STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Patrick Lee Cooper		_/	Case No.: FEC 23-040
то:	Patrick Lee Cooper 4226 Harrison Street		Division of Elections 500 S. Bronough Street

Jacksonville, FL 32207

Tallahassee, FL 32399

RA Gray Building, Room 316

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 Ke:	Patrick Lee Cooper	Case No.: FEC 23-040
то:	Patrick Lee Cooper 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207	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 Ke	: Patrick Lee Cooper	Case No.: FEC 23-040 /	Case No.: FEC 23-040		
TO:	Patrick Lee Cooper	Division of Elections	04.		
	4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207	500 S. Bronough Street, Room 3 Tallahassee, FL 32399	316		

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.

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 February 5, 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

Florida Elections Commission, Petitioner,

rennoner,			
v.		Case No.:	FEC 23-040
Patrick Lee Cooper, 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 23, 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(s):

Count 1:

On or about September 2, 2022, Patrick Lee Cooper 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 his 2022 G1 Report.

Count 2:

On or about September 16, 2022, Patrick Lee Cooper 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 his 2022 G2 Report.

The Commission finds that there is **no probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes.

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: Stephanie J. Cunningham, General Counsel Patrick Lee Cooper, 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 <u>consent order</u> 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 <u>informal hearing</u> held before the Commission, if you <u>do not</u> dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have 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 <u>formal hearing</u> 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 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 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 W. 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	: Patrick Lee Cooper	Case No.: FEC 23-040 /
то:	Patrick Lee Cooper	Division of Elections
	4226 Harrison Street	500 S. Bronough Street, Room 31
	Jacksonville, FL 32207	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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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 July 23, 2024 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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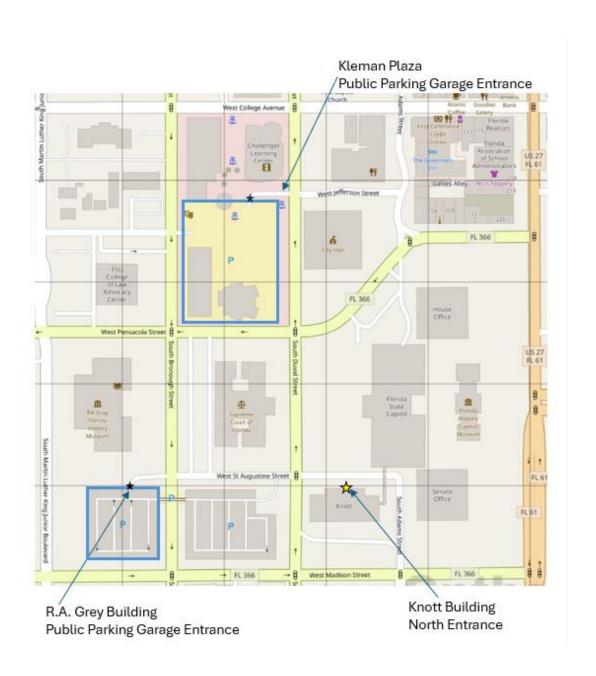
If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the 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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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: Patrick Lee Cooper Case No.: FEC 23-040

TO: Patrick Lee Cooper

4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207 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

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: Patrick Lee Cooper			Case No.: FEC 23-040
		/	
TO:	Patrick Lee Cooper		Division of Elections
	4226 Harrison Street		500 S. Bronough Street, Room 316
	Jacksonville, FL 32207		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.

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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Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission April 26, 2024

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

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STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re:	Patrick Lee Cooper		Case No.:	FEC 23-040
		_/	1	

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(7)**, **Florida Statutes**, and **no probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating **Section 106.19(1)(c)**, **Florida Statutes**. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on January 17, 2024, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

- 1. On February 2, 2023, the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") received a referral from the Department of State, Division of Elections ("Division"), alleging that Patrick Lee Cooper ("Respondent") violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5. Respondent's Statement of Candidate form was filed on June 17, 2022. (ROI Exhibit 2)¹
- 3. By letter dated March 6, 2023, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provisions:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5, 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:

- 2022 G1
- 2022 G2

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the following reporting periods:

- 2022 G1
- 2022 G2

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

- 4. By letter dated June 21, 2022, Donna S. Brown, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received his Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form and that his name was placed on the 2022 active candidate list. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1)
- 5. 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 of 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)
- 6. Complainant alleged that Respondent violated Florida's election laws by failing to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting dates that no reports would be filed or by falsely reporting or deliberately failing to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during 2022 G1 and 2022 G2 reporting periods.
- 7. Respondent's 2022 G1 and 2022 G2 reports were due to be filed by September 2, 2022, and September 16, 2022, respectively; however, Respondent failed to timely file the reports or notify the filing officer that no reports would be filed. (ROI Exhibit 6) The Division sent five letters notifying Respondent that his reports had not been received. The letters also notified Respondent that he was still required to notify the Division if he had no reportable financial activity. (ROI Exhibits 4 & 5) The October 24, 2022, letters were confirmed delivered. (ROI Exhibit 5, pages 3 & 4)
- 8. A subpoena was issued to Respondent's designated campaign depository to ascertain whether any financial activity occurred during the relevant reporting periods, i.e., August 19, 2022 August 26, 2022; and August 27, 2022 September 9, 2022. The financial institution was unable to locate a campaign account in Respondent's name. (ROI Exhibit 7)
- 9. Respondent was given multiple opportunities to respond to Commission staff's investigation but failed to do so. (ROI Exhibit 8; ROI, p. 2, ¶¶9-10)
- 10. As it appears that Respondent had no financial activity, Respondent was required to notify the filing officer in writing that he would not be filing his 2022 G1 and 2022 G2 reports on the prescribed reporting dates but failed to do so. Therefore, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in his reports as the reports were waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.
- 11. "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).

12. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5. Respondent failed to timely file his 2022 G1 and 2022 G2 reports or notify the filing officer that no reports would be filed. It appears that Respondent had no financial activity during the relevant reporting periods, and therefore, was required to notify the filing officer in writing that he would not be filing his reports on the prescribed reporting dates but failed to do so. It does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in his reports as the reports were waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.

Based upon these facts and circumstances, I recommend that the Commission find no probable cause to charge Respondent with violating Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, and find probable cause to charge Respondent with violating the following:

Count 1:

On or about September 2, 2022, Patrick Lee Cooper 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 his 2022 G1 Report.

Count 2:

On or about September 16, 2022, Patrick Lee Cooper 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 his 2022 G2 Report.

Respectfully submitted on April 23, 2024.

Stephanie J. Cunningham

General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 23 day of April 2024.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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

Case Number: FEC 23-040

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: Patrick Lee Cooper

Respondent's Atty: N/A

Division of Elections (Division)

Referral Filed: February 2, 2023

Respondent Type: Candidate

I. Preliminary Information:

- 1. Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senate, District 5; 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 June 17, 2022. Respondent was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 9, refer to Exhibit 1.1
- 3. Respondent filed a Statement of Candidate with the Division on June 17, 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 June 21, 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(s) that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed: 2022 G1 and 2022 G2. 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.

THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

¹ Another nearly identical form was subsequently filed on the same date.

7. On October 24, 2022, the Division sent letters 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(s) that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed: 2022 G1 and 2022 G2. The letters were confirmed delivered on October 27, 2022. To review the letters marked "Final Notice" and delivery confirmation, refer to Exhibit 5.

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(s) would be filed due to not receiving any contributions or making expenditures during the following reporting period(s) or by not a 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 ²
2022 G1	8/19/22 - 8/26/22	9/02/22	Waiver	7
2022 G2	8/27/22 - 9/9/22	9/16/22	Waiver	7

9. Respondent did not respond to the referral.

10. I attempted to contact Respondent on four 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 calls nor emails 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 emails, refer to Exhibit 8.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR: Date: January 17, 2024

² I subpoenaed campaign account records from the designated campaign depository. However, the campaign depository provided notification declaring that it had no record of a campaign account and/or no records from the account during the relevant timeframe. To review the depository's affidavit, refer to Exhibit 7.

