

Agenda
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S Kansas Ave
Topeka, KS 66612
April 23, 2025
1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. Call meeting to order

Review and approve today's meeting agenda and minutes from the March 26, 2025, meeting.

Request for Advisory Opinion 2025-01

Legislative Update

General Topics

- Internal Policy 2025-01

Civil Penalty Assessments

Candidates and Treasurers

Joshua Bargdill, Treasurer County Treasurer (2)	Jerry Charlton, Candidate & Treasurer State Representative
Marcota Combs, Treasurer City Council	Ian Demory, Candidate City Council
Jody Kaaz, Treasurer County Commissioner	Vicky Kaaz, Candidate County Commissioner
Mark Llamas, Candidate County Treasurer (2)	Eli Woody, Treasurer & Candidate State Representative
Stephanie Yeager, Candidate & Treasurer State Representative	

PAC and Party Committee Treasurers

Carolyn Fugit, Treasurer Kansas 4 th Congressional District Democratic Party Committee	Liz Hart, Treasurer Crawford County Republican Women
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Civil Penalty Waiver Requests

- Mary Catherine Brown
Douglas County Young Democrats
- Patrick Schmidt, Candidate
State Senate

Civil Fine Hearings

- Complaint No. 791 – Richard Ramos, Treasurer
Firefighters Club 83 – Stay requested
- Complaint No. 794 – Carolyn Marie Fugit, Treasurer
Kansas 4th Congressional District Democratic Party Committee – Stay requested

1:30 p.m. Wade Wiebe – Executive Director Interview (Exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1))

Executive Session (Exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1))

Executive Session (Exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2))

Recessed Session

Next Meeting Date: May 28, 2025

4:00 p.m. Adjournment

Minutes
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612
March 26, 2025
12:30 p.m.

Members Present

Nick Hale, Chair
Jerry Hellmer – Vice Chair
Jerry Wallentine – via videoconference
Tess Ramirez
Chris Burger
Earl Glynn
Beau Jackson – via videoconference
Samuel Klaassen

Staff Present

Payge Quintana-Padgett, Office Manager
Jesse Burris, Conflict Counsel

The monthly meeting for the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission was called to order at 12:34 p.m. by Chairman Hale.

Minutes

After review of the agenda and the minutes from the February 26, 2025, and March 6, 2025, meetings, Chairman Hale asked for a motion to approve the agenda and minutes as written, unless anyone could identify any corrections. Mr. Hellmer moved to approve the agenda and minutes as written. Mr. Glynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Klaassen and Mr. Jackson were not present.)

Statements of Substantial Interests (SSI) Reminder

Chairman Hale reminded all Commissioners of the upcoming deadline for their Statements of Substantial Interests.

General Topics

Chairman Hale noted that Internal Policy 2025-01, which was previously discussed at the February 26, 2025, meeting was included in the materials. The changes that were discussed at the February 26, 2025, meeting were made. Discussion ensued. Chairman Hale requested that Internal Policy 2025-01 be included in the materials for the April 23, 2025, meeting.

Civil Penalty Assessments

Amended January 10, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report

Brad Boyd, Candidate	
State Representative	\$300

January 10, 2025, Receipts and Expenditures Report

John Carson, Treasurer	
Kansas City Realtors PAC	\$300

Megan Hilbish, Treasurer Kansas State Rifle Association PAC	\$300
Jermaine Jamison, Candidate City Council	\$40
Max Knopp, Treasurer Integrity in Kansas House	\$300
Melinda Lavon, Treasurer Vote Freedom In PAC	\$300
Mathew Reinhold, Candidate State Representative	\$10
Joseph Scapa, Candidate State Representative	\$10
Laura Skinner, Treasurer Wilson county Democratic Central Committee	\$30
Laura Smalley, Treasurer Candidate for City Council	\$40
Gary Walker, Treasurer Candidate for State Representative	\$10

February 10, 2025, Lobbyist Employment and Expenditures Report

Ethan Brown, Lobbyist Kansas Optometric Association	\$250
Ashley Hernandez, Lobbyist Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth	\$250
Megan Hilbish, Lobbyist Kansas State Rifle Association, Inc.	\$1,000
Keith Macejewski, Lobbyist The Gordian Group, Inc.	\$1,000
Eric Rogers, Lobbyist BikeWalkKC	\$550

March 10, 2025, Lobbyist Employment and Expenditures Report

Allen Kenny, Lobbyist ICS Networks, LLC	\$250
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Civil Penalty Waiver Request

Chairman Hale presented the waiver request form and supporting documentation from Gamal Weheba, Lobbyist for Conference of the AAUP. No action was taken.

