

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-091

TO: Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Division of Elections
500 S. Bronough Street
RA Gray Building, Room 316
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARINGS (IH))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **Virtual Meeting via Webinar link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3863768971242962781> and Webinar ID 748-293-987.**

Failure to appear in accordance with this notice will constitute a waiver of your right to participate in the hearing. Continuances will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

This hearing will be conducted pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, which governs your participation as follows:

If you are the Respondent, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission. However, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless you request to be heard or the Commission requests that your case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, your case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are the Complainant, you may attend the hearing, but you will *not* be permitted to address the Commission. In addition, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless the Respondent requests to be heard or the Commission requests that the case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, the case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are an Appellant, and you have requested a hearing, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission.

Please be advised that both confidential and public cases are scheduled to be heard by the Florida Elections Commission on this date. As an Appellant, Respondent or Complainant in one case, you will *not* be permitted to attend the hearings on other confidential cases.

The Commission will electronically record the meeting. Although the Commission's recording is considered the official record of the hearing, the Respondent may provide, at his own expense, a certified court reporter to also record the hearing.

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, contact Donna Ann Malphurs at (850) 922-4539 or by mail at 107 West Gaines Street, The Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at least 5 days before the hearing.

See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
July 28, 2025

Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

If this is a hearing to consider **an appeal from an automatic fine**, the Filing Officer has imposed a fine on you for your failure to file a campaign treasurer's report on the designated due date and, by filing an appeal, you have asked the Commission to consider either (1) that the report was in fact timely filed; or (2) that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure to file the report timely. You are required to prove your case. If the Commission finds that the report was filed timely or that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure, it may waive the fine, in whole or in part. The Commission may reduce a fine after considering the factors in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes. If the Commission finds that the report was not timely filed and there were no unusual circumstances, the fine will be upheld.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order before a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed and become public. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the case will remain confidential, unless confidentiality has been waived.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order after a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the Respondent will be entitled to another hearing to determine if the Respondent committed the violation(s) alleged.

If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the case. *Respondent may not testify, call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence at the probable cause hearing.* The Commission will only decide whether Respondent should be *charged* with a violation and, before the Commission determines whether a violation has occurred or a fine should be imposed, Respondent will have an opportunity for another hearing at which evidence may be introduced.

If this is an **informal hearing**, it will be conducted pursuant Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes; Chapter 28 and Commission Rule 2B-1.004, Florida Administrative Code. At the hearing, the Commission will decide whether the Respondent committed the violation(s) charged in the Order of Probable Cause. The Respondent will be permitted to testify. However, the Respondent may not call witnesses to testify.

Respondent may argue why the established facts in the Staff Recommendation do not support the violations charged in the Order of Probable Cause. At Respondent's request, the Commission may determine whether Respondent's actions in the case were willful. The Respondent may also address the appropriateness of the recommended fine. If Respondent claims that his limited resources make him unable to pay the statutory fine, *he must provide the Commission with written proof of his financial resources* at the hearing. A financial affidavit form is available from the Commission Clerk.

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-091

TO: Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Division of Elections
500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

You are hereby notified that the previously scheduled hearing for February 26 and 27, 2025, is cancelled. It is anticipated that your case will be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting, on a date to be determined. A Notice of Hearing will be mailed approximately 14 days prior to the new hearing date.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
February 24, 2025

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-091

TO: Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Division of Elections
500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **February 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **412 Knott Building, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399**. Due to heightened security access requirements, please bring only essential items into the building and plan to arrive early to allow for delays coming through security.

Failure to appear in accordance with this notice will constitute a waiver of your right to participate in the hearing. Continuances will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

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If you are the Complainant, you may attend the hearing, but you will *not* be permitted to address the Commission. In addition, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless the Respondent requests to be heard or the Commission requests that the case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, the case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are an Appellant, and you have requested a hearing, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission.

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Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
February 5, 2025

Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

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If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order before a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed and become public. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the case will remain confidential, unless confidentiality has been waived.

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If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the case. *Respondent may not testify, call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence at the probable cause hearing.* The Commission will only decide whether Respondent should be *charged* with a violation and, before the Commission determines whether a violation has occurred or a fine should be imposed, Respondent will have an opportunity for another hearing at which evidence may be introduced.

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Respondent may argue why the established facts in the Staff Recommendation do not support the violations charged in the Order of Probable Cause. At Respondent's request, the Commission may determine whether Respondent's actions in the case were willful. The Respondent may also address the appropriateness of the recommended fine. If Respondent claims that his limited resources make him unable to pay the statutory fine, *he must provide the Commission with written proof of his financial resources* at the hearing. A financial affidavit form is available from the Commission Clerk.

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**Florida Elections Commission,
Petitioner,**

Case No.: FEC 23-091

v.

**Christopher Proia,
Respondent.**

_____ /

ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (“Commission”) at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2024, in Tallahassee, Florida.

On April 22, 2024, Staff recommended to the Commission that there was probable cause to believe that the Florida Election Code was violated. The facts articulated in Staff’s Recommendation are adopted by reference and incorporated herein. Based on the Complaint, Report of Investigation, Staff’s Recommendation, and oral statements (if any) made at the probable cause hearing, the Commission finds that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with the following violations:

Count 1:

On October 7, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when he deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on the campaign’s 2022 G3 Report.

Count 2:

On October 14, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when he deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on the campaign’s 2022 G4 Report.

Count 3:

On October 28, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when he failed to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that he would not be filing the campaign's 2022 G5 Report.

Count 4:

On November 4, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when he deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on the campaign's 2022 G6 Report.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on August 14, 2024.



Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director
For Chad Mizelle, Chairman
Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to:
Mattie T. Clay, Assistant General Counsel
Christopher Proia, Respondent
Division of Elections, Complainant

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO A HEARING

As the Respondent, you may elect to resolve this case in several ways. First, you may elect to resolve this case by consent order where you and Commission staff agree to resolve the violation(s) and agree to the amount of the fine. The consent order is then presented to the Commission for its approval. To discuss a consent order, contact the FEC attorney identified in the Order of Probable Cause.

Second, you may request an informal hearing held before the Commission, if you do not dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have thirty (30) days from the date the Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission to request such a hearing. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order. At the hearing, you will have the right to make written or oral arguments to the Commission concerning the legal issues related to the violation(s) and the potential fine. At the request of Respondent, the Commission

will consider and determine willfulness at an informal hearing. Otherwise, live witness testimony is unnecessary.