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Patrick Lee Cooper -- FEC 23-040

	LIST OF EXHIBITS				
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits				
Exhibit 1	DS-DE 9				
Exhibit 2	Statement of Candidate				
Exhibit 3	Acknowledgment Letter				
Exhibit 4	Failure to File Notices				
Exhibit 5	Final Notice & Delivery Confirmation				
Exhibit 6	Filing History				
Exhibit 7	Bank Affidavit				
Exhibit 8	Phone Log & Emails				

RECEIVED

APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES

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

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

NOTE: This form must be on file with the qualifying

2022 JUN 17 AM 10: 58

CANISION LLECTIONS FALLAHASSEE, FL

HAND DELIVERED

officer before opening th	e campaign account.					OFFICI	E USE ONLY
1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):							
	Re-filing to Change:	Treasurer	Deputy	Depository		Office	Party
	this order: First, Middle, Last)			e post office box	or stre	eet, city, s	state, zip
Patrick Lee C	ooper	4226) 6 Harrison (Street			
4. Telephone	5. E-mail address	Jack	sonville, Fl	L 32207			
(904)312-8598	patcoop80@gmail.con	1					
6. Office sought (include of Florida Senate District	district, circuit, group number) 5		7. If a cand	didate for a <u>non</u> ble:	partis	an office	e, check if
			X	My intent is to	run as	a Write-I	n candidate.
8. If a candidate for a par	tisan office, check block and t	ill in nam	e of party as	applicable: N	/ly inter	nt is to rui	n as a
⊠ Write-In ☐ No F	Party Affiliation 🗹 Den	pract			Party	car	ndidate.
9. I have appointed the fo	ollowing person to act as my	X	Campaign Tre	asurer [[Deputy	Treasure	er
10. Name of Treasurer or Detrick Lee Cooper	95 (File No.600 € 10.00 (F) No.60000						
11. Mailing Address					12. Tele	ephone	
4226 Harrison	Street] (904) 312-	-8598
13. City Jacksonville	l		6. Zip Code 2207	17. E-mail add		nail cor	m
				patcoop80			
18. I have designated the	following bank as my		ary Depositor	y LJ &	Second ————	iary Depo	ository
19. Name of Bank	Whitney	20. Add		nance S	L		
21. City	22. County	1 /01	23. State	onroe 3		24. Zip C	ode
Tallahasse	Leon		R	, 		323	10
	RY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ IGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITO					IPAIGN TR	EASURER AND
25. Date		26. Sig	nature of Car	ndidate			
6/17/2022		X	Althu	N'acore	1		
27. Treasure	er's Acceptance of Appointme	nt (fill in th	ne blanks and	check the appro	opriate	block)	
I,	Patrick Lee Cooper			, do hereby a	accept	the appo	intment
	(Please Print or Type Name)						
designated above as:	Campaign Treasure	· [Deputy Ti	reasurer.			
6/17/2	022 X	11	Auch	1 17/21	130		
Date	<u> </u>	Signatu	re of Campai	on freasurer or	Deputy	Treasur	er

APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES

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

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

NOTE: This form must be on file with the qualifying

RECEIVED HEFARTMENT OF STAIL

2022. III 17 AM II: 24

PAINTS OF ELECTIONS

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		Deliael RO

officer before opening the campaign account. 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) 3. Address (include post office box or street, city, state, zip. Patrick Lee Cooper 4226 Harrison Street 4. Telephone Jacksonville, FL 32207 5. E-mail address patcoop80@gmail.com (904)312-8598 6. Office sought (include district, circuit, group number) 7. If a candidate for a nonpartisan office, check if Florida Senate District 5 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 Party candidate. 9. I have appointed the following person to act as my \times Campaign Treasurer Deputy Treasurer 10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer Patrick Lee Cooper 11. Mailing Address 12. Telephone 4226 Harrison Street (904) 312-8598 13. City 14. County 15. State 16. Zip Code 17. E-mail address FL Jacksonville Duval 32207 patcoop80@gmail.com 18. I have designated the following bank as my ☐ Secondary Depository ☑ Primary Depository 19. Name of Bank 20. Address 101 N Monroe St Hancock Whitney 21. City 23. State 22. County 24. Zip Code Tallahassee FI 32301 Leon 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 26. Signature of Candidate 6/17/2022 en Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate block) 27. Patrick Lee Cooper , do hereby accept the appointment (Please Print or Type Name) designated above as: Campaign Treasurer. Deputy Treasurer. 6/17/2022 X

Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

Date

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

OFFICE USE LOTTO

2022 JUN 17 AM 10:58

TALLAHASSEE, FL

HAND DELIVERED

Patrick Lee Cooper ,
candidate for the office of State Senate District 5
have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of
Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.
X Signature of Candidate 6/17/2022 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).

