 2022 without first purchasing those assets from the prior campaign as required by A.A.C. R2-20-702.01. Exhibit 1.

According to the Complaint, campaign finance records show that during the 2022 cycle, the Myers Campaign spent \$12,736.63 for signs with BP Graphics and \$1,546.36 with CMC Rebar for sign stakes. Complaint at 1-2. The Thompson Campaign spent \$2,144.77 for signage. *Id.* Both candidates received public Clean Elections funding in 2022. *Id.*

Public statements provided by Complainant indicate that 2022-cycle signs were collected and redeployed in 2026:

- On November 12, 2022, Candidate Myers posted on Facebook that he and Candidate Thompson were collecting signs and rebar “so we can reuse them next cycle.”
- In May and June 2026, Candidate Thompson posted photos on X showing joint 2022-style campaign signage deployed in Mesa and Gilbert.
- On August 3, 2026, Candidate Myers acknowledged on X: “Those signs appear to be from our campaign. 4 years ago... But we did not buy any signs this cycle because our funding came so late.”

Id. at 2. Campaign finance reports for the 2026 cycle (Committee IDs 100484 and 101859) show no record of any payment to the Commission or former campaign committees for prior-cycle assets. *Id.* Caldwell also alleges that certain sworn statements made by the candidates "were not accurate when made." *Id.* at 4.

Respondents filed a joint Response on August 26, 2026. Exhibit 2. The Response states that the Thompson campaign has been actively replacing the older Myers/Thompson signs. Response at 1-2. Second, the Response indicates that A.A.C. R2-20-702.01, which requires a minimum 20 percent payment of the price paid for the signs, is essentially arbitrary and unconstitutional because the signs in question have a market value near zero. Response at 2. The Response makes an offer to resolve the issue by making a payment to the fund to cover this de minimis value provided there is no admission of fault. *Id.* Finally, the Response explains that the social media posts are ordinary campaign communications and that, for purposes of R2-20-104 and R2-20-106 statements requiring sworn statements relating to compliance, the candidates were not aware of R2-20-702.01.

Analysis

Rule A.A.C. R2-20-702.01 directly governs the reuse of assets from a prior election cycle. It provides that a participating candidate may use prior assets—including signs—*"only after the candidate's current campaign committee purchases the assets from the previous campaign committee."* The rule sets forth three clear conditions:

1. Mandatory Valuation Floor: The purchase price *"shall be at least one-fifth (1/5) the original purchase price."*
2. Pre-Use Requirement: *"Prior assets may NOT be utilized by the campaign until payment has been made."*
3. Payee: Where the candidate was a participating candidate in the prior cycle, *"the payment for the assets shall be made to the Commission."*

There is reason to believe the Myers Campaign and Thompson Campaign violated A.A.C. R2-20-702.01

The evidence submitted, including public photos and candidate statements, indicates that 2022-cycle signs and rebar were placed in the field during the 2026 primary election. Campaign finance disclosures confirm that no payment was made to the Commission prior to deploying those assets.

While Respondents argue that weathered signs have little to no actual market value, R2-20-702.01 explicitly provides that fair market value for prior assets shall in no event be less than one-fifth of the original purchase price. The Respondents have not identified an authority for the Commission concluding that the 20 percent floor identified in the Rule is unconstitutional. Both candidates agreed to abide by the Commission rules as part of the clean funding program.¹

Because the rule prohibits the utilization of prior assets until payment has been made, the deployment of 2022 signs in May 2026 without prior payment to the Commission provides reason to believe a violation of A.A.C. R2-20-702.01 occurred.²

Conclusion

For these reasons the Commission should determine there is a reason to believe a violation of the Act and Rules has occurred.

If the Commission determines by an affirmative vote of at least three (3) of its members that it has reason to believe a respondent has violated a statute or rule over which the Commission has jurisdiction, the Commission shall notify such respondent of the Commission's finding setting forth: (i) the sections of the statute or rule alleged to have been violated; (ii) the alleged factual basis supporting the finding; and (iii) an order requiring compliance within fourteen (14) days. During that period, the Respondent may provide any explanation to the commission, comply with the order, or enter into a public administrative settlement with the commission. A.R.S. § 16-957(A) & A.A.C. R2-20-208(A).

After the Commission finds reason to believe that a violation of a statute or rule over which the Commission has jurisdiction has occurred, the Commission shall conduct an investigation. A.A.C. R2-20-209(A). The Executive Director may subpoena all of the Respondent's records documenting disbursements, debts, or obligations to the present, and may authorize an audit.

Upon expiration of the fourteen (14) days, if the commission finds that the alleged violator remains out of compliance, the commission shall make a public finding to

¹ Respondents wish to settle this matter. The Executive Director is not in a position at this point to address that until a determination of reason to believe and an opportunity to consider what evidence is available and may bear on the value of the signs, the number of signs deployed and similar facts.

² It is not clear that Complainant asserts that Respondents have violated either R2-20-104 or R2-20-106 in a manner that implicates perjury. The Complaint uses the term "not accurate" to describe the statements. Complaint at 4. In any event, perjury requires more than inaccuracy, it requires a person to make a "false sworn statement in regard to a material issue, believing it to be false." A.R.S. § 13-2702(A). Here, there is no reason to believe that condition has been met.

that effect and issue an order assessing a civil penalty in accordance with A.R.S. § 16-942, unless the commission publishes findings of fact and conclusions of law expressing good cause for reducing or excusing the penalty. A.R.S. § 16-957(B).

