

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-007

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 23-007

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 23-007

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.

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.

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See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
February 5, 2025

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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.

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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 23-007

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 February 26, 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 violation:

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2024/08/24/10:05

Count 1:

On October 31, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.07(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes, when he failed to timely file an addendum to the campaign's 2022 P3 Report within seven days after receiving notice from the Division that the report required amendment.

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 23-007

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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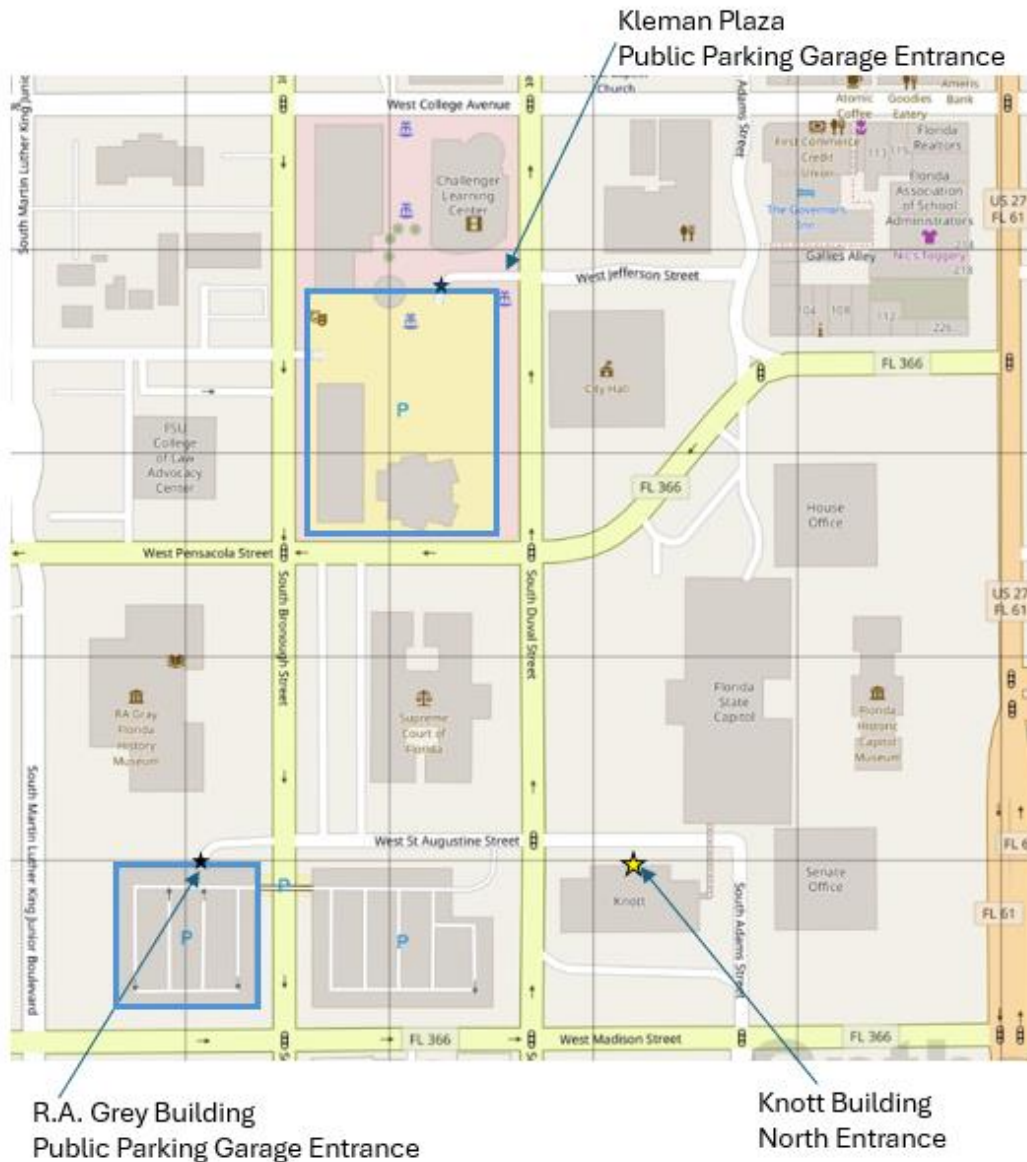
If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the 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 23-007