Third, you may request a formal hearing held before an administrative law judge in the Division of Administrative Hearings (“DOAH”), if you dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have thirty (30) days from the date the Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission to request such a hearing. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order. At the hearing, you will have the right to present evidence relevant to the violation(s) listed in this order, to cross-examine opposing witnesses, to impeach any witness, and to rebut the evidence presented against you.

If you do not elect to resolve the case by consent order or request a formal hearing at the DOAH or an informal hearing before the Commission within thirty (30) days of the date this Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission, the case will be sent to the Commission for a formal or informal hearing, depending on whether the facts are in dispute. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order.

To request a hearing, please send a written request to the Commission Clerk, Donna Ann Malphurs. The address of the Commission Clerk is 107 West Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050. The telephone number is (850) 922-4539. The Clerk will provide you with a copy of Chapter 28-106, *Florida Administrative Code*, and other applicable rules upon request. No mediation is available.

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-091

TO: Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Division of Elections
500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **412 Knott Building, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399**. Due to heightened security access requirements, please bring only essential items into the building and plan to arrive early to allow for delays coming through security.

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Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
July 23, 2024

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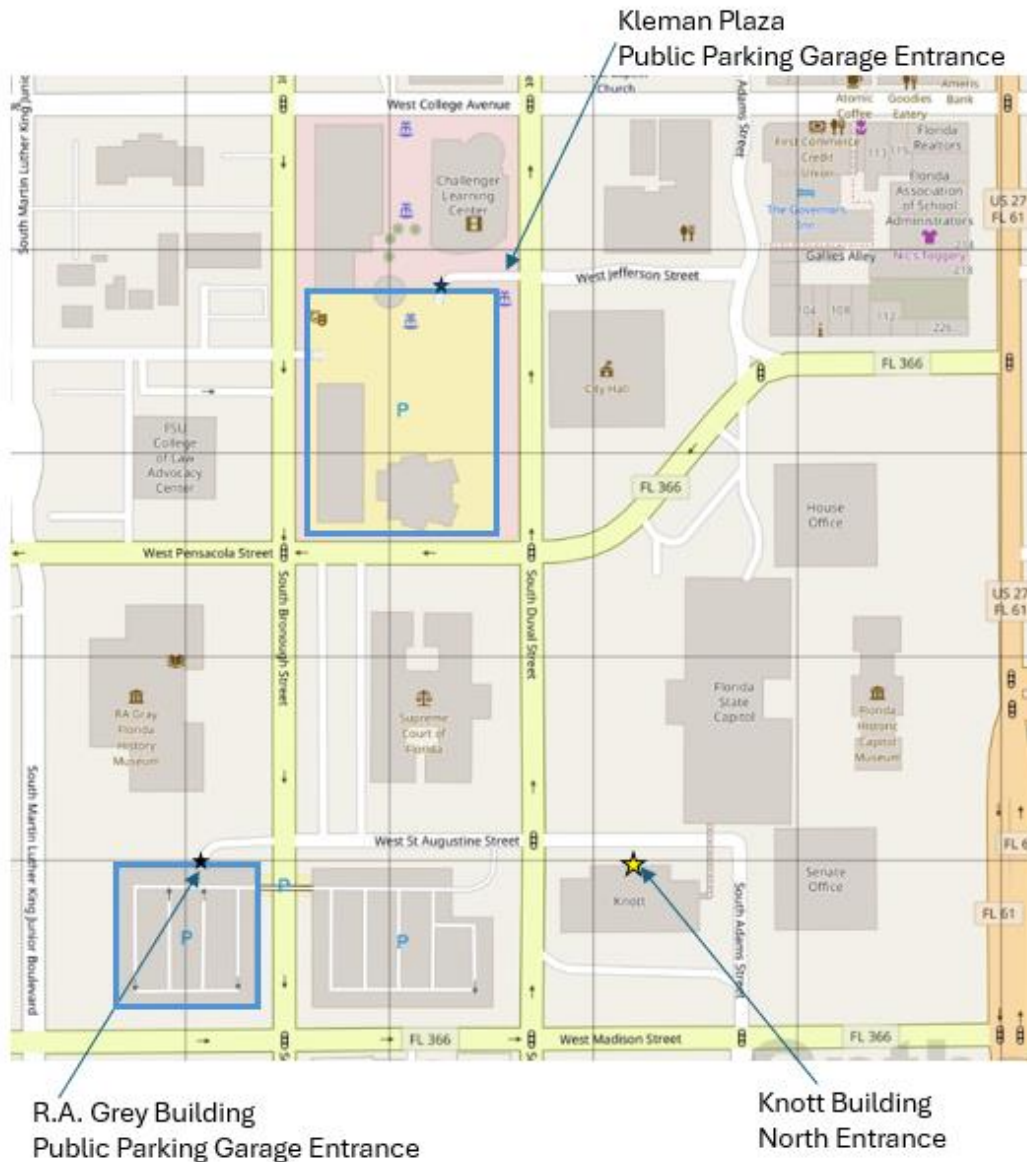
If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the case. *Respondent may not testify, call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence at the probable cause hearing.* The Commission will only decide whether Respondent should be *charged* with a violation and, before the Commission determines whether a violation has occurred or a fine should be imposed, Respondent will have an opportunity for another hearing at which evidence may be introduced.

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Florida Elections Commission Meeting - Augut 13-14, 2024, 412 Knott Building

- Please enter the Knott Building at the North entrance as indicated below.
- Public parking is available at Kleman Plaza (entrance at West Jefferson Sreet/South Duval Street) and the R.A. Grey Building Garage (entrance at West St. Augustine Street/South Bronough Street).



**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-091

TO: Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Division of Elections
500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE
DETERMINATION (PCD))**

You are hereby notified that **the previously scheduled hearing for May 14, 2024, is CANCELLED.** It is anticipated that your case will be scheduled for a new hearing date to be determined as soon as possible.

A Notice of Hearing will be mailed to you approximately 14 days prior to the new hearing date. You may also wish to monitor our website at <https://www.fec.state.fl.us/> for meeting announcements.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
May 13, 2024



Florida Elections Commission

107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6596

Telephone: (850) 922-4539 · Facsimile: (850) 921-0783

FEC@myfloridalegal.com · www.fec.state.fl.us



May 2, 2024

Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

RE: Case No.: FEC 23-007, 23-039, and 23-091; Respondent: Christopher Proia

Dear Mr. Proia:

I wanted to introduce myself as the staff attorney assigned to present these matters at the upcoming Probable Cause Hearing before the Commission. The cases are scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in Tallahassee, FL. A Notice of Hearing for each matter will be arriving in the mail with further updates and instructions.