Civil Fine Hearings

Ms. Bull-Stewart submitted letters on requesting stays in Complaint No. 791 and Complaint No. 974. Ms. Ramirez moved to stay the hearings in Complaint No. 791 and Complaint No. 794 until April 23, 2025. Mr. Klaassen seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously. Complaint No. 791 and Complaint No. 794 are to be on the agenda for April 23, 2025, as status matters.

Executive Session (Exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1))

Chairman Hale requested to add an executive session for non-elective personnel. Upon the advice of Mr. Burris, Mr. Burger moved to amend the agenda to include an executive session prior to the interviews. Ms. Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Glynn stated, "I move that the Commission recess into an executive session. The subject to be discussed during executive session is the interviews for the Executive Director. The justification for closing the meeting is the need to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Payge Quintana-Padgett, Office Manager, is to be admitted to the executive session to aid the Commission in its discussions. The open meeting shall resume here at 12:58 p.m." Mr. Klaassen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 12:58 p.m.

Executive Session (Exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1))

At 1:00 p.m., Mr. Glynn stated, "I move that the Commission recess into an executive session. The subject to be discussed during the executive session is the interviewing of Kerri Piersey for the position of Executive Director. The justification for closing the meeting is the need to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Payge Quintana-Padgett, Office Manager, and Kerri Piersey, the interviewee, are to be admitted to the executive session to aid the Commission in its discussions. The open meeting shall resume here at 2:00 p.m." Mr. Klaassen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 2:00 p.m., the Commission returned to open session.

Executive Session (Exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1))

At 2:01 p.m., Mr. Glynn stated, "I move that the Commission recess into an executive session. The subject to be discussed during executive session is the interviewing of Rich Christie for the position of Executive Director. The justification for closing the meeting is the need to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), Payge Quintana-Padgett, Office Manager, and Rich Christie, the interviewee, are to be admitted to the executive session to aid the Commission in its discussion. The open meeting shall resume here at 2:45 p.m." Mr. Klaassen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 2:45 p.m., the Commission returned to open session.

Executive Session (Exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1))

At 2: 48 p.m., Mr. Glynn stated, "I move that the Commission recess into an executive session. The subject to be discussed during executive session is the hiring of the Commission's new

Executive Director. The justification for closing the meeting is the need to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Payge Quintana-Padgett, Office Manager, is to be admitted to the executive session to aid the Commission in its discussions. The open meeting shall resume here at 3:00 p.m.” Mr. Klaassen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 3:00 p.m.

At 3:00 p.m., Mr. Glynn stated, “I move that the Commission recess into an executive session. The subject to be discussed during executive session is the hiring of the Commission’s new Executive Director. The justification for closing the meeting is the need to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Payge Quintana-Padgett, Office Manager, is to be admitted to the executive session to aid the Commission in its discussions. The open meeting shall resume here at 3:12 p.m.” Mr. Klaassen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 3:12 p.m.

Recessed Session

At 3:13 p.m., Mr. Glynn stated, “I move that the Commission recess this open meeting, to discuss matters related to confidential investigations pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4165 and K.S.A. 25-4161 and for good cause as provided by K.A.R. 19-6-2. Justification for recess is so the Commission can exercise quasi-judicial functions when deliberating matters relating to said confidential investigations as contemplated by K.S.A. 754318(g)(1). The open meeting shall be resumed her at 3:19 p.m.” Mr. Burger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 3:19 p.m.

At 3:19 p.m., Mr. Glynn stated, “I move that the Commission recess this open meeting, to discuss matters related to confidential investigations pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4165 and K.S.A. 25-4161 and for good cause as provided by K.A.R. 19-6-2. Justification for recess is so the Commission can exercise quasi-judicial functions when deliberating matters relating to said confidential investigations as contemplated by K.S.A. 754318(g)(1). The open meeting shall be resumed her at 3:35 p.m.” Mr. Burger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 3:35 p.m.

Upon return to open session, Mr. Burger made the motion to find Complaint No. 803 insufficient. Mr. Klaassen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

Chairman Hale announced that the next meeting date would be April 23, 2025. Chairman Hale also announced his desire to establish a litigation subcommittee with Mr. Burger, Mr. Wallentine, and Mr. Hellmer as members.