After fourteen (14) days and upon completion of the investigation, the Executive Director will recommend whether the Commission should find probable cause to believe that a violation of a statute or rule over which the Commission has jurisdiction has occurred. A.A.C. R2-20-214(A). Upon a finding of probable cause that the alleged violator remains out of compliance, by an affirmative vote of at least three (3) of its members, the Commission may issue of an order and assess civil penalties pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-957(B). A.A.C. R2-20-217.

Exhibit 1

August 13, 2026

Citizens Clean Elections Commission
1110 W. Washington St., Suite 250
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Complaint concerning unreported use of prior-cycle campaign signs by the Myers Campaign and the Thompson Campaign — possible violation of A.A.C. R2-20-702.01

To the Commission:

I am writing to file a complaint regarding the Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner campaign ("Myers Campaign") and the Kevin Thompson for Corporation Commissioner campaign ("Thompson Campaign"), both of which are participating candidates receiving public funding from the Citizens Clean Elections Fund in the 2026 election for the Arizona Corporation Commission.

Statements made publicly by both campaigns, together with campaign finance reports on file with the Arizona Secretary of State and searchable at seethemoney.az.gov, indicate that the Myers Campaign and the Thompson Campaign are using yard signs and rebar stakes that were purchased with public Clean Elections funds back in 2022 — without ever purchasing those assets from the prior campaign as required by Commission rule R2-20-702.01. Neither campaign's 2026 finance report shows any expenditure reflecting that required purchase. I am also asking the Commission to look into whether the certifications both campaigns signed under penalty of perjury — that their reports are complete and accurate and that they would comply with all Clean Elections rules — were true when made.

The Myers Campaign and the Thompson Campaign ran together as Clean-Elections-funded candidates for the Corporation Commission in 2022, and ran together again, as Clean-Elections-funded candidates, in the 2026 Republican primary. Thompson advanced to the general election; Myers did not. Regardless of the primary outcome, a violation of Clean Elections law, campaign finance law, and a false sworn statement made to obtain public funds should be addressed and penalized as appropriate, and this complaint concerns both campaigns' conduct during the 2026 primary election cycle.

Campaign finance records on file with the Secretary of State show that, during the 2022 cycle, the Myers Campaign made the following payments:

- \$1,273.46 and \$1,274.00 to BP Graphics on June 2, 2022, and \$11,463.17 to BP Graphics on June 13, 2022 (with two \$637.00 refunds credited June 27, 2022), for a net total of about \$12,736.63 — upon information and belief, for campaign yard signs; and
- \$1,546.36 to CMC Rebar on July 8, 2022, for rebar stakes used to install yard signs.

The Thompson Campaign's 2022 finance report separately shows:

- \$2,084.77 to Mesa Sign Shop on September 12, 2022; and
- \$60.00 to Fastsigns on March 3, 2022 — together about \$2,144.77 in campaign signage.

Both committees received Clean Elections public funding for the 2022 primary and general elections: the Myers Campaign received \$110,698.00 on June 16, 2022, and \$166,047.00 on August 5, 2022; the Thompson Campaign received \$110,698.00 on June 14, 2022, and \$166,047.00 on August 4, 2022. Upon information and belief, the sign and rebar purchases above were paid for with these public funds.

On November 12, 2022, Nick Myers posted the following to Facebook from his "Nick Myers - Arizona Corporation Commissioner" page (Exhibit A):

"Kevin Thompson and I have already started pulling up signs. If anyone is helping us with this task, please let us know when you're done and we will be happy to come grab the signs and rebar so we can reuse them next cycle. Thank you!"

This post shows that, as of November 2022, Myers and Thompson intended to personally collect and store the 2022 signs and rebar — bought with Clean Elections funds — specifically to reuse them in a future cycle.

On or about May 11, 2026, Thompson posted the following on X (Exhibit B):

"Signs are going up. If you'd like to volunteer to help us install some, DM either myself or @votenickmyers. We'd appreciate any help!"

On or about May 27, 2026, Thompson posted the following on X (Exhibit C):

"Thank you, Beverly in Mesa, for supporting the [@VoteKThompson](#) & [@votenickmyers](#) team!!"

On or about June 3, 2026, Thompson posted the following on X (Exhibit D):

"Thank you Paul in Gilbert for supporting the [@VoteKThompson](#) & [@votenickmyers](#) team!"

On or about June 4, 2026, a social media user posting as "Autumn T. Johnson" (@autumntjohnson) replied to Thompson's June 3, 2026 with the following on X, with no additional reply from Thompson (Exhibit E):

"I hope this becomes a thing and you take a pic of every sign in town. But please also meet their dog and take a photo."

On or about August 2, 2026, a social media user posting as "conservativedork" (@consrevativdork) wrote the following on X, describing a conversation with Myers (Exhibit F):

"I talked to him about this and the signs that were put up were done so by volunteers that kept them from the last time they ran. As far as they were concerned the signs were 'junk' and they never bought any this time. That's why you don't see any on their finance report."

On or about August 3, 2026, Myers himself replied on X (Exhibit G):

"Those signs appear to be from our campaign. 4 years ago. There were people (volunteers) that had put them up. But we did not buy any signs this cycle because our funding came so late."

Taken together, Myers' and Thompsons' own words confirm that the yard signs currently in use in the 2026 campaign are the same physical signs bought in 2022; that neither campaign bought any signs in 2026; and that the reused signs are being used anyway.

The Myers Campaign's 2026 finance report (Committee ID 100484, all transactions 2021 through 2026) contains no entry for any payee or transaction type containing the word "sign," no entry referencing rebar, and no payment of any kind to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission other than the campaign's own public funding disbursements on June 16, 2022, August 5, 2022, and July 11, 2026 (the last in the amount of \$147,836.00).