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 stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mattie T. Clay
Assistant General Counsel

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Christopher Proia

Case No.: FEC 23-007

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 23-007

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 **Section 106.07(2)(b)1., 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 January 6, 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 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27. (ROI Exhibit 1, 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 provision:

Section 106.07(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27, acting as his own treasurer, failed to timely make necessary amendments to the 2022 P3 campaign treasurer’s report, as alleged in the complaint.

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 2, 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 2, 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 Chapter 106, Florida

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

Statutes, and the *Calendar of Reporting Dates*, as well as other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 2, page 2)

Alleged Violation: Section 106.07(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes

7. The campaign's 2022 P3 Report was filed on July 15, 2022, and covered from July 2, 2022, to July 15, 2022. (ROI Exhibit 5, pages 1 & 6) The report was incomplete when filed as it reflected one missing date for a petty cash withdrawal. (ROI Exhibit 3, pages 2 & 4; ROI Exhibit 4, page 2; Attachment B, page 1)

8. The Division sent three letters notifying Respondent that the campaign's report was incomplete and that Respondent was required to amend the report within seven days of receipt of the notifications. (ROI Exhibit 3, pages 1 & 3; ROI Exhibit 4, page 1) An Error Report showing why the report was incomplete was attached to each notification. (ROI Exhibit 3, pages 2 & 4; ROI Exhibit 4, page 2) The final notification was confirmed delivered on October 24, 2022. (ROI Exhibit 4, page 3)

9. Respondent did not reply to the investigation. (ROI Exhibit 6, page 1)

10. As of February 23, 2024, Respondent has not filed the required amendment to the campaign's report. (Attachment C, page 1)

11. The omission at first glance appears to be minor; however, the expenditure at issue is a petty cash withdrawal, which is governed by section 106.12(2)(b), Florida Statutes. The date is critical in deciphering whether Respondent withdrew \$200.00 in cash at one time, which exceeds the petty cash limit of \$100.00 per week, or whether Respondent withdrew up to \$100.00 each week, which would not be a violation of section 106.12(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

12. Therefore, Respondent failed to timely amend the campaign's 2022 P3 Report within seven days of receiving notification from the Division.

13. "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).

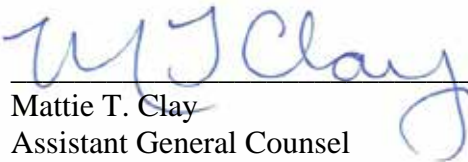
14. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27. Respondent failed to timely file the required amendment to the campaign's 2022 P3 Report within seven days of receiving notification from the Division that the report was incomplete and required amendment.

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

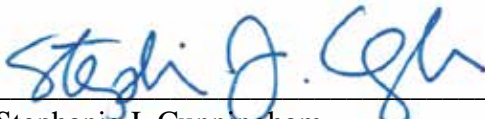
Count 1:

On October 31, 2022, Christopher Proia violated Section 106.07(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes, when he failed to timely file an addendum to the campaign's 2022 P3 Report within seven days after receiving notice from the Division that the report required amendment.

Respectfully submitted on February 26, 2024.


Mattie T. Clay
Assistant General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 26th day of February 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](#)
C = candidate completed the Ballotpedia Candidate Connection [survey](#).