If you prefer to settle in lieu of the hearings, I am happy to assist. Completion of settlement will cancel the hearings and reschedule the matters for "Consent Order Approval." Please keep in mind that settlement is optional, and you may decline settlement at any time in favor of the scheduled hearing.

I have included draft consent agreements for your review. You are welcome to contact me at my direct number, (850) 404-5612, or email, mattie.clay@myfloridalegal.com, if you have questions about the agreements. Settlement is intended to be collaborative, so I encourage your feedback.

If you feel comfortable with the documents as is, please notify me via email or telephone, and I will guide you through the remaining steps to complete settlement before the hearing.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mattie T. Clay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "C".

Mattie T. Clay
Assistant General Counsel

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-091

TO: Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Division of Elections
500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **May 14, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **412 Knott Building, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.**

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Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
April 26, 2024

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**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-091

STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(c), Florida Statutes, undersigned staff counsel files this written recommendation for disposition of the referral in this case recommending that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating **Sections 106.07(7) and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes**. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on January 16, 2024, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

1. On March 27, 2023, the Florida Elections Commission (“Commission”) received a referral from the Florida Division of Elections (“Complainant” or “Division”) alleging that Christopher Proia (“Respondent”) violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

2. Respondent was a candidate for State Senator, District 27, in the 2022 election. (ROI Exhibit 1, page 1; ROI Exhibit 2, page 1)¹ Respondent was defeated in the general election held on November 8, 2022. (Attachment A, page 1)

3. Respondent’s Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository form (“DS-DE 9”) was filed on May 27, 2022, wherein Respondent appointed himself to serve as the campaign’s treasurer. (ROI Exhibit 1, page 1)

4. By letter dated June 16, 2023, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provisions:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27, failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed on that date because he had not received funds, made contributions, or expended reportable funds during the following reporting periods, as alleged in the complaint:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| · 2022 G3 | · 2022 G5 |
| · 2022 G4 | · 2022 G6 |

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter

¹ The Report of Investigation is referred to herein as “ROI.”

106, Florida Statutes, during the following reporting periods, as alleged in the complaint:

- 2022 G3
- 2022 G4
- 2022 G5
- 2022 G6

5. By letter dated May 31, 2022, Donna S. Brown, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received his DS-DE 9 and that his name was placed on the 2022 active candidate list. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1)

6. The acknowledgment letter advised Respondent that all candidates filing reports with the Division are required to use the electronic filing system (“EFS”) and provided Respondent with a user identification number and initial password to grant access to the EFS. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1) The letter further advised Respondent that all the Division’s publications and reporting forms were available on its website and directed Respondent to print out the *Calendar of Reporting Dates* as well as other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 2)

7. The campaign’s 2022 G3 Report was due on October 7, 2022, the 2022 G4 Report was due on October 14, 2022, the 2022 G5 Report was due on October 28, 2022, and the 2022 G6 Report was due on November 4, 2022; however, Respondent failed to file the reports or notify the filing officer that no reports would be filed. (ROI Exhibit 6, page 1)

8. The Division sent two letters per reporting period notifying Respondent that the campaign’s 2022 G3, 2022 G4, 2022 G5, and 2022 G6 Reports had not been received. The letters also notified Respondent that he was still required to notify the Division if the campaign had no reportable financial activity. (ROI Exhibit 4, pages 1-4; ROI Exhibit 5, pages 1-4) The final notifications were confirmed delivered on January 26, 2023. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 5)

9. A subpoena was issued to Respondent’s designated campaign depository to ascertain whether any financial activity occurred during the relevant reporting periods, i.e., September 10, 2022, to September 23, 2022; September 24, 2022, to October 7, 2022; October 8, 2022, to October 21, 2022; and October 22, 2022, to November 3, 2022. (ROI Exhibit 5, pages 1-4)

10. As to the 2022 G3 reporting period, Respondent’s bank records show three contributions totaling \$172.94 and one expenditure totaling \$4.55. (ROI Exhibit 7, page 1)

11. As to the 2022 G4 reporting period, Respondent’s bank records show one contribution totaling \$47.92 and two expenditures totaling \$111.26. (ROI Exhibit 7, pages 1-2)

12. As to the 2022 G5 reporting period, Respondent’s bank records show no financial activity. (ROI Exhibit 7, page 2)

13. As to the 2022 G6 reporting period, Respondent’s bank records show one contribution totaling \$47.92 and two expenditures totaling \$22.96. (ROI Exhibit 7, page 2)

14. Respondent did not reply to the investigation. (ROI Exhibit 8, page 1)

15. As it appears that Respondent had financial activity during the 2022 G3, 2022 G4, and 2022 G6 reporting periods, Respondent failed to include information in the campaign's 2022 G3, 2022 G4, and 2022 G6 Reports in violation of Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes. Thus, Respondent was not required to notify the filing officer that he would not be filing a report because Respondent had reportable financial activity.

16. Conversely, as Respondent had no financial activity during the 2022 G5 reporting period, Respondent was required to notify the filing officer in writing that he would not be filing the campaign's 2022 G5 Report on the prescribed reporting date but failed to do so. Thus, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in the campaign's 2022 G5 Report as the report was waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.

17. "Probable Cause" is defined as reasonable grounds of suspicion supported by circumstances sufficiently strong to warrant a cautious person in the belief that the person has committed the offense charged. *Schmitt v. State*, 590 So. 2d 404, 409 (Fla. 1991). Probable cause exists where the facts and circumstances, of which an [investigator] has reasonably trustworthy information, are sufficient in themselves for a reasonable man to reach the conclusion that an offense has been committed. *Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles v. Favino*, 667 So. 2d 305, 309 (Fla. 1st DCA 1995).

18. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27. As it appears that Respondent had financial activity during the 2022 G3, 2022 G4, and 2022 G6 reporting periods, Respondent failed to include information in the campaign's 2022 G3, 2022 G4, and 2022 G6 Reports in violation of Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes. It also appears that Respondent had no financial activity during the 2022 G5 reporting period; therefore, Respondent was required to notify the filing officer in writing that he would not be filing the campaign's 2022 G5 Report on the prescribed reporting date but failed to do so.

Based upon these facts and circumstances, I recommend that the Commission find **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating the following:

Count 1:

On October 7, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when he deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on the campaign's 2022 G3 Report.