The Thompson Campaign's 2026 finance report (Committee ID 101859, all transactions 2021 through 2026) shows the same pattern: no "sign" entries, no rebar entries, and no payment to the Commission other than its own \$147,836.00 public funding disbursement on July 8, 2026.

Neither campaign's 2022 report reflects a repayment to the Commission approximating fair market value for the signs or rebar, either. The Thompson Campaign's 2022 report shows a single \$20.70 payment to the Commission on November 8, 2022 — far too small to represent a repurchase of assets that cost over \$2,100 to acquire, and which upon information and belief reflects the return of unspent public funds rather than any fixed-asset transaction.

The table below summarizes the relevant transactions found in the campaigns' publicly filed finance reports. Screen captures of the underlying reports are attached as Exhibits H through L.

Date	Committee	Amount	Transaction Type / Payee
6/2/2022	Myers (2022)	\$1,273.46	Operating Expense — BP Graphics
6/2/2022	Myers (2022)	\$1,274.00	Operating Expense — BP Graphics
6/13/2022	Myers (2022)	\$11,463.17	Operating Expense — BP Graphics
6/27/2022	Myers (2022)	(\$637.00) x2	Refund from Operating Expense — BP Graphics
7/8/2022	Myers (2022)	\$1,546.36	Operating Expense — CMC Rebar
3/3/2022	Thompson (2022)	\$60.00	Operating Expense — Fastsigns
9/12/2022	Thompson (2022)	\$2,084.77	Operating Expense — Mesa Sign Shop

11/8/2022	Thompson (2022)	\$20.70	Operating Expense — Citizens Clean Elections Commission
6/12/2026	Myers (2026)	(\$7,740.00)	Submit \$5 Qualifying Contributions to SOS
7/11/2026	Myers (2026)	\$147,836.00	Receive CCEC Funding
6/22/2026	Thompson (2026)	(\$7,915.00)	Submit \$5 Qualifying Contributions to SOS
7/8/2026	Thompson (2026)	\$147,836.00	Receive CCEC Funding

Source: seethemoney.az.gov, Arizona Secretary of State campaign finance database, Committee IDs 100484 (Myers, all years), 100891 (Thompson, 2022 cycle), and 101859 (Thompson, 2026 cycle), records reviewed August 5, 2026.

A.A.C. R2-20-702.01, described in the Commission's own 2026 Candidate Guide under "Use of Assets from a Prior Election," provides that a participating candidate may use assets from a prior election cycle — signs included — "only after the candidate's current campaign committee purchases the assets from the previous campaign committee." That purchase "must be made for an amount equal to the fair market value of the assets which shall be at least one-fifth (1/5) the original purchase price," and "[p]rior assets may NOT be utilized by the campaign until payment has been made." Where the candidate was a participating candidate in the prior cycle, as both were here, "the payment for the assets shall be made to the Commission."

Applying that one-fifth floor to the 2022 purchase prices above would put the minimum required payment to the Commission at roughly \$2,856.60 for the Myers Campaign (\$12,736.63 net signage cost plus \$1,546.36 rebar, divided by five) and roughly \$428.95 for the Thompson Campaign (\$2,144.77 divided by five) — before accounting for any shared use of the jointly-collected rebar. No such payment appears in either campaign's finance reports.

Separately, as participating candidates, both campaigns were required to certify under oath, under A.A.C. R2-20-104(C), that they would comply with all requirements of the Act and Commission rules, and again — under oath and under penalty of perjury, under A.A.C. R2-20-106(A) — that their campaign finance reports were complete and accurate, before the Commission could release public funds to them. Under R2-20-106(A), Commission staff cannot authorize a disbursement until that certification is on file. That is why the funding dates matter here: because the Myers Campaign received its \$147,836.00 disbursement on July 11, 2026, and the Thompson Campaign received its \$147,836.00 disbursement on July 8, 2026, each campaign must have signed that certification at or before those dates. If the campaigns were using 2022-cycle signs and rebar without first making the purchase R2-20-702.01 requires, those certifications were not accurate when made.

Based on the foregoing information, I would ask that the Commission:

- Look into whether the Myers Campaign and the Thompson Campaign are using 2022-cycle signs and rebar in the 2026 election without having purchased those assets from the prior

campaign as required by R2-20-702.01, including by requesting the campaigns' underlying records and receipts;

- Determine the fair market value of the reused signs and rebar and, if the required purchase was never made, require the campaigns to pay that amount (no less than one-fifth of the original purchase price) to the Commission;
- Look into whether the campaigns' certifications under R2-20-104(C) and R2-20-106(A) were accurate when made; and
- Take whatever further action the Commission believes is appropriate under the Citizens Clean Elections Act and its rules.

The facts above are based on the campaigns' own public statements and on their campaign finance reports as filed with the Arizona Secretary of State, and, where noted, on information and belief. I would welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information the Commission may need. The relevant social media posts and campaign finance report excerpts are attached as Exhibits A through L.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Merissa Caldwell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Merissa Caldwell

(sworn statement attached)

Sworn Statement

I, Merissa Caldwell, residing at 15236 N 21st St, Phoenix, AZ 85022, declare under penalty of perjury that I have read the foregoing complaint and that the facts stated therein are true and correct based on my personal knowledge, except for those matters stated upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Executed on this 13th day of August, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona.

[REDACTED]

Merissa Caldwell, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

State of Arizona
County of Maricopa

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 13 day of August, 2026, by Merissa Caldwell.