Total votes: 197,985

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](#)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT - ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES

- (1) Candidate's full name or name of the political committee (PC), electioneering communications organization (ECO), or party executive committee (PTY).
- (2) Identification number assigned by the filing officer.
- (3) Cover period dates (01/01/15 through 01/31/15). (See filing officer's reporting dates calendar for appropriate cover periods.)
- (4) Page numbers (e.g., 1 of 3).
- (5) Date of expenditure (Month/Day/Year).
- (6) **Sequence Number** - Each detail line shall have a sequence number assigned to it. Sequence numbers are to be assigned within each reporting period and for each type of detail line. Thus the report type, detail line type, and sequence number will combine to uniquely identify a specific contribution, expenditure, distribution or fund transfer. This method of unique identification is required for responding to requests from the filing officer and for reporting requirements.

For example, a M1 report having 40 expenditures would use sequence numbers 1 through 40. The next report (M2), comprised of 30 expenditures would use sequence numbers 1 through 30. Expenditures on amended M1 reports would begin with sequence number 41 and on amended M2 reports would begin with sequence number 31. See *Amendment Type* instructions below.
- (7) Full name and address of entity receiving payment (including city, state and zip code).
- (8) Purpose of expenditure (if expenditure is a contribution to a candidate, also type the office sought by the candidate). **PLEASE NOTE:** This column does not apply to candidate expenditures, as candidates cannot contribute to other candidates from campaign funds. However, PCs (supporting candidates) and party executive committees contributing to candidates must report office sought (Section 106.07, F.S.).
- (9) Enter Expenditure Type using one of the following codes:

Code	Description
CAN	Candidate Expense
DIS	Disposition of Funds
DFC	Disposition of Funds to Future Campaign (effective 11/1/13)
DPP	Disposition of Funds to Political Party (effective 11/1/13)
DPV	Disposition of Funds to Petition Verification (effective 11/1/13)
ECC	Electioneering Communication
IEC	Independent Expenditure Regarding a Candidate
IEI	Independent Expenditure Regarding an Issue
MON	Monetary (Not to a Candidate)
PCW	Petty Cash Withdrawn
PCS	Petty Cash Spent
PPD	Pre-paid Distribution
REF	Refund (Negative Amount Only)
RMB	Reimbursements
TOA	Transfer to Office Account (Disposition of Funds)

- (10) **Amendment Type** (required on amended reports) - To add a new (previously unreported) expenditure for the reporting period being amended, enter "ADD" in amendment type on a line with ALL of the required data.

The sequence number for expenditures with amendment type "ADD" will start at one plus the number of expenditures in the original report. For example, amending an original M1 reports that had 75 expenditures, means the sequence number of the first expenditure having amendment type "ADD" will be 76; the second "ADD" expenditure would have sequence number 39.



Campaign Expenditures

2022 General Election
Christopher Proia (DEM)
State Senator

This information is being provided as a convenience to the public, has been processed by the Division of Elections and should be cross referenced with the original report on file with the Division of Elections in case of questions.
[About the Campaign Finance Data Base](#)

Rpt Yr	Rpt Type	Date	Amount	Expense Paid To	Address	City State Zip	Purpose	Typ Reimb
2022	P3		200.00	PRESTO	8585 COLLIER BLVD	NAPLES, FL 34114	LAKELAND TRIP, BANK STARTER FUNDS REPAYM PCW	
			200.00					

1 Expenditure(s) Selected

[Query the Campaign Finance Data Base](#)

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

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Report of Investigation for Failure to Timely Amend

Case Number: FEC 23-007

Section 106.07(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes, failure of the treasurer for a candidate or political committee to file an addendum to an incomplete report after receiving notice from the filing officer.

Respondent: Christopher Proia

Respondent's Atty: N/A

Division of Elections (Division)

Referral Filed: January 6, 2023

Respondent Type: Treasurer for Candidate

I. Preliminary Information:

1. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by failing to file amended report(s) for the following campaign treasurer report(s) after receiving notice from the filing officer: 2022 P3 Report.

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 for Christopher Proia, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27. To review the DS-DE 9, refer to Exhibit 1. *Attach DS-DE 6/9 appointing Respondent treasurer.*

3. On May 31, 2022, the Division sent Respondent a letter acknowledging Respondent's appointment as the campaign treasurer for Christopher Proia's campaign. The letter 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 2.

