

May 28, 2024 MEETING MINUTES REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

The Registry of Election Finance (“the Registry” or “the Board”) of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance (“the Bureau”) met at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in the Nashville Room of the WRS Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., Nashville, TN 37243.

Chairman Henry Fincher presided over the meeting. Attending the meeting were Board Members Tom Lawless, Paige Burcham-Dennis, and Tom Morton. Member Golden participated by telephone. Member Haynes joined the meeting late. Executive Director Bill Young, Assistant Director Lance Frizzell, General Counsel Lauren Topping, and Chief of Staff Janet Williams were also in attendance. The meeting was open to the public. This meeting was recorded via video and audio recording.

Director Young opened the meeting by noting that a physical quorum of the Registry members was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Lawless moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Registry’s previous March 26, 2024, meeting as presented. Member Burcham-Dennis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by voice vote (5-0).

Discussion of Matthew Hill Campaign Account

Former Representative Matthew Hill was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. Director Young explained that Mr. Hill’s open campaign filing account did not balance to Mr. Hill’s campaign bank account and noted a discrepancy of approximately \$13,000. Mr. Hill advised that his campaign account no longer held any funds and that he had attempted to find his reporting errors but had been unsuccessful. Therefore, Mr. Hill requested that the Registry administratively terminate his filing account despite the discrepancies. Member Lawless moved to administratively close the account. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Discussion of Letter Submitted by Rep. Robert Stevens

Director Young explained that Representative Robert Stevens had submitted a letter to the Registry requesting that the Registry review certain candidates’ and political campaign committee (“PAC”) activity but had declined to submit the information in the

form of a sworn complaint. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to take no action on the letter. Member Burcham-Dennis seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote (5-0).

Update of Sworn Complaint

Case No. C24-01, Sumner County Constitutional Republicans (SCCR) and Tennessee Constitutional Republicans (TNCR): Director Young advised the Members that the Attorney General's Office had not yet completed its investigation into this matter despite its efforts to complete the investigation by this meeting date. Therefore, this matter was continued.

Sworn Complaint by Senator Ken Yager

Director Young presented a short summary of the complaint submitted. After discussion, Member Morton moved to refer the complaint to the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter for further factual investigation with Registry staff to assist the Attorney General if necessary. Member Burcham-Dennis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (6-0).

Discussion of Using Candidate's Campaign Fund for Legal Fees

Director Young explained that a candidate for office had requested an informal opinion regarding whether the candidate could use campaign funds to pay for legal expenses associated with a challenge to her opponent's nominating petition before the election commission. As Director Young and Registry Counsel agreed that this issue was not clear based on the applicable statutes, Director Young explained that the Registry Staff sought guidance from the Registry on this issue. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to take no action on the request, thereby providing no opinion on the matter, stating that the issue was perhaps a matter for the General Assembly to address as the underlying statutes are unclear. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Reconsiderations

Donnie Hall, Case Nos. 23-08, 23-09, 23-10, 23-43, 23-95: Counsel for the Registry presented a summary of the procedural history of these matters. Mr. Hall previously appeared before the Registry at its March meeting on these matters, which were consolidated at that time. Counsel advised that while certain corrections had been made Mr. Hall had failed to take all steps needed to properly close his filing account. Therefore,

the filing account had been administratively closed. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to take no action on the request for reconsideration and to assess a civil penalty of \$10,000 in Case No. 24-13. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved (5-0, Member Haynes abstaining).

Clifford Lewis, Case No. 23-71, 23-98, 24-03: Director Young presented a short summary of the history of these matters. Member Lawless moved to consolidate these matters; the motion was seconded and approved. Member Lawless then moved to reconsider the penalties previously assessed; this motion was also seconded and approved. Member Lawless moved to waive the civil penalty assessed in Case No. 23-98. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0.) Member Haynes moved to take no action in Case No. 24-03. Chairman Fincher seconded this motion, which was approved (5-0, Member Lawless abstaining). Member Lawless moved to reduce the assessed penalty in Case No. 23-71 to \$250. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Statements Submitted

Demetrus Coonrod, Case No. 24-11: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty of \$300. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Consideration of Civil Penalty Orders

Tennessee Coalition of Independent Voters PAC, Case No. 24-06: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Morton moved to take no action. Chairman Fincher seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Anthony Davis, Case No. 24-05: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to take no action. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was approved (5-0, Member Lawless abstaining).

Kimberly G. Turner, Case No. 24-07: Ms. Turner personally appeared at the meeting and addressed the Board. Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to take no action. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Jameson Lee Manor, Case No. 24-08: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty of \$350. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Angela Redden, Case No. 24-14: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty of \$500. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Brenda Dotson, Case No. 24-12: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$500. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved (5-1, Member Lawless opposed).

People Power PAC, Case No. 24-22: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty of \$2500. This motion was seconded by Member Morton but failed (3-3). Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$750. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved (5-1, Member Lawless opposed).

Clarksville Firefighters PAC, Case No. 24-19: Director Young and Counsel submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Haynes moved to take no action. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Gen Next PAC, Case No. 24-20: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty of \$5000. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Nashville PAC, Case No. 24-21: Director Young submitted a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Haynes moved to take no action. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty of \$10,000 in each of the following matters. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Kenya Brooks, Case No. 24-09
Curtis Carney, Case No. 24-10
Katrina Robinson, Case No. 24-15
Ross A. Sampson, Case No. 24-16

Mitchell Skelton, Case No. 24-17
Lemichael D. Wilson, Case No. 24-18
Volunteer Republican Women's Club,
Case No. 24-23

Persons Subject to Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice

Member Lawless moved to take no action in each of the following matters. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Anderson County Republican Party
G.A. Hardaway

Jason Martin (Governor): Director Young requested that this matter be deferred pending the completion of the gubernatorial audit. Member Morton moved to defer this matter. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

We are Ready Nashville PAC: Member Morton moved to issue a show cause notice in this matter. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Counsel explained that this PAC was delinquent in numerous filings and that its appointed treasurer has requested to be removed from this appointment and had not been able to get those in charge of the PAC to appoint a successor. After additional discussion, Member Haynes moved to issue a subpoena duces tecum to the PAC Chairman requiring his appearance at the Registry's next meeting and all records relating to the PAC and its activity. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was approved (6-0).

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting set for July 23, 2024.

Other Business. Director Young requested approval, based on the Registry's discussion in this meeting, to reject all unsworn complaints submitted to the Registry's office without need to bring these complaints before the Board. Without objection, this authority was granted.

Executive Session. None.

Meeting Adjourned.