Notary Public [REDACTED]

My commission expires: 02-24-2030

(Seal)

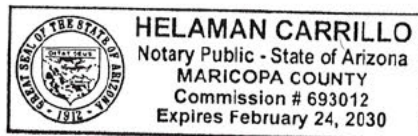


EXHIBIT A





**Nick Myers - Arizona Corporation
Commissioner**

Nov 12, 2022 · 



[Kevin Thompson](#) and I have already started pulling up signs. If anyone is helping us with this task, please let us know when you're done and we will be happy to come grab the signs and rebar so we can reuse them next cycle. Thank you!



Like



Comment



Share



8

2 shares

Nick Myers, Facebook post dated November 12, 2022

EXHIBIT B



Kevin Thompson
@VoteKThompson



Signs are going up. If you'd like to volunteer to help us install some, DM either myself or [@votenickmyers](#). We'd appreciate any help!



10:48 AM · May 11, 2026 · 892 Views

@VoteKThompson, post on X dated May 11, 2026

EXHIBIT C



Kevin Thompson
@VoteKThompson



Thank you, Beverly in Mesa, for supporting the @VoteKThompson & @votenickmyers team!



9:00 PM · May 27, 2026 · 580 Views

@VoteKThompson, post on X dated May 27, 2026

EXHIBIT D



Kevin Thompson
@VoteKThompson

Thank you Paul in Gilbert for supporting the @VoteKThompson & @votenickmyers team!



6:57 PM · Jun 3, 2026 · 434 Views

@VoteKThompson, post on X dated June 3, 2026

EXHIBIT E



Autumn T. Johnson ✓

@autumntjohnson



I hope this becomes a thing and you take a pic of every sign in town. But please also meet their dog and take a photo.

8:55 AM · Jun 4, 2026 · **148** Views

@autumntjohnson, post on X dated June 4, 2026

EXHIBIT F

↻ conservativedork reposted



conservativedork
@consrevativdork

X.com

I talked to him about this and the signs that were put up were done so by volunteers that kept them from the last time they ran. As far as they were concerned the signs were "junk" and they never bought any this time. That's why you don't see any on their finance report.

10:48 AM · 8/2/26 · 77 Views



@consrevativdork ("conservativedork"), post on X dated August 2, 2026

EXHIBIT G



Nick Myers - Arizona Corporation Co... · 2d

Those signs appear to be from our campaign. 4 years ago. There were people (volunteers) that had put them up. But we did not buy any signs this cycle because our funding came so late.



Nick Myers, reply on X, on or about August 3, 2026

EXHIBIT H



SEE THE
MONEY

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Candidates

Political Action
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Parties

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Expenditures

Ballot
Measures

Individual
Contributors

Vendors

Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner

[Details](#)

Start Year: 2021 End Year: 2027 Table View: All Transactions

Candidate All Transactions



graphid

Show 100 entries

Page 1 of 1

Date	Amount	Transaction Type	Received From Or Paid To
6/27/2022	(\$637)	Rebate or Refund from Operating Expense	BP Graphics,
6/27/2022	(\$637)	Rebate or Refund from Operating Expense	BP Graphics,
6/13/2022	\$11,463.17	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	BP Graphics,
6/2/2022	\$1,273.46	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	BP Graphics,
6/2/2022	\$1,274.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	BP Graphics,

seethemoney.az.gov, Myers Campaign (Committee ID 100484), filtered for "graphic"

EXHIBIT I



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Political Action
Committee

Political
Parties

Organizations

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Expenditures

Ballot
Measures

Individual
Contributors

Vendors

Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner

[Details](#)

Start Year: End Year: Table View:

Candidate All Transactions



rebar

Show entries

Page of 1

Date	Amount	Transaction Type	Received From Or Paid To
7/8/2022	\$1,546.36	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	cmc rEBAR #1430

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Page of 1

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seethemoney.az.gov, Myers Campaign (Committee ID 100484), filtered for "rebar"

EXHIBIT J



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Contributors

Vendors

Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner

[Details](#)

Start Year: End Year: Table View:

Candidate All Transactions

Show entries

Page of 1

Date	Amount	Transaction Type	Received From Or Paid To
7/11/2026	\$147,836.00	Receive CCEC Funding	Citizens Clean Election Commission,
8/5/2022	\$166,047.00	Receive CCEC Funding	Citizens Clean Election Commission,
6/16/2022	\$110,698.00	Receive CCEC Funding	Citizens Clean Election Commission,

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

Page of 1

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seethemoney.az.gov, Myers Campaign (Committee ID 100484), filtered for "Citizens Clean"

EXHIBIT K



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Committee

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Expenditures

Ballot
Measures

Individual
Contributors

Vendors

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner

[Details](#)

Start Year: 2021 End Year: 2027 Table View: All Transactions

Candidate All Transactions

Q sign

Show 100 entries

Page 1 of 1

Date	Amount	Transaction Type	Received From Or Paid To
9/12/2022	\$2,084.77	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	MESA SIGN SHOP
3/3/2022	\$60.00	Operating Expense - Pay Cash/Check	Fastsigns,

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Page 1 of 1

[Export Transactions](#)

seethemoney.az.gov, Thompson Campaign (Committee ID 100891), filtered for "sign"

EXHIBIT L



SEE THE
MONEY

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Candidates

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Parties

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Expenditures

Ballot
Measures

Individual
Contributors

Vendors

KEVIN THOMPSON for Corporation Commissioner

[Details](#)

Start Year: End Year: Table View:

Candidate All Transactions

Show entries

Page of 1

Date	Amount	Transaction Type	Received From Or Paid To
7/8/2026	\$147,836.00	Receive CCEC Funding	Citizens Clean Election Commission

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Page of 1

[Export Transactions](#)

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seethemoney.az.gov, Thompson Campaign (Committee ID 101859), filtered for "Citizens Clean"

Exhibit 2

RESPONSE OF RESPONDENTS KEVIN THOMPSON AND NICK MYERS TO COMPLAINT — CCEC MUR NO. 26-10

August 26, 2026

Via Email (ccec@azcleelections.gov)

Thomas M. Collins

Executive Director

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 250

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: CCEC MUR No. 26-10 — Response of Respondents Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers

Dear Director Collins:

Pursuant to Ariz. Admin. Code R2-20-205(A), Respondents Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers, and their respective candidate committees Kevin Thompson for Corporation Commissioner and Nick Myers for Corporation Commissioner, jointly submit this response to the complaint filed by Merissa Caldwell on August 13, 2026, and docketed as MUR No. 26-10. For the reasons below, the Respondents respectfully request that the Commission find no reason to believe that a knowing violation of the Citizens Clean Elections Act or Commission rules occurred, and take no further action beyond the corrective steps already underway.