Count 2:

On October 14, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when he deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on the campaign's 2022 G4 Report.

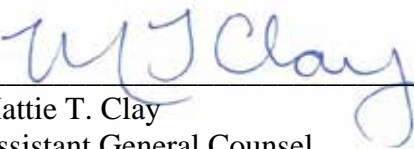
Count 3:

On October 28, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when he failed to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that he would not be filing the campaign's 2022 G5 Report.

Count 4:


On November 4, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, when he deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, on the campaign's 2022 G6 Report.

Respectfully submitted on April 22, 2024.



Mattie T. Clay
Assistant General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 22nd day of April 2024.



Stephanie J. Cunningham
General Counsel

Christopher Proia ([Democratic Party](#)) ran for election to the [Florida State Senate](#) to represent [District 27](#). He lost in the general election on [November 8, 2022](#).

Elections






2022


See also: [Florida State Senate elections, 2022](#)

General election

General election for Florida State Senate District 27

Incumbent [Ben Albritton](#) defeated [Christopher Proia](#) in the general election for Florida State Senate District 27 on November 8, 2022.

	Candidate	%	Votes
	 Ben Albritton (R)	 71.2	141,045
	 Christopher Proia (D)	 28.8	56,940

BP [Incumbents](#) are **bolded and underlined**. The results have been certified. [Source](#)
 = candidate completed the Ballotpedia Candidate Connection [survey](#).

If you are a candidate and would like to tell readers and voters more about why they should vote for you, [complete the Ballotpedia Candidate Connection Survey](#).

Do you want a spreadsheet of this type of data? [Contact our sales team](#).

Democratic primary election

The Democratic primary election was canceled. [Christopher Proia](#) advanced from the Democratic primary for Florida State Senate District 27.

Republican primary election

The Republican primary election was canceled. Incumbent [Ben Albritton](#) advanced from the Republican primary for Florida State Senate District 27.

Campaign finance

2022 election (Jan. 1, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2022)			
Contributions	\$2,027	Expenditures	\$2,009
Number of unique contributors	21	Number of unique payees	3
Top Contributors		Top Payees	
Actblue Donations	\$179	Florida Department of State Division of Elections	\$1,782
Anita Parmer	\$100	Presto	\$200
Blaine Lindsey	\$100	United States Postal Service	\$27
Christina Hayden	\$100		
Diane Lampett	\$100		
Janine Dechristopher	\$100		
Joe Anto	\$100		
Kerri Fowler Black	\$100		
Laura Pascotto	\$100		
Lucinda Nunez	\$100		
View More			

Powered by Transparency USA. See something we missed? Let us know!

[View report dates.](#)

[Campaign themes](#)

2022

Ballotpedia survey responses

See also: [Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection](#)

Christopher Proia did not complete [Ballotpedia's 2022 Candidate Connection](#) survey.

See also

2022 Elections



[What's on the ballot?](#)

[U.S. Congress](#)

[U.S. Congress special elections](#)

[State executives](#)

[State legislatures](#)

[State courts](#)

[Ballot measures](#)

[Municipal government](#)

[School boards](#)

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Report of Investigation for Sections 106.07(7) and 106.19(1)(c), F.S.

Case Number: FEC 23-091

Sections 106.07(7) and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, failure of a candidate or political committee that did not receive any contributions or make any expenditures during a reporting period to notify timely the filing officer, in writing, that no report is being filed or failure to file a campaign report to reflect financial activity.

Respondent: Christopher Proia**Respondent's Atty:** N/A**Division of Elections (Division)****Referral Filed:** March 27, 2023**Respondent Type:** Candidate**I. Preliminary Information:**

1. Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27; he was defeated in the general election held on November 8, 2022. Respondent was a first-time candidate.

2. An Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9) was filed on May 27, 2022. Respondent was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 9, refer to Exhibit 1.

3. Respondent filed a Statement of Candidate with the Division on May 27, 2022, in which Respondent certified he had been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, F.S. To review the Statement of Candidate, refer to Exhibit 2.

4. An acknowledgement letter was mailed to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 on May 31, 2022, advising Respondent that all candidates filing reports with the Division are required to file by means of the Division's electronic filing system (EFS). Respondent was provided with a user identification number and initial password allowing access to the EFS.

5. The acknowledgement letter also advised Respondent that all of the Division's publications and reporting forms are available on their website, including Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook* and the *Calendar of Reporting Dates*. The letter further advised that it was Respondent's responsibility to read, understand, and follow the requirements of Florida's election laws. To review the acknowledgement letter, refer to Exhibit 3.

6. The Division sent correspondence to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report(s), or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed: 2022 G3, 2022 G4, 2022 G5, and 2022 G6. The letter(s) included reference to the filing date(s) for the report(s). To review the failure to file correspondence, refer to Exhibit 4.

7. On January 20, 2023, the Division sent a letter marked "Final Notice" with delivery confirmation to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report(s), or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed: 2022 G3, 2022 G4, 2022 G5, and 2022 G6. The letter was confirmed delivered on January 26, 2023. To review the letter marked "Final Notice" and delivery confirmation, refer to Exhibit 5.

THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

II. Alleged Violation of Sections 106.07(7), and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes:

8. I investigated whether Respondent violated these sections of the election laws either by not notifying the filing officer, in writing, that no report would be filed due to not receiving any contributions or making expenditures during the following reporting period(s) or by not filing campaign report(s) to reflect financial activity for the reporting period(s). To review the filing history, refer to Exhibit 6.

Report	Report Cover Period	Due Date	Report or Waiver Required	Exhibit 7 ¹
2022 G3	9/10/22– 9/23/22	10/7/22	Report	7
2022 G4	9/24/22– 10/7/22	10/14/22	Report	7
2022 G5	10/8/22– 10/21/22	10/28/22	Waiver	7
2022 G6	10/22/22– 11/3/22	11/4/22	Report	7

9. Respondent did not respond to the referral.

10. I attempted to contact Respondent on three occasions for the purpose of providing an opportunity to discuss the allegations made in the referral. As of the date of this report, neither my telephone calls nor email have been returned. Therefore, I am unable to ascertain whether he has read Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and/or the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*. To review the phone log and email, refer to Exhibit 8.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR:



Date: January 16, 2024

¹ I subpoenaed campaign account records from the designated campaign depository.