DS-DE 84 (05/11)



RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

June 21, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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 June 17, 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 24, 2022**. The report will cover the period of June 1-17, 2022 (2022 P1). 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: 82563

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.



Patrick Lee Cooper June 21, 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,
Downs S. Brown

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

DSB/bct

Enclosures



Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

September 8, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper Candidate for State Senator, District 5 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207-2207

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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 September 2, 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:
 - 5 \$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 datc(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 **CAN 82563**



Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

September 19, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper Candidate for State Senator, District 5 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207-2207

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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 September 16, 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
 - 5 \$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

5. B.

CAN 82563



Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Second Notice

September 26, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper Candidate for State Senator, District 5 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207-2207

CAN 82563

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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 September 2, 2022.

We mailed, via regular mail, the first notice of the failure to file the above-mentioned report or notification to the address on file with our office on September 8, 2022.

The first notice which we provided to you specifically explained the automatic fine provisions in the law (s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) for failure to file a required report. Such fines are continuing to accrue for a late-filed report. Also, that notice explained that if no reportable activity occurred for the report date(s), you are still required to provide notification in writing that no reportable activity occurred. Our initial notice further indicated that, 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.

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records



Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice Delivery Confirmation:

USPS TRACKING # 9114 9022 0078 9689 7768 25 & CUSTOMER RECEIPT For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com or cati 1-800-222-1811

October 24, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper Candidate for State Senator, District 5 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207-2207

CAN 82563

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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

Year Report		Cover Period		
2022	GI	8/19/22 - 8/26/22		

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



Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice Delivery Confirmation: RECEIPT

USPS TRACKING # 9114 9022 0078 9689 7770 06 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS com or call 1-800-222-1811.

October 24, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper Candidate for State Senator, District 5 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207-2207

CAN 82563

Dear Mr. Cooper:

A recent review of the Division's records show that the Division has not yet received the belowreferenced 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>	Cover Period
2022	G2	8/27/22 - 9/9/22

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,

Bureau of Election Records

USPS Tracking®

FAQs >

Tracking Number:

Remove X

9114902200789689776825

Copy

Add to Informed Delivery (https://informeddelivery.usps.com/)

Latest Update

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 12:44 pm on October 27, 2022 in JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivered

Delivered, In/At Mailbox

JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207 October 27, 2022, 12:44 pm

See All Tracking History

Text & Email Updates	~
USPS Tracking Plus®	~
Product Information	~

See Less ∧

Track Another Package

Enter tracking or barcode numbers

USPS Tracking®

FAQs >

Tracking Number:

Remove X

9114902200789689777006

Copy

Add to Informed Delivery (https://informeddelivery.usps.com/)

Latest Update

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 12:44 pm on October 27, 2022 in JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivered

Delivered, In/At Mailbox

JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207 October 27, 2022, 12:44 pm

See All Tracking History

Text & Email Updates	~
USPS Tracking Plus®	~
Product Information	~

See Less ^

Track Another Package

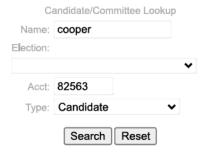
Enter tracking or barcode numbers



search | directory | contact us | 411 | subscribe | tour | help

Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Florida Election System Reports



Candidate Name	: Patrick Lee Cooper
Account	82563

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

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF HARRISON

Patrick Lee Cooper

AFFIDAVIT OF CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS

Customer Name as described in Subpoena;

Case No.	Subpoena No.	DOL # <u>13918</u>

PERSONALLY CAME AND APPEARED before me, notary public in and for the aforesaid county and state, Kristen Chapman, Legal Specialist and states as follows:

- 1. That the Affiant is a duly authorized custodian of the records of the <u>Deposit Services Department</u>, Hancock Whitney Bank and has authority to certify the records of said Bank.
- 2. That the Affiant is unable to locate any records under the names and/or social security number as described in the Subpoena.

Affiant's Signature

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on this the 20th day of January, 2023.

My Commission Expires:

JACQUELINE N LIZANA

Commission Expires

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG

Case No.: FEC 23-040

Respondent: Patrick Lee Cooper Complainant: Division of Elections

1. **Date and time:** 3/28/23 @ 2:55pm

Name: Patrick Lee Cooper Phone #: 904-312-8598

Summary: I attempted to contact Resp via the phone number provided on his qualifying documents. After ringing quite a few times, I rec'd an automated message that the user was unavailable; I also rec'd the message that "the mailbox is full." Therefore, I was unable to leave a message.