Given the overlapping subject matter, the Committees also ask that the Commission treat this Response as a supplement to the Committees' prior response in MUR No. 26-07, and consider the two matters together.

I. Corrective Action Is Already Underway

Before addressing the complaint's specific allegations, the Commission should know that the practice giving rise to this complaint is already being corrected. As the Committees advised the Office of the Arizona Attorney General in a related matter (SOS-CF-2026-018) prior to this complaint being filed, the Thompson Committee is having new signage produced, and older signage is being removed from the field as that new signage is installed in its place. The Committees cannot guarantee a precise completion date

for that removal or that every sign will be located. But the Commission should evaluate this complaint against the reality that the conduct at issue is being actively corrected, not continued or repeated.

II. Any Payment Requirement Untethered to Actual Fair Market Value Exceeds What the Rule May Lawfully Compel

To the extent A.A.C. R2-20-702.01 is read to require a fixed percentage of an asset's original purchase price regardless of the asset's actual condition or worth, that reading exceeds what the Commission may lawfully compel. Any payment obligation tied to reuse of a prior asset must be tethered to what the asset is actually worth, not to an arbitrary formula divorced from real value.

Measured against actual fair market value, the signage at issue here is worth next to nothing. The signs were produced years earlier, had already been installed and removed once, and were weathered and handled before ever being considered for reuse. Redeploying them required locating, uninstalling, transporting, storing, and eventually reinstalling material that was already partially spent by the end of the prior cycle in which it was used. Whatever value these signs provided in 2026 came overwhelmingly from that volunteer time and labor, not from the physical materials themselves. A willing buyer in an arm's-length transaction would not pay anything close to the original purchase price, or any fixed percentage of it, for used, imperfect yard signage of this kind. Its true fair market value approaches zero.

This is not merely an assertion. The Thompson Committee recently ordered 1,000 new 2-by-4 campaign signs for a total of \$8,437, or roughly \$8.44 per sign at that volume. That order matches the same 1,000-sign quantity the Committee ordered four years earlier, making the comparison a reliable, apples-to-apples one, and the \$8.44 figure already reflects whatever inflationary increase in materials and printing costs has occurred since that prior order. Even doubling that already-current figure generously yields a ceiling of approximately \$17 per sign for brand-new signage. Signage that has already been used once, stored, and weathered before redeployment is worth meaningfully less than even that generous ceiling.

III. Without Admitting Fault, the Committees Are Prepared to Remit a De Minimis Amount Reflecting the Materials' Actual Value

Without conceding that any payment is legally required, and without admitting that a violation of the Act or Commission rules occurred, the Committees are prepared to remit a de minimis payment to the Commission to put this matter to rest. Because the Thompson Committee has already been out in the field replacing the older signage with newly ordered signs, it is aware of approximately 50 signs from the earlier cycle that were placed in the field during the 2026 primary. Using the \$17 generous per-sign ceiling described above and the Commission's own one-fifth floor as a benchmark, that would yield roughly \$3.40 per sign, or approximately \$170 in total for the signage the Committees are aware of, split evenly between the two Committees at \$85 each. Indeed, because used signage of this kind is, at best, worth no more than half of what a comparable new sign is worth, the \$17 ceiling itself should properly be halved to no more than \$8.50 per sign before applying the Commission's one-fifth floor, which in turn would halve the Committees' figure to approximately \$85 in total, or \$42.50 each. The Committees offer this amount solely to resolve the complaint efficiently, not as an admission that R2-20-702.01 required a purchase transaction in the first instance or that any certification described below was inaccurate.

IV. The Requirement Was Not Previously Known to the Committees, and No Certification Was Knowingly False

The Committees were not previously aware that A.A.C. R2-20-702.01 required a formal purchase transaction, and where applicable a payment to the Commission, before older campaign signage could be reused in a later cycle. This complaint is the first occasion on which that requirement was brought to the Committees' attention. Because the Committees did not know, and had no reason to know, that this specific requirement applied to informal reuse of well-worn campaign materials, their certifications under A.A.C. R2-20-104(C) and R2-20-106(A) were not knowingly false when made. A campaign cannot knowingly misrepresent compliance with a requirement it was not aware existed.

V. The Social Media Statements Cited in the Complaint Were Generic Campaign Outreach, Not Operational Admissions

The complaint places significant weight on the Committees' social media posts, particularly Mr. Myers's November 2022 Facebook post inviting volunteers to return signs and rebar for reuse. That post, and the similar posts on X cited in Exhibits B through D, are the kind of generic, aspirational campaign messaging that candidates across the political spectrum routinely post to encourage volunteer engagement and public participation. As most candidates and campaign staff know, calls of that kind are made regularly, and the actual response from the public and from volunteers is inconsistent and, more often than not, limited. The posts functioned as outreach and goodwill messaging directed at supporters, not as a description of a completed or planned committee transaction.