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
Christopher Proia -- FEC 23-091

LIST OF EXHIBITS	
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits
Exhibit 1	DS-DE 9 Form
Exhibit 2	Statement of Candidate
Exhibit 3	Acknowledgement Letter
Exhibit 4	Division Correspondence
Exhibit 5	Final Notice with Delivery Confirmation Receipt
Exhibit 6	Filing History
Exhibit 7	Records from Campaign Depository
Exhibit 8	Phone Log with Email to Respondent

APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER
AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN
DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES

(Section 106.021(1), F.S.)

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

RECEIVED

2022 MAY 27 AM 9:04

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

NOTE: This form must be on file with the qualifying
officer before opening the campaign account.

acct# 90951 OFFICE USE ONLY

1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

☒ Initial Filing of Form Re-filing to Change: ☐ Treasurer/Deputy ☐ Depository ☐ Office ☐ Party

2. Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Middle, Last)

Christopher Proia

3. Address (include post office box or street, city, state, zip code)

2252 Clifford St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901

4. Telephone

(239) 384 4896

5. E-mail address

Christopher Proia, FL
State Senate@gmail.com

6. Office sought (include district, circuit, group number)

FL State Senate - District 27

7. If a candidate for a nonpartisan office, check if applicable:

☐ My intent is to run as a Write-In candidate.

8. If a candidate for a partisan office, check block and fill in name of party as applicable: My intent is to run as a

☐ Write-In ☐ No Party Affiliation ☒ Democratic Party candidate.

9. I have appointed the following person to act as my

☒ Campaign Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer

10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

Christopher Proia

11. Mailing Address

2252 Clifford Street

12. Telephone

(239) 384 4896

13. City

Fort Myers

14. County

Lee

15. State

FL

16. Zip Code

33901

17. E-mail address

Christopher Proia, FL
State Senate@gmail.com

18. I have designated the following bank as my

☒ Primary Depository ☐ Secondary Depository

19. Name of Bank

Edison National Bank

20. Address

2105 W. First Street

21. City

Fort Myers

22. County

Lee

23. State

Florida

24. Zip Code

33901

UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING FORM FOR APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.

25. Date

05-25-2022

26. Signature of Candidate

X 

27. Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate block)

I, Christopher Proia, do hereby accept the appointment
(Please Print or Type Name)

designated above as: ☒ Campaign Treasurer. ☐ Deputy Treasurer.

05-25-2022 X
Date


Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

**STATEMENT OF
CANDIDATE**

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIVED

2022 MAY 27 AM 9:04

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

I, Christopher Proia,
candidate for the office of FL State Senate;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of
Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

X



Signature of Candidate

05-25-2022

Date

Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida Statutes).



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

May 31, 2022

Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Dear Mr. Proia:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for the office of State Senator, which was placed on file in our office on May 27, 2022. Your name has been placed on the 2022 active candidate list.

Campaign Treasurer's Reports

Your first campaign treasurer's report will be due on **June 10, 2022**. The report will cover the period of May 1-31, 2022 (2022 M5). All candidates who file reports with the Division of Elections are required to file by means of the Division's Electronic Filing System (EFS).

EFS Access

Below is the web address to access the EFS and your user identification number. Enclosed are your confidential, filing credentials.

EFS Website Address: <https://efs.dos.state.fl.us>

Identification Number: 80951

Timely Filing

All reports filed must be completed and filed through the EFS no later than midnight, Eastern Standard Time, of the due date. Reports not filed by midnight of the due date are late filed and subject to the penalties in Section 106.07(8), Florida Statutes. In the event that the EFS is inoperable on the due date, the report will be accepted as timely filed if filed no later than midnight of the first business day the EFS becomes operable. No fine will be levied during the period the EFS was inoperable.

Division of Elections

R.A. Gray Building, Suite 316 • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6240 • 850.245.6260 (Fax) • [DOS.MyFlorida.com/elections](https://dos.mylouisiana.com/elections)



Christopher Proia
May 31, 2022
Page Two

Any candidate failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine of \$50 per day for the first three days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. However, for reports immediately preceding each primary and general election, the fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report.

Electronic Receipts

The person submitting the report on the EFS will be issued an electronic receipt indicating and verifying the report was filed. Each campaign treasurer's report filed by means of the EFS is considered to be under oath by the candidate and campaign treasurer, and such persons are subject to the provisions of Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes.

Instructions and Assistance

An online instruction guide is available to you on the EFS to assist with navigation, data entry, and submission of reports. The Division of Elections will also provide assistance to all users by contacting the EFS Help Desk at (850) 245-6280.

All of the Division's publications and reporting forms are available on the Division of Elections' website at <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections>. It is your responsibility to read, understand, and follow the requirements of Florida's election laws. Therefore, please print a copy of the following documents: Chapters 104 and 106, Florida Statutes, *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*, *Calendar of Reporting Dates*, and Rule 1S-2.017, Florida Administrative Code.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

DSB/bnn

Enclosures



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

October 10, 2022

CAN 80951

Christopher Proia
Candidate for State Senator, District 27
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

Dear Mr. Proia:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was October 7, 2022.

The law (s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) requires the filing officer to immediately notify you about the missed filing date and the automatic fines that will be assessed for late filing of a report, if a report was due.

- If reportable activity occurred and you have not filed a report, statutory fines are automatically assessed as follows until you file your report:
 - \$50 per day for the first 3 days late
 - \$500 per day for each day after the 3rd day late
 - If the required report immediately precedes a primary and general election, the automatic fine is \$500 for each late day.

The total fine for the untimely report cannot exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the cover period. Even if you end up filing your report late, we cannot waive the statutory fines. We will notify you of the specific amount of fines owed once you file your report. You have 20 days from the day you receive the notice to pay the fine or to appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission.

- If no reportable activity occurred for the report date(s), you are still required to notify us in writing, via the Division's Electronic Filing System, that no reportable activity occurred. No automatic fines are statutorily assessed.

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

October 17, 2022

Christopher Proia
Candidate for State Senator, District 27
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

CAN 80951

Dear Mr. Proia:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was October 14, 2022.

The law (s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) requires the filing officer to immediately notify you about the missed filing date and the automatic fines that will be assessed for late filing of a report, if a report was due.

- If reportable activity occurred and you have not filed a report, statutory fines are automatically assessed as follows until you file your report:
 - \$50 per day for the first 3 days late
 - \$500 per day for each day after the 3rd day late
 - If the required report immediately precedes a primary and general election, the automatic fine is \$500 for each late day.

The total fine for the untimely report cannot exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the cover period. Even if you end up filing your report late, we cannot waive the statutory fines. We will notify you of the specific amount of fines owed once you file your report. You have 20 days from the day you receive the notice to pay the fine or to appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission.