Entered by: CHS

2. **Date and time:** 3/29/23 @ 11:13am

Name: Patrick Lee Cooper Phone #: 904-312-8598

Summary: I made another attempt to reach Resp via the phone number on all qualifying documents. The phone rang six times; I rec'd an automated message that the user was unavailable. Furthermore, there was an automated message that "the mailbox is full."

Again, I was unable to leave a voicemail.

Entered by: CHS

3. **Date and time:**

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

4. **Date and time:**

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

RESPONDENT INTERVIEW MEMO – Call details at #[904-312-8598]

- Why were you unable to file any campaign treasurer reports (or waivers) for the following periods:
 - o 2022 G1 and G2
 - Covers reporting dates 8/19/22 9/9/22
- Did someone advise you that it was unnecessary to file anything during your write-in campaign?
- <u>Did you ever open a campaign depository?</u>
 - o If not, did you use a pre-existing campaign account?

Phone Log (06/21) Exhibit 8 Page 1 of 3

- <u>During your campaign, did you reach out to the Division (or any other entity) for assistance in completing or filing CTRs?</u>
- <u>Division records show you acted as your own campaign treasurer.</u> Is this accurate?
- Have you ever run for public office? If so, please name each office you ran for and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever been appointed to act as a campaign treasurer for a candidate? If so, please name each such candidate, the office each ran for, and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever held the office of chairperson, treasurer, or other similar position for a political committee or electioneering communications organization? If so, please name each committee, state the office you held for each, and state when you held each office.
- Have you ever prepared or signed a campaign treasurer's report? If so, please state the name of the candidate or committee whose report you prepared or signed.
- What action have you taken to determine your responsibilities under Florida's election laws?
- Do you possess a copy of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- <u>Do you possess a copy of the Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook?</u> If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Did you receive any other materials from your filing officer? If so, please describe them.
- Do you have anything else to add for the Commission's consideration regarding the charges specified in the letter of legal sufficiency in this case?

Fw: Florida Elections Commission FEC 23-040

Courtney Harrold < Courtney. Harrold@myfloridalegal.com >

Wed 3/29/2023 7:54 PM

To: patcoop80@gmail.com <patcoop80@gmail.com>

Good evening, Mr. Cooper:

When you have an opportunity, can you please contact our agency: 850-922-4539? I want to speak with you briefly about my ongoing review of 23-040 and several outstanding reporting periods for your 2022 campaign.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Apologies for the appearance of duplication, as I have a couple cases of yours on my desk.

Take care,

Courtenay Harrold Sheppard **Investigation Specialist** Florida Elections Commission 107 W. Gaines St., #224 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (Ph:) 850-922-4539

From: Courtney Harrold < Courtney. Harrold@myfloridalegal.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:47 PM

To: patcoop80@gmail.com <patcoop80@gmail.com> Subject: Florida Elections Commission FEC 23-040

Good afternoon, Mr. Cooper:

I'm reaching out regarding our agency's review of FEC 23-040 and several outstanding reporting periods for your 2022 campaign. This afternoon, I attempted to reach you by phone (904-312-8598), but was unable to leave a message. Do you have an alternate phone number?

When would you have availability to discuss 23-040?

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to speaking with you.

Courtenay Harrold Sheppard **Investigation Specialist** Florida Elections Commission 107 W. Gaines St., #224 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (Ph:) 850-922-4539

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION PHONE LOG

Case No.: FEC 23-040

Respondent: Patrick Lee Cooper Complainant: Division of Elections

1. **Date and time:** 3/28/23 @ 2:55pm

Name: Patrick Lee Cooper Phone #: 904-312-8598

Summary: I attempted to contact Resp via the phone number provided on his qualifying documents. After ringing quite a few times, I rec'd an automated message that the user was unavailable; I also rec'd the message that "the mailbox is full." Therefore, I was

unable to leave a message.

Entered by: CHS

2. **Date and time:** 3/29/23 @ 11:13am

Name: Patrick Lee Cooper Phone #: 904-312-8598

Summary: I made another attempt to reach Resp via the phone number on all qualifying documents. The phone rang six times; I rec'd an automated message that the user was unavailable. Furthermore, there was an automated message that "the mailbox is full."

Again, I was unable to leave a voicemail.