The complaint also relies, in Exhibit F, on a post from an account identified only as "conservativedork," an anonymous, pseudonymous social media account with no verified identity, purporting to describe a private conversation that the author claims took place with an unnamed campaign representative. That post is unattributed, unverifiable hearsay from an anonymous source, offered for the truth of what it claims someone else said in a conversation no one can confirm occurred. It is entitled to no evidentiary weight, and the Commission should disregard it in evaluating this complaint.

The complaint treats these posts as though they were formal representations of the Committees' internal recordkeeping or asset management. They were not. A campaign's social media presence serves a marketing and engagement function distinct from its compliance obligations, and the Commission should not read a volunteer-facing Facebook post the same way it would read a certified financial disclosure. The gap between what a campaign posts to encourage supporter involvement and what a campaign actually does operationally is neither unusual nor evidence of concealment.

VI. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Respondents respectfully request that the Commission find no reason to believe that a knowing violation of the Citizens Clean Elections Act or Commission rules occurred, take account of the corrective action already underway, and take no further action on this complaint. The Committees are prepared to provide any additional information the Commission may need.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

Kevin Thompson

State of Arizona)

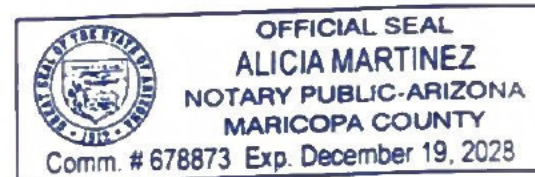
County of Maricopa) ss.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 20th day of August, 2026, by Kevin Thompson.

[REDACTED]

Notary Public

My commission expires: December 19, 2026



[REDACTED]

Nick Myers

State of Arizona)

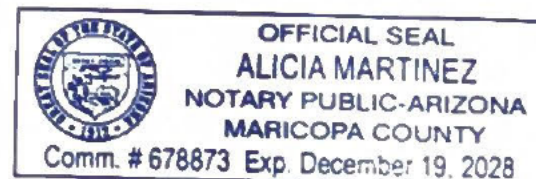
County of Maricopa) ss.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 20th day of August, 2026, by Nick Myers.

[REDACTED]

Notary Public

My commission expires: December 19, 2026



Timothy A. La Sota, PLLC
2198 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 305
Phoenix, Arizona 85016
P 602-515-2649
tim@timlasota.com

September 23, 2026

Via email to:

Mr. Thomas Collins
Executive Director
Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission
1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 250
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: MUR-26-06 – Dr. Ralph Heap – Update and Request for Dismissal or Settlement

Dear Mr. Collins:

As you know, this firm represents Dr. Ralph Heap in connection with MUR 26-06. I write because the Commission's continued investigation is creating the very violation it purports to prevent: by delaying resolution of a lawful extension of credit and refusing to permit Dr. Heap to withdraw as a participating candidate, the Commission is placing Dr. Heap at risk of a deemed contribution. For the reasons that follow, we request that the Commission dismiss this investigation or, at a minimum, reconsider its decision not to enter into a public administrative settlement with Dr. Heap.

This letter addresses three points. First, the campaign signs were provided through a lawful extension of credit that falls outside the statutory definitions of a contribution and expenditure. Second, the Commission's continued investigation threatens to convert that lawful transaction into a deemed contribution. Third, continuing procedural irregularities—including departures from statutory notification procedures, disparate treatment of a comparable complaint, and refusal to honor Dr. Heap's voluntary withdrawal—raise serious concerns about even-handed enforcement.

I. The Extension of Credit Is Lawful and the Commission's Investigation Threatens to Create a Statutory Violation

As I have previously explained, the campaign signs at issue were provided to Dr. Heap's campaign by Mesa Sign Shop as a lawful extension of credit in the ordinary course

of business. Mr. Torgeson’s declaration establishes that the sign order was placed in late April 2026 and the signs were completed and made available for pickup in late May 2026. Measuring from the earliest possible date—when the order was placed in late April—the six-month statutory period under A.R.S. §§ 16-911(B)(6)(d) and 16-921(B)(4)(d) would not expire until late October 2026 at the earliest. These statutes expressly contemplate this timing: an extension of credit may be provided before the Primary Election and paid afterward. So long as the extension of credit is paid within six months, the transaction does not constitute a contribution or an expenditure. *See* A.R.S. §§ 16-911(B)(6)(d); 16-921(B)(4)(d).

Notably, the Secretary of State’s campaign finance report form in the 2025 Elections Procedures Manual (“EPM”), consistent with the reporting requirements in A.R.S. § 16-926(B)(2)(a)(xiv), confirms this legal classification. The Secretary of State’s sample form places both “Extensions of Credit Received” and “Payments on Extensions of Credit Received” on the receipt side of the ledger—not the disbursement side.¹ That reporting structure reflects the statutory treatment: the extension is reported as a receipt, and payment reduces the outstanding receipt rather than being treated as a contribution or expenditure.