- If no reportable activity occurred for the report date(s), you are still required to notify us in writing, via the Division's Electronic Filing System, that no reportable activity occurred. No automatic fines are statutorily assessed.

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

October 31, 2022

CAN 80951

Christopher Proia
Candidate for State Senator, District 27
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

Dear Mr. Proia:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was October 28, 2022.

The law (s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) requires the filing officer to immediately notify you about the missed filing date and the automatic fines that will be assessed for late filing of a report, if a report was due.

- If reportable activity occurred and you have not filed a report, statutory fines are automatically assessed as follows until you file your report:

- \$50 per day for the first 3 days late
- \$500 per day for each day after the 3rd day late
- If the required report immediately precedes a primary and general election, the automatic fine is \$500 for each late day.

The total fine for the untimely report cannot exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the cover period. Even if you end up filing your report late, we cannot waive the statutory fines. We will notify you of the specific amount of fines owed once you file your report. You have 20 days from the day you receive the notice to pay the fine or to appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission.

- If no reportable activity occurred for the report date(s), you are still required to notify us in writing, via the Division's Electronic Filing System, that no reportable activity occurred. No automatic fines are statutorily assessed.

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Cord Byrd
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

November 7, 2022

CAN 80951

Christopher Proia
Candidate for State Senator, District 27
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

Dear Mr. Proia:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was November 4, 2022.

The law (s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) requires the filing officer to immediately notify you about the missed filing date and the automatic fines that will be assessed for late filing of a report, if a report was due.

- If reportable activity occurred and you have not filed a report, statutory fines are automatically assessed as follows until you file your report:
 - \$50 per day for the first 3 days late
 - \$500 per day for each day after the 3rd day late
 - If the required report immediately precedes a primary and general election, the automatic fine is \$500 for each late day.

The total fine for the untimely report cannot exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the cover period. Even if you end up filing your report late, we cannot waive the statutory fines. We will notify you of the specific amount of fines owed once you file your report. You have 20 days from the day you receive the notice to pay the fine or to appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission.

- If no reportable activity occurred for the report date(s), you are still required to notify us in writing, via the Division's Electronic Filing System, that no reportable activity occurred. No automatic fines are statutorily assessed.

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice

Delivery Confirmation:

USPS TRACKING # **9114 9022 0085 2074 0806 82**
& CUSTOMER RECEIPT For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com
or call 1-800-222-1811.

January 20, 2023

Christopher Proia
Candidate for State Senator, District 27
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

CAN 80951

Dear Mr. Proia:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the Division has not yet received the below-referenced campaign treasurer's report or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable, during the following cover period:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Cover Period</u>
2022	G3	9/10/22 - 9/23/22

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,


Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice

Delivery Confirmation: 9114 9022 0085 2074 0806 82

January 20, 2023

Christopher Proia
Candidate for State Senator, District 27
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

CAN 80951

Dear Mr. Proia:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the Division has not yet received the below-referenced campaign treasurer's report or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable, during the following cover period:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Cover Period</u>
2022	G4	9/24/22 - 10/7/22

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice

Delivery Confirmation: 9114 9022 0085 2074 0806 82

January 20, 2023

Christopher Proia
Candidate for State Senator, District 27
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

CAN 80951

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2022	G5	10/8/22 - 10/21/22

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Sincerely,


Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



Ref
to
FEC

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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January 20, 2023

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<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Cover Period</u>
2022	G6	10/22/22 - 11/3/22

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Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

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Latest Update

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USPS Tracking Plus®

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Delivered, In/At Mailbox

FORT MYERS, FL 33901

January 26, 2023, 2:39 pm

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Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Florida Election System Reports

Candidate/Committee Lookup

Candidate Name: Christopher ProiaName: **Account:** [80951](#)Election: Acct: Type:

Date Due	Type	Date Filed	Status	Days Late	Fine Assessed	Appealed	Amount Fined	Amount Paid
2/6/2023	TR		SNT	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
11/4/2022	G6		FEC	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/28/2022	G5		FEC	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/14/2022	G4		FEC	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/7/2022	G3		FEC	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
9/16/2022	G2		FEC	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
9/2/2022	G1		FEC	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
8/19/2022	P7		SNT	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
8/12/2022	P6		SNT	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
8/5/2022	P5		SNT	0	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
7/29/2022	P4	7/29/2022						
7/22/2022	P3	7/15/2022						
7/8/2022	P2	7/8/2022						
6/24/2022	P1	6/24/2022						
6/10/2022	M5	6/10/2022						



Florida Department of State Division of Elections

2022 General Election Christopher Proia (DEM) State Senator

Campaign Finance Activity

Note: The information presented below was obtained from the Committee's/Candidate's Campaign Treasurer's Report filed with the Division of Elections. [About the Campaign Finance Data Base.](#)

	Filing Period	Contributions			Expend	Other	Transfers
		Monetary	Loans	InKind			
W	05/27/2022 - 05/31/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	06/01/2022 - 06/17/2022	1,847.14	0.00	0.00	1,808.77	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	06/18/2022 - 07/01/2022	179.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<input type="radio"/>	07/02/2022 - 07/15/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
W	07/16/2022 - 07/22/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	All Dates (Totals)	2,026.62	0.00	0.00	2,008.77	0.00	0.00

Note: **(E)** indicates that report was filed electronically

X Indicates that detail has not been released

W Indicates that a waiver was filed and **L** Indicates that a loan report was filed

Select Detail Type

Contributions ▼

Select Sort Order

Date(Ascending) ▼

Select Output Type

Display On Screen ▼

Submit Query Now

[Query the Campaign Finance Data Base](#)

[\[Department of State\]](#) [\[Division of Elections\]](#) [\[Candidates and Races\]](#) [\[Campaign Finance Information\]](#)



Fort Myers, FL 33906-1399
(239) 466-1800



Date 9/30/22
Account Number

Page 1

2112778

Christopher Proia For State Senate
2252 Clifford St
Fort Myers FL 33901

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Account Title: Christopher Proia For State Senate

Candidate Campaign Account		Number of Enclosures	0
Account Number		Statement Dates	9/01/22 thru 10/02/22
Previous Balance	27.03	Days in the statement period	32
3 Deposits/Credits	172.94	Average Daily Balance	76.46
4 Checks/Debits	121.14	Average Collected	76.46
Service Charge	.00		
Interest Paid	.00		
Ending Balance	78.83		