II. Alleged Violation of Section 106.07(2)(b)(1), Florida Statutes:

4. The Division sent correspondence to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 notifying Respondent that one or more campaign treasurer report(s) were incomplete. The correspondence included error report(s) referencing the following report(s): 2022 P3. To review the correspondence and error report(s), refer to Exhibit 3.

5. On October 21, 2022, the Division sent a letter marked "Final Notice" with delivery confirmation to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 notifying Respondent that one or more campaign treasurer report(s) were incomplete. The letter included an error report referencing the following report(s): 2022 P3. It was confirmed delivered on October 24, 2022. To review the "Final Notice," error report and delivery confirmation, refer to Exhibit 4.

6. As noted above, the "Final Notice" was confirmed delivered on October 24, 2022. The Division filed the referral on January 6, 2023. By filing the referral, the Division affirmed that as of that date, the report(s) at issue had not been amended to correct all errors identified by the Division. To review the report(s) at issue, refer to Exhibit 5.

7. Respondent did not respond to the referral.

8. 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 Respondent has read Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and/or the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*. To review the phone log and email, refer to Exhibit 6.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR:



Date: January 16, 2024

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
Christopher Proia -- FEC 23-007

LIST OF EXHIBITS	
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits
Exhibit 1	DS-DE 9 Form
Exhibit 2	Acknowledgement Letter
Exhibit 3	Failure to Amend Correspondence
Exhibit 4	Final Notice with Delivery Confirmation Receipt
Exhibit 5	2022 P3 Report with Queued-Transaction Report
Exhibit 6	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



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>

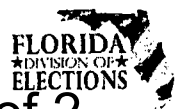
Identification Number: 80951

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

July 25, 2022

Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Re: CAN 80951

Dear Mr. Proia:

The Division of Elections has determined that one or more campaign reports are incomplete for the reasons noted in the attached error report.

Pursuant to Section 106.07(2), Florida Statutes, you have 7 days from receipt of this notice to file an amended report to correct errors or provide missing information. If the audit states that a written explanation is required, provide the division with a signed letter of explanation addressing the errors noted in the report(s). Your explanation should (1) reference the specific error(s) that occurred; (2) describe how you corrected the errors (example: refunded excess contribution and reported the refund in 2021 M8 report); and (3) list the report(s) and sequence number(s) that were amended to reflect the corrections. Please be advised that failure to supply this information within the time allowed may constitute a violation of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

If you need assistance in filing an amendment, please contact the Division's help line at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

Attachment

Error Report

Candidate: Christopher Proia

Office: STS

Report: 2022 P3 (4) Covering Period: 7/2/22 - 7/15/22

Account: 80951

Contributions

Expenditures

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City/State/Zip</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Expenditure Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amend</u>
1		PRESTO	8586 COLLIER BLVD	NAPLES, FL 3-4114	PC	LAKELAND TRIP, BANK STARTER FUNDS REPAYM	\$200.00	

*The Transaction Date Is Either Before Or After The Report Coverage Period

Fund Transfers

Other Distributions



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

Second Notice

August 24, 2022

Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Re: CAN 80951

Dear Mr. Proia:

On July 25, 2022, you were advised that one or more of your campaign treasurer 's reports were incomplete and that you had 7 days to provide the requested information.

The Division's electronic filing system indicates that the required information has not been provided. Pursuant to Section 106.22, Florida Statutes, the Division is required to notify the Florida Elections Commission of the failure to provide information required by Chapter 106. Accordingly, if the information requested in our prior notice is not received within 7 days of receipt of this letter, we will refer this matter to the Commission. A second copy of the error report is attached for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

Attachment

Error Report

Candidate: Christopher Proia

Office: STS

Report: 2022 P3 (4) Covering Period: 7/2/22 - 7/15/22

Account: 80951

ContributionsExpenditures

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City/State/Zip</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Expenditure Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amend</u>
1		PRESTO	8585 COLLIER BLVD	NAPLES, FL 3-4114	PC	LAKELAND TRIP, BANK STARTER FUNDS REPAYM	\$200.00	

*The Transaction Date Is Either Before Or After The Report Coverage Period

Fund TransfersOther Distributions



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

FINAL NOTICE

Delivery Confirmation:

USPS TRACKING # **9114 9022 0078 9689 7767 33**
& CUSTOMER RECEIPT For Tracking or Inquiries go to USPS.com
or call 1-800-222-1811.