We note that Commission Rule R2-20-110(B)(1) purports to require that a “contract, promise or agreement to make an expenditure resulting in an extension of credit” be reported as an expenditure at the time the agreement is made. That rule, however, appears to conflict with the Legislature’s express decision in A.R.S. §§ 16-911(B)(6)(d) and 16-921(B)(4)(d) to exempt qualifying extensions of credit from the definitions of both “contribution” and “expenditure.” To the extent a Commission rule conflicts with a statute, the statute controls. *See* A.R.S. § 41-1030(A) (providing that a rule is valid only if it is “consistent with the statute”).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission’s ongoing investigation risks causing the very harm it purports to prevent. The Commission has placed Dr. Heap in an untenable catch-22 of its own making: if the investigation remains unresolved and the extension of credit is not paid before the six-month period expires in late October 2026, the extension will convert into a deemed contribution as a matter of law under §§ 16-911(B)(6)(d) and 16-921(B)(4)(d); yet the Commission’s repeated refusal to permit withdrawal keeps Dr. Heap subject to the restrictions applicable to a participating candidate, meaning he cannot pay the extension of credit using personal funds without violating A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(1). The Commission’s delay is therefore consuming the very statutory period on which Dr. Heap’s compliance depends. The resulting statutory violation would be the direct and foreseeable consequence of the Commission’s delay and refusal to

¹ *See* [Election-Procedures-Manual-2025--FINAL-12-22-25.pdf](#), at pages 362-363.

settle this matter or permit withdrawal—making the Commission itself the proximate cause of the harm its investigation purports to prevent.

Moreover, applying A.R.S. § 16-941(A)(1) to penalize Dr. Heap under these circumstances would raise serious constitutional concerns. Dr. Heap entered the Clean Elections program voluntarily and in good faith. He obtained campaign signs through a commercially reasonable extension of credit that the Legislature expressly exempted from the definitions of both “contribution” and “expenditure.” He then repeatedly sought to withdraw from the program, but the Commission refused. Penalizing him for a deemed contribution arising solely because the Commission’s own investigation delayed resolution of the transaction—while the Commission simultaneously trapped him in the program against his will—would be fundamentally unfair and would violate due process under the Fourteenth Amendment and Article 2, Section 4 of the Arizona Constitution. Such an application would also implicate the First Amendment and Article 2, Section 6 of the Arizona Constitution. Exposing a candidate to penalties for a violation created by the enforcement body’s own conduct would chill candidates’ willingness to participate in the Clean Elections system and exercise their right to political speech by running for office. These constitutional defects would be especially acute because the Commission would be penalizing Dr. Heap for the consequences of conduct he took in good faith and for delay caused by the enforcement body itself.

To avoid this result, Dr. Heap intends to report the transaction on a campaign finance report, consistent with the EPM’s directives and A.R.S. § 16-926, and will use Clean Elections funds to pay the extension of credit provided by Mesa Sign Shop in full before the six-month deadline. Because the signs serve a direct campaign purpose, Clean Elections funds are the appropriate source of payment. As contemplated by the EPM, the payment will reduce the outstanding receipt rather than increase disbursements, and therefore will not count against the adjusted spending limit. We note, however, that the Secretary of State’s electronic reporting system, BEACON, does not currently permit Dr. Heap to report this transaction in the manner the EPM’s own form contemplates. To the extent the reporting software prevents Dr. Heap from properly reporting the extension of credit and payment as receipts under Schedule A(7), that technical limitation does not change the statutory classification of the transaction. Dr. Heap cannot be penalized for a reporting deficiency caused by the State’s own electronic system.

Alternatively, Dr. Heap remains willing to pay for the signs with personal funds, but as discussed above, he cannot do so without violating the Act if he remains a participating candidate. The Commission’s continued refusal to permit withdrawal forecloses that alternative. Dr. Heap remains open to a mutually agreeable resolution that would allow him to pay the vendor without risking a statutory violation.

In the interest of transparency, we are informing the Commission of Dr. Heap's intended course of action in advance, so there can be no question about his good faith or his intention to resolve the extension of credit before the statutory deadline.

II. The Commission Should Reconsider Its Decision Not to Settle This Matter

On September 2, 2026, I submitted a proposed settlement to the Commission on behalf of Dr. Heap. Rather than engaging in good-faith settlement discussions, you characterized Dr. Heap's proposal as "simply a threat to sue the Commission" and stated that "there will be no counter proposal from me at this time." That characterization is inaccurate and counterproductive. Dr. Heap's proposal was a good-faith effort to resolve the matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-957(A) and A.A.C. R2-20-208(A), not a threat. Treating a settlement proposal made under those provisions as a threat improperly converts an effort to use the statutory settlement process into an adversarial act and undermines the very process the Legislature established to resolve enforcement matters without further litigation or delay.

Dr. Heap's forthcoming payment of the extension of credit eliminates any concern that it could ripen into a deemed contribution. In light of that concrete step toward resolution, continuing the investigation is unreasonable and serves no legitimate enforcement purpose. The Commission should not continue expending resources to pursue a potential violation that Dr. Heap is eliminating before the statutory deadline, particularly when the risk arose from the Commission's own delay and refusal to permit withdrawal. The Commission has every reason to reconsider its position, provide a counter-proposal if necessary, and bring this matter to a close through settlement now.

III. Dr. Heap Has Cooperated and Provided Financial Records

Dr. Heap has provided the Commission with substantial financial records in response to the Commission's requests for information. Specifically, in response to the August 17, 2026 request for financial records, Dr. Heap produced a printout of his Wells Fargo business checking account activity, copies of cleared checks, a spreadsheet of Anedot transactions, and invoices. This production demonstrates Dr. Heap's willingness to cooperate with the Commission's investigation and his commitment to transparency.

IV. Procedural Irregularities in the Commission's Treatment of Dr. Heap

Dr. Heap remains deeply troubled by irregularities in the Commission's procedures that reflect unequal treatment of his candidacy. Most notably, and unlike every other

participating candidate in the 2026 election cycle, the Commission sent Dr. Heap's Notice of Qualification for Clean Elections Funding and Notice of Withholding of Clean Elections Funding, dated July 20, 2026, directly to his counsel. The Commission did not route Dr. Heap's qualification notice through the Secretary of State, as the governing law and the Commission's standard procedure require. This was not a routine variation in correspondence; it was a departure made in Dr. Heap's case alone. *See* A.A.C. R2-20-105(E)-(F) ("The Secretary of State will notify the candidate and the Commission regarding the approval or denial of Clean Elections funds.").