Adjournment

At 3:40 p.m., Chairman Hale asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hellmer moved to adjourn. Mr. Klaassen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Office of
The Harper County Attorney
201 N. Jennings
Anthony, Ks. 67003
620-842-6070

Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 South Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Ks. 66612

To the Commission,

This letter is to request an advisory opinion from the Commission regarding a situation here in Harper County. The situation involves one of our Commissioners, who is employed by a company that currently has an issue to be determined by the Board of County Commissioners:

The issue deals with a program developed here in Harper County to encourage the construction or rehabilitation of business structures and the development of new businesses. The program is similar to the state Neighborhood Revitalization Program, in that if a new business building is constructed in Harper County, the county and other taxing entities in the county agree to return a portion of the business' property taxes over a period of 10 years. The question has been raised

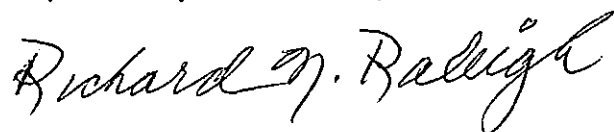
in this particular instance whether the business in question completed the construction of the building which was approved for the program, within the one year time limit established by the program. Further, if it did not are there reasonable excuses for why it was not completed on time.

The matter is now before the county commission. As I stated above one of the commissioners, Ms. Melinda McCurley, is employed by the business and has asked that I request an advisory opinion from the commission regarding what involvement she can have in this issue. Ms. McCurley stipulates that her compensation is such that she would be included under the provisions of K.S.A. 75 – 430 1 a (2).

Miss McCurley therefore, respectfully requests that you provide an advisory opinion addressing what involvement, if any, she can have in this issue before the Commission.

If there are questions or clarification is needed please address those questions to me at the mailing address above or my email address which follows.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard N. Raleigh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

Richard N. Raleigh

Asst. County Attorney

Harper County

rraleigh@harpercountyks.gov



GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

<https://ethics.kansas.gov>

Internal Policy 2025-01: Executive Director Duties

The Executive Director must do the following to comply with relevant Commission statutes and regulations:

- Exercise prosecutorial discretion in investigating potential violations under both the Kansas Campaign Finance Act and the State Governmental Ethics Law (K.A.R. 19-3-1)
- Assist staff with conducting audits and reviewing report filings as needed (K.A.R. 19-3-2)
- File complaints for any report when any person fails to file a report required under the laws unless the Executive Director finds that, for good cause, a complaint should not be filed (K.A.R. 19-5-1)
- File complaints under the Kansas Campaign Finance Act or State Governmental Ethics Law when there is probable cause to believe that a provision of the law has been violated (K.A.R. 19-5-1)

The Executive Director is also responsible for the day-to-day managing of the Commission's office and staff, which includes:

- Approving time and leave requests for office staff
- Determining how to and if to respond to inquiries from the press
- Preparing the agency's budget for August for Commission approval and present the same to the Legislature in September
- Preparing an annual report, with legislative recommendations, for the Commission's approval at the September or October meeting
- Assisting the Chair in leading Commission meetings
- Filling staff positions, as necessary, by advertising the position, vetting applicants, interviewing applicants, and hiring for the position
- Completing fiscal notes as they are received from the agency budget analyst
- Completing annual account reports as they are received from the Department of Administration
- Providing testimony to the Legislature regarding the potential implications of legislation reforming the Kansas Campaign Finance Act or State Governmental Ethics Law
- Working with the agency's General Counsel regarding the collection process for civil penalties and civil fines

- Providing investigation updates to the Commission as appropriate
- Ensuring the Commission is properly informed regarding ongoing litigation in State and/or Federal Court
- Answering inquiries from the public regarding compliance with the Kansas Campaign Finance Act or State Governmental Ethics Law
- Reviewing waiver request forms and offer recommendations to the Commission regarding waiver requests
- Entering contracts with entities outside of state government as necessary (e.g., commercial lease renegotiation is up in November)
- Entering memorandums of understanding with other state agencies to ensure the Commission's day-to-day operations are uninterrupted
- Conducting trainings regarding compliance with the Kansas Campaign Finance Act or State Governmental Ethics Law
- Posting on social media regarding filing deadlines and other ministerial/administrative matters



GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

<https://ethics.kansas.gov>

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Commission Staff

DATE: April 23, 2025

RE: Candidate and Treasurer Civil Penalties

The following individuals failed to file reports by the due date for penalty free filing. K.S.A. 25-4152 provides that a certified notice shall be sent, and that the individual shall have 15 days from the date of such notice to file the report. After that date, the civil penalty is \$10 per day up to a maximum of \$300. The following individuals did not file in a timely manner:

Name	Date Filed	Days Late	Amount
Amended October 28, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report			
Joshua Bargdill, Treasurer County Treasurer	N/A	30+	\$300
Mark Llamas, Candidate County Treasurer	N/A	30+	\$300
January 10, 2025, Receipts and Expenditures Report			
Joshua Bargdill, Treasurer County Treasurer	N/A	30+	\$300
Jerry Charlton, Candidate & Treasurer State Representative	N/A	30+	\$300
Marcota Combs, Treasurer Candidate for City Council	3/25/2025	19	\$190
Ian Demory, Candidate City Council	3/25/2025	19	\$190
Jody Kaaz, Treasurer Candidate for County Commissioner	3/27/2025	21	\$210
Vicky Kaaz, Candidate County Commissioner	3/27/2025	21	\$210

Mark Llamas, Candidate			
County Treasurer	N/A	30+	\$300
Eli Woody, Candidate & Treasurer			
State Representative	N/A	30+	\$300
Stephanie Yeager, Candidate & Treasurer			
State Representative	N/A	30+	\$300



GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

<https://ethics.kansas.gov>

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Commission Staff

DATE: April 23, 2025

RE: Political Action Committee and Party Committee Treasurer Civil Penalties

The following individuals failed to file reports by the due date for penalty free filing. K.S.A. 25-4152 provides that a certified notice shall be sent, and that the individual shall have 15 days from the date of such notice to file the report. After that date, the civil penalty is \$10 per day up to a maximum of \$300. The following individuals did not file in a timely manner:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Filed</u>	<u>Days Late</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 10, 2025, Receipts and Expenditures Report			
Carolyn Fugit, Treasurer Kansas 4 th Congressional District Dem. Party Comm.	N/A	30+	\$300
Miz Hart, Treasurer Crawford County Republican Women	N/A	30+	\$300

KANSAS GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

WAIVER REQUEST FORM

Instructions

To be considered for a waiver request, this form and supplemental documentation must be completed and submitted within thirty (30) days of the assessment order pursuant to K.A.R. 19-4a-1. THIS FORM IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN PUBLIC MEETING MATERIALS. ANY PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION WILL BE REDACTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT REQUIRED BY LAW, PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 45-215 THROUGH K.S.A. 45-223. The intentional filing of false information on this form is a class A misdemeanor.

Waiver request is based on the following:

- No activity during the reporting period.
- Previous compliance or being a first-time filer.
- No longer with the committee, campaign, or organization.
- Loss of primary or withdrawal of candidacy.

Name	Position
Associated Organization, Office Sought, or Lobbying Client(s)	

Please select the appropriate form or report.

- ☐ Appointment of Treasurer (Candidate or Candidate Committee)
- ☐ Statement of Organization (Political Action or Party Committee)
- ☐ Receipts & Expenditures Report (Candidate or Committee)
- ☐ Employment & Expenditures Report (Lobbyist)
- ☐ Registration (Political Action Committee or Lobbyist)
- ☐ Statement of Substantial Interests (Public Officials)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Report Due	See Below
Failure to File Notice Sent	January 24, 2022
Report Received	N/A
Date Assessed	March 23, 2022
Amount Assessed	\$600.00

Please select all that apply and provide an accompanying explanation in the space provided.

Categories of Good Cause	Supplemental Documentation Examples
<u>Medical Circumstances</u> of a person essential to filing or their immediate family member that caused the delay in filing.	Doctor's statement with date(s), hospital bills, police incident report, death certificate/obituary, etc.
<u>Financial Hardship</u> - the assessed civil penalty creates an undue financial burden.	The financial hardship declaration <u>must</u> be completed.
<u>Natural Disaster or Theft</u> making timely filing impossible due to the unavailability of records.	Police incident, fire, or insurance report(s) with dates provided and the details of the loss or damage.
<u>Other Unique Circumstances</u> not previously mentioned that did not arise from the filer's delay or negligence.	Any documentation that will substantiate the reason as to why the filing was delayed.

Additional Explanation

I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing information is true and correct. Further, I understand that some or all of the information included on and with this declaration may be made publicly available under the Kansas Open Records Act (K.S.A. 45-215 through K.S.A. 45-223).

Executed in _____ County, State of _____, on the _____ day of _____, 20____.


Signature

Submitting the Form

This form and related documents may be emailed to KGEC_Ethics@ks.gov or mailed/delivered to:
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Staff have no recommendation on this waiver.

The Commission also has signed certified mail return receipts by Ms. Brown from January and July 2022 from failure to file notifications being mailed to her regarding outstanding reports and outstanding PAC registrations. These notices were sent to the address listed on the Statement of Organization.