October 21, 2022

Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Re: CAN 80951

Dear Mr. Proia:

You have previously been advised that one or more campaign treasurer's reports are incomplete for the reasons noted in the attached error report.

Pursuant to Section 106.07(2), Florida Statutes, you have 7 days from receipt of this letter to correct errors or provide missing information. If the audit states that a written explanation is required, provide the division with a signed letter of explanation addressing the errors noted in the report(s). Your explanation should (1) reference the specific error(s) that occurred; (2) describe how you corrected the errors (example: refunded excess contribution and reported the refund in 2021 M8 report); and (3) list the report(s) and sequence number(s) that were amended to reflect the corrections. Please be advised that if you fail to comply with this request, the Division will forward this matter to the Florida Elections Commission for further action. Section 106.265(1), Florida Statutes, authorizes the Florida Elections Commission to impose civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation.

If you need assistance in filing an amendment, please contact the Division's help line at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

Attachment

10/19/2022

Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Error Report

Candidate: Christopher Proia

Office: ST

Report: 2022 P3 (4)

Covering Period: 7/2/22 - 7/15/22

Account: 806

Contributions

Expenditures

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City/State/Zip</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Expenditure Purpose</u>
1		PRESTO	8585 COLLIER BLVD	NAPLES, FL 34114	PC	LAKELAND TRIP, BANK STARTER FUNDS REPAYM

*The Transaction Date Is Either Before Or After The Report Coverage Period

Fund Transfers

Other Distributions

USPS Tracking®

[FAQs >](#)

Tracking Number:

[Remove X](#)**9114902200789689776733**[Copy](#)[Add to Informed Delivery \(https://informedelivery.usps.com/\)](https://informedelivery.usps.com/)

Latest Update

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 5:53 pm on October 24, 2022 in FORT MYERS, FL 33901.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivered

Delivered, In/At Mailbox

FORT MYERS, FL 33901

October 24, 2022, 5:53 pm

[See All Tracking History](#)[Text & Email Updates](#)[USPS Tracking Plus®](#)[Product Information](#)[See Less ^](#)

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY**

(1) Christopher Proia (2) 80951
Candidate, Committee or Party Name I.D. Number

(3) 2252 Clifford Street Fort Myers FL 33901
Address (number and street) City State Zip Code
☐ Check box if address has changed since last report

(4) Check appropriate box(es):
☒ Candidate (office sought):
☐ Political Committee
☐ Committee of Continuous Existence
☐ Party Executive Committee
☐ Check If PC has DISBANDED
☐ Check If CCE has DISBANDED

(5) REPORT IDENTIFIERS

Cover Period: From 07/02/2022 To 07/15/2022 Report Type: P3
☒ Original ☐ Amendment ☐ Special Election Report

(6) CONTRIBUTIONS THIS REPORT

Cash & Checks	\$0.00
Loans	\$0.00
<i>Total Monetary</i>	\$0.00
In-Kind	\$0.00

(7) EXPENDITURES THIS REPORT

Monetary Expenditures	\$200.00
Transfers to Office Account	\$0.00
<i>Total Monetary</i>	\$200.00

(8) Other Distributions

Certification

It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.)