Entered by: CHS

3. **Date and time:**

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

4. **Date and time:**

Name: Phone #: Summary: Entered by:

RESPONDENT INTERVIEW MEMO – Call details at #[904-312-8598]

- Why were you unable to file any campaign treasurer reports (or waivers) for the following periods:
 - o 2022 G1 and G2
 - Covers reporting dates 8/19/22 9/9/22
- Did someone advise you that it was unnecessary to file anything during your write-in campaign?
- Did you ever open a campaign depository?
 - o If not, did you use a pre-existing campaign account?

- <u>During your campaign, did you reach out to the Division (or any other entity) for assistance in completing or filing CTRs?</u>
- Division records show you acted as your own campaign treasurer. Is this accurate?
- Have you ever run for public office? If so, please name each office you ran for and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever been appointed to act as a campaign treasurer for a candidate? If so, please name each such candidate, the office each ran for, and state what year each election occurred.
- Have you ever held the office of chairperson, treasurer, or other similar position for a political committee or electioneering communications organization? If so, please name each committee, state the office you held for each, and state when you held each office.
- Have you ever prepared or signed a campaign treasurer's report? If so, please state the name of the candidate or committee whose report you prepared or signed.
- What action have you taken to determine your responsibilities under Florida's election laws?
- <u>Do you possess a copy of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes?</u> If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Do you possess a copy of the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Did you receive any other materials from your filing officer? If so, please describe them.
- Do you have anything else to add for the Commission's consideration regarding the charges specified in the letter of legal sufficiency in this case?

INV001 (12/01) 2



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



March 6, 2023

Patrick Lee Cooper 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207-2207

RE: Case No.: FEC 23-040; Respondent: Patrick Lee Cooper

Dear Mr. Cooper:

On February 2, 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: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5, 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 following reporting periods:

- 2022 G1
- 2022 G2

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the following reporting periods:

- 2022 G1
- 2022 G2

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 violations occurred and, if

Patrick Lee Cooper March 6, 2023 Page 2 FEC 23-040

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 **Courtenay Harrold Sheppard**, the investigator assigned to this case, by phone at (850) 922-4539 or by email at Courtney.Harrold@myfloridalegal.com.

Sincerely

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director

in Vaccaci

TV/jd

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FEC NOTICE FORM

To FEC from Division of Elections

Candidate:

Patrick Lee Cooper

Account Number:

82563

Treasurer:

Patrick Lee Cooper

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 G1

2022 G2

- Patrick Lee Cooper (82563) was a 2022 candidate for the office of State Senator.
- On June 17, 2022, Mr. Cooper filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository with the Division.
- The 2022 G1 campaign treasurer's report was due on September 2, 2022. On September 8, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Cooper notification that the 2022 G1 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- On October 24, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Cooper final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2022 G1 report had not been filed. (See attached letter and delivery confirmation.)
- The 2022 G2 campaign treasurer's report was due on September 16, 2022.
 On September 19, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Cooper notification that the 2022 G2 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.

Patrick Lee Cooper (82563) Page Two

- On October 24, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Cooper final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2022 G2 report had not been filed. (See attached letter and delivery confirmation.)
- Mr. Cooper did not notify the Division of Elections prior to or on the prescribed reporting dates for the 2022 G1 and 2022 G2 reports that no reports were to be filed.
- As of January 30, 2023, Mr. Cooper has not filed the 2022 G1 and 2022 G2 reports.

Sent By:

Donna S. Brown

Date:

January 30, 2023

kaf



Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice Delivery Confirmation: RECEIPT

USPS TRACKING # 9114 9022 0078 9689 7768 25 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com or call 1-800-222-1811

October 24, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper Candidate for State Senator, District 5 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207-2207

CAN 82563

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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

<u>Year</u>	Report	Cover Period
2022	G1	8/19/22 - 8/26/22

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), Fia. 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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FAQs >

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JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207 October 27, 2022, 12:44 pm

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Cord Byrd Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice **Delivery Confirmation:**

USPS TRACKING # 9114 9022 0078 9689 7770 06 For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS color call 1-800-222-1811.

October 24, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper Candidate for State Senator, District 5 4226 Harrison Street Jacksonville, FL 32207-2207

CAN 82563

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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

<u>Year</u>	Report	Cover Period
2022	G2	8/27/22 - 9/9/22

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, Chie Bureau of Election Records

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