A review of the Commission's own records, obtained through a public records request, reveals that for every other participating candidate, the notice of qualification for funding originated from the Secretary of State's Office and was then forwarded by the Secretary of State to the Commission. Under A.R.S. § 16-950(D), it is the Secretary of State's office that is responsible for providing notification to candidates regarding their qualification for Clean Elections funding. The Commission does not have independent statutory authority to issue such notices. Yet in Dr. Heap's case alone, the Commission bypassed the Secretary of State and sent the notice directly to Dr. Heap rather than through the statutorily designated channel. The fact that every other candidate received the notice through the Secretary of State underscores that this was a singular procedural departure, not an inadvertent difference in practice.

Unfortunately, this departure from standard procedure is not merely a technicality. The Commission bypassed the Secretary of State for Dr. Heap alone and bundled the direct qualification notice with a notice of withholding of funds, even though every other participating candidate received the qualification notice through the proper statutory channel. That unique deviation is part of a broader pattern of unequal treatment that has characterized the Commission's handling of Dr. Heap's candidacy from the outset. It gives Dr. Heap substantial and well-founded reason to question whether the Commission has treated him fairly and in accordance with law, and it further explains his repeated requests to withdraw from the program.

The appearance of unequal treatment is further compounded by the Commission's handling of a separate but related complaint. The complainant in MUR 26-06, Ms. Lisa Everett, is a known supporter of Dr. Heap's opponents in the Corporation Commission race, Nick Myers and Rachel Thompson. A complaint was filed over a month ago raising similar sign-related concerns regarding Myers and Thompson's 2026 campaign signs; yet the Commission appears to have taken no meaningful action in response to that complaint. The contrast is striking: the Commission has pursued Dr. Heap's matter with extraordinary urgency—issuing subpoenas, demanding financial records, and refusing to entertain

settlement—while a comparable complaint against his opponents has languished without apparent action.

Under these circumstances, the Commission's aggressive and one-sided enforcement of the complaint filed against Dr. Heap raises serious concerns that the Commission may be attempting to influence the outcome of this election. The Commission's mandate is to ensure fair and transparent elections, not to serve as a tool for one candidate's supporters to gain a competitive advantage over another. Dr. Heap urges the Commission to examine its own conduct in this matter and to ensure that all candidates are treated equally under the law.

Finally, the Commission's refusal to permit Dr. Heap to voluntarily withdraw from the Clean Elections program only deepens these concerns. The Commission unanimously denied Dr. Heap's withdrawal request on August 4 and again refused to honor his request after his formal withdrawal letter of August 28, 2026. Dr. Heap also made clear at the August 27 hearing that he wished to withdraw and has returned all unspent Clean Elections funds in connection with the Primary Election. The Commission's repeated refusals have trapped Dr. Heap in a voluntary program against his will.

To be clear: Dr. Heap's only intended use of Clean Elections funds is to pay Mesa Sign Shop for the campaign signs as described above, thereby resolving the extension of credit before the statutory deadline. Beyond that payment, Dr. Heap does not intend to spend any Clean Elections funds in connection with the General Election. Given the Commission's treatment of this complaint to date, including the procedural irregularities, the disparate enforcement, and the refusal to engage in good-faith settlement, Dr. Heap perceives a real risk of continued arbitrary treatment and does not wish to remain subject to a program that has been administered in this manner.

V. The Investigation Will Be Moot and Should Be Closed

Once Dr. Heap pays Mesa Sign Shop in full and reports the transaction on a campaign finance report consistent with the EPM form and A.R.S. § 16-926, the central premise of this investigation—that the signs were not properly reported—will be fully resolved. At that point, there will be no outstanding extension of credit, no risk of a deemed contribution under §§ 16-911(B)(6)(d) and 16-921(B)(4)(d), and no unreported transaction. The matter will be moot in every material respect.

Continuing to expend Commission resources on an investigation whose factual predicate has been eliminated is neither a prudent use of public resources nor consistent with the Commission's enforcement mandate. The Commission's enforcement authority

exists to remedy and deter actual violations, not to pursue matters that have been voluntarily resolved by the candidate in advance of any statutory deadline.

Moreover, as discussed above, the procedural irregularities in the Commission's treatment of Dr. Heap raise serious questions about whether this investigation has been conducted on an even-handed basis. These irregularities, combined with the imminent resolution of the underlying sign transaction, provide compelling grounds for the Commission to close this investigation.

V. Conclusion

Dr. Heap has acted in good faith throughout this process. He has provided the Commission with the financial records it requested. He intends to pay Mesa Sign Shop in full before the six-month deadline using Clean Elections funds, and to report the transaction on a campaign finance report consistent with the EPM form and statute. He has proposed a reasonable settlement that the Commission has refused to entertain.

We urge the Commission to reconsider its refusal to settle this matter and to close the investigation now, particularly in light of Dr. Heap's cooperation and his intention to resolve the underlying transaction. Continued investigation will not prevent a violation; it will prolong a risk the Commission's own delay and refusal to permit withdrawal helped create. Dr. Heap should not be subjected to continued investigation when the Commission's own conduct is the proximate cause of a potential violation it purports to investigate. The Commission should not allow this self-created predicament to continue at public expense or permit a lawful transaction to become the basis for enforcement merely because the Commission declined to resolve the matter promptly.

We respectfully request that the Commission respond to this letter no later than September 30, 2026. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

TIMOTHY A. LA SOTA, PLC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy La Sota".

Timothy A. La Sota