DEPOSITS AND ADDITIONS

9/15 ACTBLUE	ACTBLUE CCD	ST-U0W5F0L9X6G8	47.92
9/16 ACTBLUE	ACTBLUE CCD	ST-I2Q3K2L7E1N9	9.40
9/21 ACTBLUE	ACTBLUE CCD	ST-Y0D3A4I3U4Y5	115.62

DEBITS AND WITHDRAWALS

9/01 POS	DEB 1758 08/31/22 98161850 841	5.33-
	841	
	BONITA SPRING FL C#9241	
9/13 POS	DEB 1706 09/12/22 04174100 GULF RAYS	4.55-
	3666 N TAMIAMI TRA	
	PORT CHARLOTT FL C#9241	
9/26 DBT	CRD 1853 09/25/22 DJGMXGEV OLLIE S PUB	58.14-
	CAPE CORAL FL C#9241	
9/30 POS	DEB 1428 09/30/22 58237182 SHELL SERVICE S	53.12-
	SHELL SERVICE S	
	NAPLES FL C#9241	

DAILY BALANCE INFORMATION

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
9/01	21.70	9/16	74.47	9/30	78.83
9/13	17.15	9/21	190.09		
9/15	65.07	9/26	131.95		



Fort Myers, FL 33906-1399
(239) 466-1800



Date 10/31/22
Account Number

Page 1

2142771

Christopher Proia For State Senate
2252 Clifford St
Fort Myers FL 33901

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Account Title: Christopher Proia For State Senate

Candidate Campaign Account		Number of Enclosures	0
Account Number		Statement Dates	10/03/22 thru 10/31/22
Previous Balance	78.83	Days in the statement period	29
2 Deposits/Credits	95.84	Average Daily Balance	131.84
2 Checks/Debits	22.96	Average Collected	131.84
Service Charge	.00		
Interest Paid	.00		
Ending Balance	151.71		

DEPOSITS AND ADDITIONS

10/04 ACTBLUE	ACTBLUE CCD	ST-J2H1P9H5R2L0	47.92
10/26 ACTBLUE	ACTBLUE CCD	ST-X7R3V1E0F4M1	47.92

DEBITS AND WITHDRAWALS

10/28 POS	DEB 0824	10/28/22	01008032	NNT BURGER KING #16571559	7.96-
				13721 N CLEVELAND	
				NORTH FORT MY FL C#9241	
10/28 DBT	CRD 2023	10/27/22	DJTULFWT	LAUGH-IN COMEDY CAFE	15.00-
				FORT MYERS FL C#9241	

DAILY BALANCE INFORMATION

Date	Balance	Date	Balance
10/03	78.83	10/26	174.67
10/04	126.75	10/28	151.71



Fort Myers, FL 33906-1399
(239) 466-1800



Date 11/30/22
Account Number

Page 1

2170162

Christopher Proia For State Senate
2252 Clifford St
Fort Myers FL 33901

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Account Title: Christopher Proia For State Senate

Candidate Campaign Account		Number of Enclosures	0
Account Number		Statement Dates	11/01/22 thru 11/30/22
Previous Balance	151.71	Days in the statement period	30
Deposits/Credits	.00	Average Daily Balance	69.82
2 Checks/Debits	144.50	Average Collected	69.82
Service Charge	.00		
Interest Paid	.00		
Ending Balance	7.21		

DEBITS AND WITHDRAWALS

11/14 W/D SVC 2008 11/12/22 00002966 5/3 BK RACE TRAC	1.50-
2335 CLEVELAND AVE	
FORT MYERS FL C# 9241	
11/14 ATM W/D 2008 11/12/22 00002966 5/3 BK RACE TRAC	143.00-
2335 CLEVELAND AVE	
FORT MYERS FL C#9241	

DAILY BALANCE INFORMATION

Date	Balance	Date	Balance
11/01	151.71	11/14	7.21

**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
PHONE LOG
Case No.: FEC 23-091**

Respondent: Christopher Proia

Complainant: DOE

1. **Date and time:** October 20, 2023 @ 9:40 am
Name: Respondent
Phone #: (239) 384-4896
Summary: I attempted telephone contact with Respondent to make initial contact. I left a message to return my call.
Entered by: CKO
2. **Date and time:** November 8, 2023 @ 2:20 pm
Name: Respondent
Phone #: (239) 384-4896
Summary: I attempted telephone contact with Respondent to complete final interview. I left a message to return my call.
Entered by: CKO
3. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:
4. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:
5. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

Cedric Oliver

From: Cedric Oliver
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:22 PM
To: christopherproia.flstatesenate@gmail.com
Subject: FEC Investigations

Good afternoon Mr. Proia! I have been attempting contact with you to address issues regarding your 2022 election candidacy for State Senator, District 27. Please call me when you receive this message. Thank you.

Cedric Oliver
Investigator Specialist
Florida Elections Commission
(850) 922-4539

Cedric Oliver

From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@mx0a-003d5601.pphosted.com>
To: christopherproia.flstatesendate@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:22 PM
Subject: Undeliverable: FEC Investigations

The original message was received at Wed, 8 Nov 2023 14:22:21 -0500 from m0184566.ppop.s.net [127.0.0.1]

----- The following addresses had permanent fatal errors ----- <christopherproia.flstatesendate@gmail.com>
(reason: 550-5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try)

----- Transcript of session follows ----- ... while talking to gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com.:

>>> DATA

<<< 550-5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try <<< 550-5.1.1 double-checking the recipient's email address for typos or <<< 550-5.1.1 unnecessary spaces. Learn more at <<< 550 5.1.1

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://support.google.com/mail/?p=NoSuchUser__;!!KX7BvY8_YTnAgrFq92k!lJp9vQkjFxnrbFwY2io_YgyyVQNqv7eRkQCB9OSj2Q2FGrYHDH5S14z8y64KCV6RO-thaSWvyaE4rYLGXYXbcz7nuXi\\$ ep18-20020a0566384e1200b0045c35a02217si5499747jab.61 - gsmtP](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://support.google.com/mail/?p=NoSuchUser__;!!KX7BvY8_YTnAgrFq92k!lJp9vQkjFxnrbFwY2io_YgyyVQNqv7eRkQCB9OSj2Q2FGrYHDH5S14z8y64KCV6RO-thaSWvyaE4rYLGXYXbcz7nuXi$ ep18-20020a0566384e1200b0045c35a02217si5499747jab.61 - gsmtP)