I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete

Name of ☐ Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer

X
Signature

I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete

Name of ☒ Candidate ☐ Chairman (PC/PTY Only

X
Signature

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

Page 1 of 1

Name: Christopher Proia

Report: 2022 P3

Period: 07/02/2022

to 07/15/2022

** Records in Filed Report **

Seq # Date	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Contributor	Occupation	Amount
		Type	In-Kind Description	Amend

Name: Christopher Proia

Report: 2022 P3

Period: 07/02/2022 to 07/15/2022

** Records in Filed Report **

Seq # Date	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Type	Purpose	Amount Amend
* 1	PRESTO 8585 COLLIER BLVD NAPLES, FL 34114	PCW	LAKELAND TRIP, BANK STARTER FUNDS REPAYMENT, PUNTA GORDA TRIP	\$200.00

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED FUND TRANSFERS

Page 1 of 1

Name: Christopher Proia

Report: 2022 P3

Period: 07/02/2022 to 07/15/2022

**** Records in Filed Report ****

Seq # Date	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Type	Nature of Account	Amount
				Amend

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED DISTRIBUTIONS

Page 1 of 1

Name: Christopher Proia

Report: 2022 P3

Period: 07/02/2022 to 07/15/2022

** Records in Filed Report **

Seq # Date	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
		Type	Related Expenditure	Amend

Queued Items for 2022-P3

Account: 80951

STS 027 Christopher Proia

Rpt Seq: 4

<i>ProcessDescription</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Submitter</i>	<i>Created</i>	<i>LastUpdate</i>
Create Pending Report	Processing Complete	80951	7/7/2022 9:50:10 PM	7/7/2022 9:50:10 PM
Delete Pending Report	Processing Complete	80951	7/7/2022 9:50:59 PM	7/7/2022 9:50:59 PM
Create Pending Report	Processing Complete	80951	7/15/2022 7:41:05 PM	7/15/2022 7:41:05 PM
Recalc Pending Report Total	Processing Complete	80951	7/15/2022 7:46:03 PM	7/15/2022 7:46:03 PM
File Pending Report	Processing Complete	80951	7/15/2022 7:46:42 PM	7/15/2022 7:46:42 PM
Review Filed Report	Processing Complete	stbaker	7/25/2022 9:34:20 AM	7/25/2022 9:34:20 AM
Review Filed Report	Processing Complete	stbaker	1/3/2023 11:44:27 AM	1/3/2023 11:44:27 AM

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
PHONE LOG
Case No.: FEC 23-007

Respondent: Christopher Proia

Complainant: DOE

1. **Date and time:** October 20, 2023 @ 9:10 am
Name: Ellen/ Lenora Cross—Depository Representatives
Phone #: (239) 334-4668 / (239) 466-1800
Summary: I had telephone contact with campaign depository to determine the best method to send subpoena. I was transferred to the main office to get my question answered due to Ellen not having any knowledge of subpoena protocols nor not having anyone in management available to assist. I spoke with Lenora Cross (manager) at the main office to get assistance. Ms. Cross explained that they accept subpoenas in various manners. She instructed me to email a copy of the subpoena to her and her counterpart for completion. Email addresses: Lcross@edisonnationalbank.com and Jhoward@edisonnationalbank.com.
Entered by: CKO
2. **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:

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 23-007; Respondent: Christopher Proia

Dear Mr. Proia:

On January 6, 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 violation:

Section 106.07(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 27, acting as his own treasurer, failed to timely make necessary amendments to the 2022 P3 campaign treasurer's report, as alleged in the complaint.

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 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 violation 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

Christopher Proia
June 16, 2023
Page 2
FEC 23-007

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Vaccaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" being more prominent than the last name "Vaccaro".

Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

TV/jd

**DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
FEC NOTICE FORM**

To FEC from Division of Elections

REC'D: FL ELECTIONS COM
6 JAN '23 PM4:08

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 106.22(7) and 106.25, Florida Statutes. An apparent violation of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, has occurred based upon a failure to file addendums after notice as required by section 106.07(2)(b)1., Florida Statutes, for the following report(s):

2022 P3

- 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 appointing himself as treasurer.
- On July 25, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Proia notification that the 2022 P3 campaign treasurer's report was incomplete.
- On August 24, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Proia notification that the 2022 P3 campaign treasurer's report was incomplete.
- On October 21, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Proia final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2022 P3 campaign treasurer's report was incomplete. (See attached letter and delivery confirmation.)
- As of January 4, 2023, the 2022 P3 campaign treasurer's report remains incomplete.