Ms. Brown was assessed \$600.00 on March 23, 2022, for failing to file the January 10, 2022, Receipts and Expenditures Report and the 2021 Political Action Committee registration statement with the accompanying fee. The failures to file for these were sent via certified mail, return receipt requested, on January 24, 2022. Tracking further states that the mail was left with an individual on January 29, 2022.

I resigned from the Douglas County Young Democrats in January of 2020. At the time I was working for Connex Intl, a virtual conferencing company. With the COVID shutdowns, our client demand increased exponentially and I was no longer able to fulfill the duties of Treasurer of the Douglas County Young Democrats. I made my resignation known to the other serving officers at the time, including Kenzie Marie Galliher, the president of the Douglas County Young Democrats, who was also the previous treasurer before I took the position.

I have not been affiliated with the organization of the Douglas County Young Democrats since January of 2020 and was informed just today that the organization was terminated in 2022. It was also made known to me just today, the 7th of April of 2025, that in August of 2022, notices were sent to the mailing address at 1222 Prospect Ave. in Lawrence, KS. In August of 2022, I moved out of the residence at Prospect Ave due to the end of a relationship. I did not receive any notices at my new Lawrence address although I put in for a change of address through the post office at the time of my move. The person still residing at the Prospect Ave address, Kenzie Marie Galliher, did not inform me of any notices that were mailed to that address even though we were still in contact.

I have not received a single notice of failure of the organization to comply with any financial or documentation requirements until I completed my taxes in March of this year. I have not been affiliated with this organization since before its termination and was not given proper notice of any documentation or compliance issues. I also do not believe it is correct for me to be receiving such a fine years after the fact. Additionally, I mentioned that the name of Brett Berry was on the letter when I called to get clarification from the Setoff Program office and I was told Brett Berry no longer works for the Governmental Ethics Commission.

From: [Catherine Brown](#)
To: [KGEC_Ethics](#)
Subject: Mary C Brown Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission Waiver Request
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 5:13:01 PM
Attachments: [Mary C Brown Waiver Request Form.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Attached to this email is my filled out Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission Waiver Request form. I received a letter in the mail today from the Setoff Program stating that I owe a fee of \$600 as a KGEC Civil Penalty. I was able to find a letter that had been sent to me through the KGEC website. It was sent November 15, 2023 to my former address and not forwarded to my new address (where I have resided since August of 2022) and I was never informed of its arrival by the resident at the address on Prospect Ave. The notice claims: "On March 24, 2022, an administrative order issued by the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission ("Commission") was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first class mail. The order assessed two \$300.00 civil penalties for the failure to file your January 10, 2022, Receipts and Expenditures Report and failure to file a 2021 Political Action Committee Registration Statement."

In January of 2022 I had not been involved with the Douglas County Young Democrats for two years. I resigned in January of 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 shutdowns due to the demands of my job at the time, which was a virtual conferencing company.

If the organization was terminated in August of 2022, as I was told when I called the Setoff Program office today, I am responsible for this fee. Furthermore, I was not even serving as Treasurer of the Douglas County Young Democrats when these fees were assessed.

Cordially,
-Mary C Brown

KANSAS GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION
WAIVER REQUEST FORM

Instructions

To be considered for a waiver request, this form and supplemental documentation must be completed and submitted within thirty (30) days of the assessment order pursuant to K.A.R. 19-4a-1. THIS FORM IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN PUBLIC MEETING MATERIALS. ANY PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION WILL BE REDACTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT REQUIRED BY LAW, PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 45-215 THROUGH K.S.A. 45-223. The intentional filing of false information on this form is a class A misdemeanor.

Waiver request is based on:

- No activity during the reporting period.
- Previous compliance or being a first-time filer.
- No longer with the committee, campaign, or organization.
- Loss of primary or withdrawal of candidacy.

Name	Position
Associated Organization, Office Sought, or Lobbying Client(s)	

Please select the appropriate form or report.

- ☐ Appointment of Treasurer (Candidate or Candidate Committee)
- ☐ Statement of Organization (Political Action or Party Committee)
- ☐ Receipts & Expenditures Report (Candidate or Committee)
- ☐ Employment & Expenditures Report (Lobbyist)
- ☐ Registration (Political Action Committee or Lobbyist)
- ☐ Statement of Substantial Interests (Public Officials)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Report Due November 23, 2024
Failure to File Notice Sent November 7, 2024
Report Received December 4, 2024
Date Assessed December 13, 2024
Amount Assessed \$120.00

Please select all that apply and provide an accompanying explanation in the space provided.