550 5.1.1 <christopherproia.flstatesendate@gmail.com>... User unknown <<< 503-5.5.1 RCPT first. Please visit <<< 503-5.5.1

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://support.google.com/a/answer/3221692__;!!KX7BvY8_YTnAgrFq92k!lJp9vQkjFxnrbFwY2io_YgyyVQNqv7eRkQCB9OSj2Q2FGrYHDH5S14z8y64KCV6RO-thaSWvyaE4rYLGXYXbXOHrbyy\\$ and review RFC 5321 <<< 503 5.5.1 specifications for more information. ep18-20020a0566384e1200b0045c35a02217si5499747jab.61 - gsmtP](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://support.google.com/a/answer/3221692__;!!KX7BvY8_YTnAgrFq92k!lJp9vQkjFxnrbFwY2io_YgyyVQNqv7eRkQCB9OSj2Q2FGrYHDH5S14z8y64KCV6RO-thaSWvyaE4rYLGXYXbXOHrbyy$ and review RFC 5321 <<< 503 5.5.1 specifications for more information. ep18-20020a0566384e1200b0045c35a02217si5499747jab.61 - gsmtP)



Florida Elections Commission

107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6596

Telephone: (850) 922-4539 · Facsimile: (850) 921-0783

FEC@myfloridalegal.com · www.fec.state.fl.us



June 16, 2023

Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

RE: Case No.: FEC 23-091; Respondent: Christopher Proia

Dear Mr. Proia:

On March 27, 2023, the Florida Elections Commission received a complaint alleging that you violated Florida's election laws. I have reviewed the complaint and find that it contains one or more **legally sufficient allegations**. The Commission staff will investigate the following alleged violations:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27, failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed on that date because he had not received funds, made contributions, or expended reportable funds during the following reporting periods, as alleged in the complaint:

- 2022 G3
- 2022 G4
- 2022 G5
- 2022 G6

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the following reporting periods, as alleged in the complaint:

- 2022 G3
- 2022 G4
- 2022 G5
- 2022 G6

When we conclude the investigation, a copy of the Report of Investigation (ROI) will be mailed to you at the above address. Based on the results of the investigation, a staff attorney will prepare and present a written Staff Recommendation (SR) to the Commission as to whether there is

Christopher Proia
June 16, 2023
Page 2
FEC 23-039

probable cause to charge you, the Respondent, with violating Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes. You will have an opportunity to respond to both the ROI and the SR. The Commission will then hold one or more hearings to determine whether the alleged violations occurred and, if so, the amount of the fine to be imposed upon you. Notice will be mailed to you and the Complainant at least 14 days before any hearing at which your case is to be considered.

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(i)3., Florida Statutes, the Commission may enter into a consent agreement with a Respondent to settle a complaint prior to a finding of probable cause. If you are interested in entering negotiations directed towards reaching a consent agreement to resolve this matter, please contact the Commission and request to speak with the attorney assigned to this case.

Please note that all documents related to this matter will be mailed to the above address unless you notify us of a new address.

Pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, complaints, investigations, investigative reports, and other documents relating to an alleged violation of Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes, are confidential until the Commission finds probable cause or no probable cause, unless the Respondent files a written waiver of confidentiality with the Commission. The confidentiality provision does not apply to the Complainant or the Respondent.

Should you retain counsel, your attorney must file a notice of appearance with the Commission before any member of the commission staff can discuss this case with him or her.

For additional information, please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of the Commission's website.

If you have additional questions, please contact **Cedric Oliver**, the investigator assigned to this case, by phone at (850) 922-4539 or by email at Cedric.Oliver@myfloridalegal.com.

Sincerely,



Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

TV/jd

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FEC NOTICE FORM

To FEC from Division of Elections

Candidate: Christopher Proia

Account Number: 80951

Treasurer: Christopher Proia

The Division of Elections hereby provides this notice to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to sections 106.07(8)(d), 106.22(7) and 106.25, Florida Statutes. An apparent violation of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, has occurred based upon the candidate's alleged failure to file a report after notice or failure to file a notification to the filing officer in writing that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date as required by section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes.

The following reports are outstanding after notification:

2022 G3	2022 G4
2022 G5	2022 G6

- Christopher Proia (80951) was a 2022 candidate for the office of State Senator.
- On May 27, 2022, Mr. Proia filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository with the Division.
- The 2022 G3 campaign treasurer's report was due on October 7, 2022. On January 20, 2023, the Division mailed Mr. Proia final notification that the 2022 G3 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- The 2022 G4 campaign treasurer's report was due on October 14, 2022. On January 20, 2023, the Division mailed Mr. Proia final notification that the 2022 G4 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- The 2022 G5 campaign treasurer's report was due on October 28, 2022. On January 20, 2023, the Division mailed Mr. Proia final notification that the 2022 G5 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.

- The 2022 G6 campaign treasurer's report was due on November 4, 2022. On January 20, 2023, the Division mailed Mr. Proia final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2022 G6 campaign treasurer's reports had not been filed.
- The final notice letters for the 2022 G3, 2022 G4, 2022 G5 and 2022 G6 are attached with delivery confirmation.
- Mr. Proia did not notify the Division of Elections prior to or on the prescribed reporting dates for the 2022 G3, 2022 G4, 2022 G5, and 2022 G6 reports that no reports were to be filed.
- As of March 23, 2023, Mr. Proia has not filed the 2022 G3, 2022 G4, 2022 G5, and 2022 G6 reports.

Sent By: Donna S. Brown *DSB*
Date: March 23, 2023
dlh



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice

Delivery Confirmation:

USPS TRACKING # **9114 9022 0085 2074 0806 82**
& CUSTOMER RECEIPT For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com
or call 1-800-222-1811.

January 20, 2023

Christopher Proia

Candidate for State Senator, District 27

CAN 80951

2252 Clifford Street

Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

Dear Mr. Proia:

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<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Cover Period</u>
2022	G3	9/10/22 - 9/23/22

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Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



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2252 Clifford Street
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2022	G4	9/24/22 - 10/7/22

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

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<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Cover Period</u>
2022	G5	10/8/22 - 10/21/22

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

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Sincerely,


Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



Ref
to
FEC

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Fort Myers, FL 33901-3901

CAN 80951

Dear Mr. Proia:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the Division has not yet received the below-referenced campaign treasurer's report or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable, during the following cover period:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Cover Period</u>
2022	G6	10/22/22 - 11/3/22

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

If you have any questions, please contact the help desk at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

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