Sent By: Donna S. Brown *DSB*

Date: January 4, 2023

stb



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

FINAL NOTICE

Delivery Confirmation:

USPS TRACKING # **9114 9022 0078 9689 7767 33**
& CUSTOMER RECEIPT For Tracking or Inquiries go to USPS.com
or call 1-800-222-1811.

October 21, 2022

Christopher Proia
2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Re: CAN 80951

Dear Mr. Proia:

You have previously been advised that one or more campaign treasurer's reports are incomplete for the reasons noted in the attached error report.

Pursuant to Section 106.07(2), Florida Statutes, you have 7 days from receipt of this letter to correct errors or provide missing information. If the audit states that a written explanation is required, provide the division with a signed letter of explanation addressing the errors noted in the report(s). Your explanation should (1) reference the specific error(s) that occurred; (2) describe how you corrected the errors (example: refunded excess contribution and reported the refund in 2021 M8 report); and (3) list the report(s) and sequence number(s) that were amended to reflect the corrections. Please be advised that if you fail to comply with this request, the Division will forward this matter to the Florida Elections Commission for further action. Section 106.265(1), Florida Statutes, authorizes the Florida Elections Commission to impose civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation.

If you need assistance in filing an amendment, please contact the Division's help line at (850) 245-6280.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

Attachment

10/19/2022

Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Error Report

Candidate: Christopher Proia

Office: ST

Report: 2022 P3 (4)

Covering Period: 7/2/22 - 7/15/22

Account: 809

Contributions

Expenditures

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City/State/Zip</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Expenditure Purpose</u>
1		PRESTO	8585 COLLIER BLVD	NAPLES, FL 34114	PC	LAKELAND TRIP, BANK STARTER FUNDS REPAYM

*The Transaction Date Is Either Before Or After The Report Coverage Period

Fund Transfers

Other Distributions

USPS Tracking®

[FAQs >](#)

Tracking Number:

[Remove X](#)**9114902200789689776733**[Copy](#)[Add to Informed Delivery \(https://informedelivery.usps.com/\)](https://informedelivery.usps.com/)

Latest Update

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 5:53 pm on October 24, 2022 in FORT MYERS, FL 33901.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivered

Delivered, In/At Mailbox

FORT MYERS, FL 33901

October 24, 2022, 5:53 pm

[See All Tracking History](#)[Text & Email Updates](#)[USPS Tracking Plus®](#)[Product Information](#)[See Less ^](#)

Queued Items for 2022-P3

Account: 80951

STS 027 Christopher Proia

Rpt Seq: 4

<i>ProcessDescription</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Submitter</i>	<i>Created</i>	<i>LastUpdate</i>
Create Pending Report	Processing Complete	80951	7/7/2022 9:50:10 PM	7/7/2022 9:50:10 PM
Delete Pending Report	Processing Complete	80951	7/7/2022 9:50:59 PM	7/7/2022 9:50:59 PM
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Review Filed Report	Processing Complete	stbaker	7/25/2022 9:34:20 AM	7/25/2022 9:34:20 AM
Review Filed Report	Processing Complete	stbaker	1/3/2023 11:44:27 AM	1/3/2023 11:44:27 AM

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY**

(1) Christopher Proia (2) 80951
Candidate, Committee or Party Name I.D. Number

(3) 2252 Clifford Street Fort Myers FL 33901
Address (number and street) City State Zip Code
☐ Check box if address has changed since last report