Categories of Good Cause	Supplemental Documentation Examples
<u>Medical Circumstances</u> of a person essential to filing or their immediate family member that caused the delay in filing.	Doctor's statement with date(s), hospital bills, police incident report, death certificate/obituary, etc.
<u>Financial Hardship</u> - the assessed civil penalty creates an undue financial burden.	The financial hardship declaration <u>must</u> be completed.
<u>Natural Disaster or Theft</u> making timely filing impossible due to the unavailability of records.	Police incident, fire, or insurance report(s) with dates provided and the details of the loss or damage.
<u>Other Unique Circumstances</u> not previously mentioned that did not arise from the filer's delay or negligence.	Any documentation that will substantiate the reason as to why the filing was delayed.

Additional Explanation

I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing information is true and correct. Further, I understand that some or all of the information included on and with this declaration may be made publicly available under the Kansas Open Records Act (K.S.A. 45-215 through K.S.A. 45-223).

Executed in _____ County, State of _____, on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.



Signature

Submitting the Form

This form and related documents may be emailed to KGEC_Ethics@ks.gov or mailed/delivered to:

Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Staff have no recommendation on this waiver request.

As noted in Sen. Schmidt's supporting documentation, the former Executive Director provided a thorough timeline to explain why the \$120.00 civil penalty was assessed. As can be seen from the timeline and from the overall email chain, there have been multiple conversations with current and former staff regarding the status of the civil penalty and the amended July 29, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report.

The Notice of Error and Omission for the July 29, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report was sent on September 19, 2024. As further noted in the timeline, Commission staff contacted Sen. Schmidt's campaign manager the day the report was due to notify him that there was no signature. On August 7-8, 2024, Commission staff and Sen. Schmidt correspond via email about the signature that was still missing.

By September 19, 2024, the July 29, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report was still not signed and the candidate filing fee was not reported; both of these issues needed to be corrected on an amended report. An amended January 10, 2024, was submitted in October 2024 which remedied one of the four issues provided. Since not all the issues were remedied as noted in the Notice of Error and Omission for the July 29, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report as no amended report was filed, Commission staff mailed a Failure to File Notice. The Amended July 29, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report was filed on December 4, 2024.

follow up inquiry

Kaitlyn Bull-Stewart [KGEC] <Kaitlyn.Bull-Stewart@ks.gov>
To: Patrick Schmidt <patrick@patrickforkansas.com>
Cc: "Karina Renna [KGEC]" <Karina.Renna@ks.gov>, Ryon Carey <rcancona@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 11:31 AM

Senator Schmidt,

I’ve done my best to catch up on everything that happened after reviewing this thread. It appears that there was simply a lapse in communication at some point. While Karina and Ryon did email back in forth in October corrected some of the issues identified in the July 29th E&O, it does not appear that all outstanding errors and omissions were resolved.

You can submit a waiver request to the Commission so that they may consider waiving the civil penalty assessed; however, I do not have the discretion to waive a civil penalty without their approval.

I have attached a waiver request form and the instructions for completing it if you would like to request a waiver.

Thanks,

Kaitlyn

Kaitlyn R. Bull-Stewart

Interim Director

General Counsel

Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission

kaitlyn.bull-stewart@ks.gov

(785) 296-4219

From: Patrick Schmidt <patrick@patrickforkansas.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:59 PM
To: Mark Skoglund [KGEC] <Mark.Skoglund@ks.gov>
Cc: Karina Renna [KGEC] <Karina.Renna@ks.gov>; Kaitlyn Bull-Stewart [KGEC] <Kaitlyn.Bull-Stewart@ks.gov>; Ryon Carey <rcancona@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: follow up inquiry

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mark,

I apologize for losing the thread here. I think you've highlighted my concern -

- October 14-15, 2024 – regarding 1/10/24 report and item 1 from 7/29/24 E&O – Carey and Renna exchange emails that results in remedying the outstanding 1/10/24 issue. This also corrects item #1 from the July 2024 E&O, but not the remaining items.

My campaign was in contact with Renna in October remedying issues from the July 2024 E&O, I think demonstrating our good faith attempt at rectifying this. It is not until Kaitlyn says something to me that I find out that what we thought was corrected, after dialoguing with Renna, was not corrected.

I don't know what the resolution options are here, but I am surprised about being assessed a \$240 fine given the facts you lay out here.

On Tue, Jan 14, 2025 at 2:58 PM Mark Skoglund [KGEC] <Mark.Skoglund@ks.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Senator Schmidt,

I believe the below timeline should clarify any issue about the amended July 2024 report. If you have any other questions or follow-up, don't hesitate to call or email.

- March 29, 2024 – regarding 1/10/24 report – an Error and Omission (E&O) notice was sent, identifying two overcontributions (Carolyn Bloom and Cross Law Firm). No amendment was necessary at this time, but the return of the overcontribution needed to be reported on the July 2024 report. This was listed in bold on the front of the E&O notice and bolded and underlined on the back.
- July 29, 2024 – regarding 7/29/24 report – Ryon Carey emails report to KGEC. KGEC (via Karina Renna) emails Carey and notes he must send a signed front page, as required by statute.
- August 7-8, 2024 – regarding 7/29/24 report – Renna emails a reminder about the signed front page. You respond quickly and address the issue.
- September 19, 2024 – regarding 7/29/24 report – Renna has completed review of July report and sends E&O notice. The E&O identifies four issues:
 1. The excess contributions from the 1/10/24 report were not returned.
 2. Three new excess contributions were identified, for which no amendment is required for the July 2024 report but return of the overcontribution should be reported on the October 2024 report.
 3. The report did not disclose the expenditure for the filing fee. As indicated in the E&O, an amended July 2024 report is necessary to correct this error.
 4. The report was not signed by the treasurer or candidate. As indicated in the E&O, an amended July 2024 report is necessary to correct this error.

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

 **Commission-Waiver-Guidance-Document-Effective-01-25-2024 (9).pdf**
284K

 **Waiver-Request-Form-Final (5).pdf**
407K

BEFORE THE KANSAS GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

(Commission Use Only)

MARK SKOGLUND, Executive Director,)
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)

vs.)

Complaint No. 791

RICHARD RAMOS, Treasurer)
Firefighters Club 83,)
Respondent.)

COMPLAINT

A. Complainant: Mark Skoglund, Executive Director
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-4219

B. Respondent: Richard Ramos, Treasurer
Firefighters Club 83
301 NE Lake St.
Topeka, Kansas 66616
(785) 581-2155

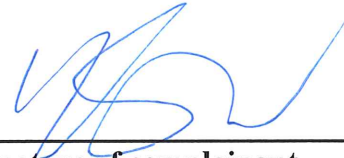
C. Complainant alleges:

Failure to File July 2024 Report

1. Firefighters Club 83, a political committee within the State of Kansas (“the PAC”), filed its statement of organization in November 2022.
2. The PAC’s treasurer, Richard Ramos, was responsible for filing of a July 29, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report (“July 2024 Report”).
3. The July 2024 Report was required by K.S.A. 25-4148(a); however, no such report was filed.
4. On August 6, 2024, the Commission sent notice, via certified mail return receipt requested, to Mr. Ramos notifying him of the requirement to file the July 2024 Report.

5. Notwithstanding the notice of the filing requirement under K.S.A. 25-4148, Mr. Ramos has failed to file the July 2024 Report.

WHEREFORE, Complainant respectfully requests the Commission find Respondent, Richard Ramos, liable under the Kansas Campaign Finance Act for failing to file the report required by K.S.A. 25-4148, and that the Commission impose a fine pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4181, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the first violation, \$10,000.00 for the second violation and \$15,000.00 for the third violation and for each subsequent violation.



Signature of complainant

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Kaitlyn R. Bull-Stewart

Kaitlyn R. Bull-Stewart, #28892

General Counsel

Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission

901 S. Kansas Ave.

Topeka, KS 66612

(785) 296-4219; (785) 296-2548 (fax)

Kaitlyn.Bull-Stewart@ks.gov

D. Verification:

State of Kansas

)

) SS

County of Shawnee

)

Mark Skoglund, being first duly sworn, upon oath states:

I am the Complainant above-named; I have read the Complaint; I know the contents thereof, and all the statements made therein are true.



Signature of complainant

Subscribed and sworn (affirmed) to before me this 23rd day of September 2024.


Notary Public

Notary Public

My appointment expires: August 30, 2027

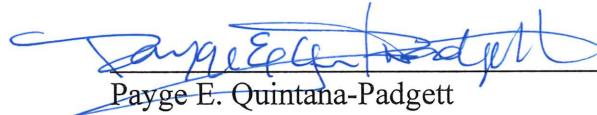
(Seal)



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the 23rd day of September 2024, the foregoing Complaint was deposited in the U.S. mail, certified postage prepaid, return receipt requested, **and** deposited in the U.S. mail, first-class postage prepaid addressed to the following:

Richard Ramos
301 NE Lake St.
Topeka, KS 66616



Payge E. Quintana-Padgett
Office Manager
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-4219; (785) 296-2548 (fax)
KGEC_Ethics@ks.gov

BEFORE THE KANSAS GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

(Commission Use Only)

MARK SKOGLUND, Executive Director,)
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)

vs.)