(4) Check appropriate box(es):
☒ Candidate (office sought):
☐ Political Committee ☐ Check If PC has DISBANDED
☐ Committee of Continuous Existence ☐ Check If CCE has DISBANDED
☐ Party Executive Committee

(5) REPORT IDENTIFIERS

Cover Period: From 07/02/2022 To 07/15/2022 Report Type: P3
☒ Original ☐ Amendment ☐ Special Election Report

(6) CONTRIBUTIONS THIS REPORT

Cash & Checks	\$0.00
Loans	\$0.00
<i>Total Monetary</i>	\$0.00
In-Kind	\$0.00

(7) EXPENDITURES THIS REPORT

Monetary Expenditures	\$200.00
Transfers to Office Account	\$0.00
<i>Total Monetary</i>	\$200.00

(8) Other Distributions

Certification

It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.)

I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete

Name of ☐ Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer

X
Signature

I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete

Name of ☒ Candidate ☐ Chairman (PC/PTY Only)

X
Signature

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

Page 1 of 1

Name: Christopher Proia

Report: 2022 P3

Period: 07/02/2022 to 07/15/2022

**** Records in Filed Report ****

Seq # Date	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Contributor	Occupation	Amount Amend
		Type	In-Kind Description	

* Incomplete Record

Reviewed On: 1/3/23 11:44 am

Prepared on: 1/3/23 11:44:37AM

ID: 80951

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES

Page 1 of 1

Name: Christopher Proia

Report: 2022 P3

Period: 07/02/2022 to 07/15/2022

** Records in Filed Report **

Seq #	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle)	Type	Purpose	Amount
Date	Street Address & City, State, Zip			Amend
* 1	PRESTO 8585 COLLIER BLVD NAPLES, FL 34114	PCW	LAKELAND TRIP, BANK STARTER FUNDS REPAYMENT, PUNTA GORDA TRIP	\$200.00

* Incomplete Record

Reviewed On: 1/3/23 11:44 am

Prepared on: 1/3/23 11:44:37AM

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED FUND TRANSFERS

Page 1 of 1

Name: Christopher Proia

Report: 2022 P3

Period: 07/02/2022

to 07/15/2022

**** Records in Filed Report ****

Seq #	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Type	Nature of Account	Amount
				Amend

* Incomplete Record

Reviewed On: 1/3/23 11:44 am

Prepared On: 1/3/23 11:44:37AM

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED DISTRIBUTIONS

Page 1 of 1

Name: Christopher Proia

Report: 2022 P3

Period: 07/02/2022

to 07/15/2022

**** Records in Filed Report ****

Seq # Date	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
		Type	Related Expenditure	Amend

* Incomplete Record

Reviewed On: 1/3/23 11:44 am

Prepared on: 1/3/23 1:44:31 AM

HISTORY NOTES
Christopher Proia - 80951

Unique ID	Date Recorded	Last Edited Date	Originally Recorded By
77327	6/29/2022 4:10:00 PM		kaford
Redesignating district not allowed after Qualifying Period is over: Received request from candidate requesting for district to be changed from 27 to 33. Called candidate and advised that district changes are not allowed after qualifying period is over. Candidate understood and stated he would continue his campaign and remain in district 27. kaf			
77089	6/6/2022 11:25:00 AM		bnnorton
Called T @ 11:25am, gave him pin # and reminded T to file m5 report by 6.10.22			

Report Detail

Account/Seq 80951 3

Election/Type

20221108-GEN

Christopher Proia

CAN

Status/Reviewer	Mailed	Type/Recd	R E S P O N S E
SNT stbaker	1st: 7/25/2022	AUT	
1/3/23 11:40 am	2nd: 8/24/2022	10/24/2022	
	3rd: 10/21/2022		

NOTES: 1/3/2023 - No changes made, no return mail showing in imaging, and no letter of explanation showing in imaging. Sending to FEC. -stb

10/20/22 - No changes made and no return mail showing, sending final notice. -stb

8/24/22 - No changes made and no returned mail showing in Imaging. Sending second notice. -stb