Complaint No. 794

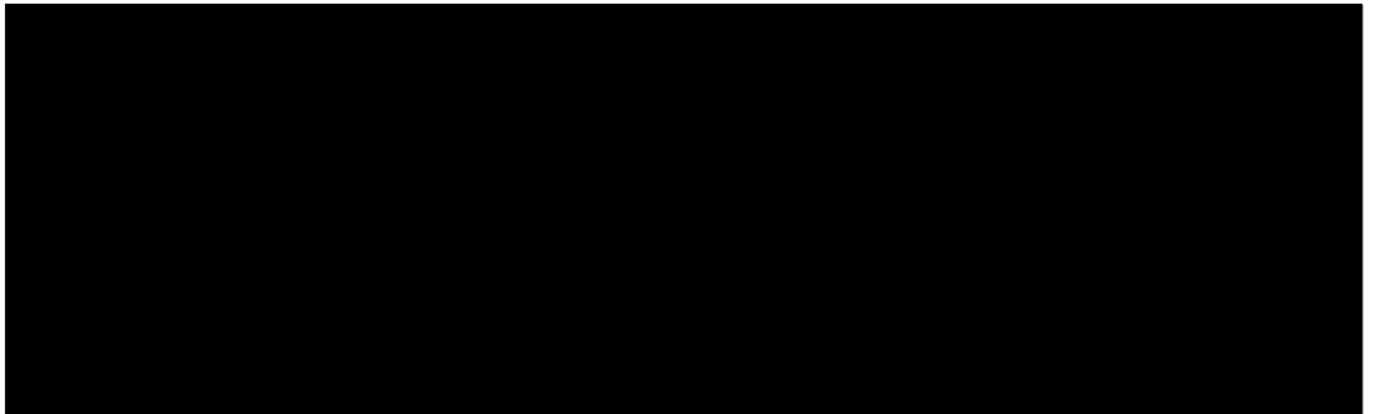
CAROLYN MARIE FUGIT, Treasurer)
Kansas 4th Congressional District)
Democratic Party Committee,)
Respondent.)

COMPLAINT

A. Complainant: Mark Skoglund, Executive Director
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-4219

B. Respondent: Carolyn Marie Fugit, Treasurer
Kansas 4th Congressional District
Democratic Party Committee
1635 S. Elpyco
Wichita, Kansas 67218
(316) 841-0396

C. Complainant alleges:



Count 2 - Failure to File July 2024 Report

5. Complainant re-alleges the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 4 above and incorporates the same herein by reference.
6. Ms. Fugit, as treasurer, was responsible for filing of a July 29, 2024, Receipts and Expenditures Report ("July 2024 Report").
7. The July 2024 Report was required by K.S.A. 25-4148(a); however, no such report was filed.
8. On August 6, 2024, the Commission sent notice, via certified mail return receipt requested, to Ms. Fugit, notifying her of the requirement to file the July 2024 Report.
9. Notwithstanding the notice of the filing requirement under K.S.A. 25-4148, Ms. Fugit has failed to file the July 2024 Report.

WHEREFORE, Complainant respectfully requests the Commission find Respondent, Carolyn Marie Fugit, liable under the Kansas Campaign Finance Act for [REDACTED] failing to file the report required by K.S.A. 25-4148, and that the Commission impose a fine pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4181, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the first violation, \$10,000.00 for the second violation and \$15,000.00 for the third violation and for each subsequent violation.



Signature of complainant

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Kaitlyn R. Bull-Stewart
Kaitlyn R. Bull-Stewart, #28892
General Counsel
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-4219; (785) 296-2548 (fax)
Kaitlyn.Bull-Stewart@ks.gov

D. Verification:

State of Kansas)
) ss
County of Shawnee)

Mark Skoglund, being first duly sworn, upon oath states:

I am the Complainant above-named; I have read the Complaint; I know the contents thereof, and all the statements made therein are true.


Signature of complainant

Subscribed and sworn (affirmed) to before me this 23rd day of September 2024.

Notary Public

My appointment expires: August 30, 2027

(Seal)



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the 23rd day of September 2024, the foregoing Complaint was deposited in the U.S. mail, certified postage prepaid, return receipt requested, **and** deposited in the U.S. mail, first-class postage prepaid addressed to the following:

Carolyn Marie Fugit
1635 S. Elpyco
Wichita, KS 67218



Payge E. Quintana-Padgett
Office Manager
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-4219; (785) 296-2548 (fax)
KGEC_Ethics@ks.gov