

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Take Back Manatee

Case No.: FEC 24-490

TO: Elizabeth Benac, Chair
3917 Oak Grove Drive
Sarasota, FL 34243

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

NOTICE OF HEARING (AUTOMATIC FINE (AF))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **June 23, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, via Zoom, at the following link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86504722298?pwd=ysJgh3XhXvJnTepZhKKfHbHZIGk252.1> and entering the **Meeting ID: 865 0472 2298 and Passcode: 885875**.

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
May 30, 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 **an appeal of an intent to revoke a registration**, of a Political Committee, Electioneering Communications Organization, or a Political Party, the Division of Elections has issued you a notice of intent, citing the reasons for which it intends to cancel your registration. By filing the appeal, you have asked the Commission to recommend that the Division's Notice of Intent be set aside. You are required to explain why you believe your registration should not be cancelled. Based upon the information you present, the Commission will issue a recommended order to the Division, in which it will either recommend that the Notice of Intent be set aside, or that the cancellation be upheld.

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
CASE REPORT
Case Number: FEC 24-490

NAME: **TAKE BACK MANATEE**

DATE APPEAL RECEIVED: 12/17/2024

DATE REPORT DUE: 10/26/2024 (2024 D1)

DATE OF ELECTRONIC RECEIPT: 11/09/2024

NUMBER OF DAYS LATE: 14

AMOUNT OF FINE: **\$102.50**

FINE BASED ON: () NUMBER OF DAYS () 25% OF RECEIPTS (X) 25% OF EXPENDITURES

TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR REPORTING PERIOD: \$0

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR REPORTING PERIOD: \$410.00

DATE OF FIRST NOTIFICATION: 11/13/2024 (Fine Ltr)

SUMMARY: Take Back Manatee is a political committee (PC) registered with the State of Florida. The PC's chair is Elizabeth Benac, and its treasurer is Patsy Ugarte.

The PC is appealing the fine claiming they filed a waiver of the report and did not anticipate activity during the reporting period. According to Elizabeth Benac, the campaign was "erroneously signed up for a monthly subscription" with Mailchimp. Ms. Benac notes that their county experienced two hurricanes during this period, which prevented the reconciliation of bank statements. The treasurer did not discover the charges from Mailchimp until November and amended the waiver to reflect the activity. They request a waiver of the fine due to the circumstances.

- The 2024 D1 Original Report covers the period from 10/19/24-10/25/24; it was due on 10/26/24.
- The 2024 D1 Queued Transaction Report shows that it was created and filed on 10/28/24.¹
- Take Back Manatee reported receiving zero contributions while making 1 expenditure.
- FEC staff was advised, "The committee filed a notice of no activity (waiver) on 10/28/24. A waiver is not a report. On 11/09/24, the committee filed a report showing \$410.00 of activity. The fine is based on 25% of the activity."
- The Division of Elections does not have any notes that pertain to Take Back Manatee's 2024 D1 Report.

PRIOR CASES: NONE.

¹ The filing discussed in this bullet refers to the waiver that reflected zero activity.

December 4, 2024

REC'D: FL ELECTIONS COM
17 DEC 24 PM 3:48

fec@myfloridalegal.com

Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street, Ste. 224
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0150

RE: Appeal Fine
Period: 2024 D1
Due 10/26/24
PAC#: 88601

To Whom It May Concern:

I received a letter from the Division of Elections stating that our PAC, Take Back Manatee has been assessed a late fee of \$102.50. While the campaign was ongoing, we used Mailchimp to access a greater number of people and were erroneously signed up for a monthly subscription.

Our county was hit by two hurricanes, during September and October, our treasurer did not reconcile the bank statements for two months since no known charges had been made, a waiver was filed, and the charge was not identified until she reconciled the bank statements in November. Therefore, we request that the fine be waived.

If anything, else is needed please contact me.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Benac, CHAIRPERSON
(941) 685-4209 TAKE BACK MANATEE PC

bbenac@hotmail.com

3917 Oak Grove Drive
Sarasota, FL 34243-4243

Cc: Florida Division of Elections,
FlecRecords@dos.myflorida.com

Take Back Manatee, PAC #88601
3917 Oak Grove Drive
Sarasota, FL. 34243

January 2, 2025

Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street, Ste. 224
Tallahassee, FL. 32399-0150

REC'D: FL ELECTIONS COM
6 JAN 25 PM 3:38

Dear Elections Commission:

Today I received another letter from the Division of Elections saying that Take Back Manatee has been assessed a late fine of \$ 102.50. Previously, we had received the same letter, and in response we sent a letter via email and US postage to the Florida Elections Commission on December 4, 2025 (see enclosed). Apparently, you did not receive the letter-so I am resending. Once again, we are appealing this fine, for the reasons stated below.

The reasons for our late filing were that following the primary election in August 2024, we had very little activity. We followed the requirement to file waivers for September and October, because we had no activity during that period that we were aware of. We had no idea that the MailChimp account we had used prior to the August primary was purchased by a third party as re-occurring debit "subscription".

Following becoming aware of the charges, we submitted an appeal to MailChimp to reverse the charges (see attached email correspondence). They did so for one of the months, but not the other, so we had to file an amended report. Please note that all of this was properly documented in our corrected reports on file with the FEC as of November 9, 2024, when we became aware of the accounting discrepancy. We appealed the charge that was automatically deducted from our bank account, but was not immediately caught by our treasure, as she had to evacuate her home during Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Please let me know if you need further information. Thank you for your attention to this matter:



Sincerely,

Elizabeth Benac, Chairperson Take Back Manatee PC

CC: Florida Division of Elections; Patsy Ugarte, Treasurer Take Back Manatee



Betsy Benac

Nov 1, 2024, 4:34 PM EDT

Hello Chris at Mailchimp:

My name is Elizabeth Benac, and I am the Chairperson of Take Back Manatee, A Florida Political Action Committee, registered with the State of Florida. I am also the creator and manager of Take Back Manatee. Patsy Ugarte is the Treasurer of the PAC, and manages the accounts which have been utilized to purchase mailchimp mailing services.

The only expenditure authorized by me, as the Chairperson of the PAC, and Patsy as the treasurer of the PAC was for \$410 in August 2024. This expenditure was authorized as a ONE TIME expenditure. At no time did either Patsy or myself agree to a "subscription" for mail services, as our efforts were completed in August, 2024. There were NO request for services, or email sent from this account following the August primary which was held in Florida on August 20, 2024.

Due to the Hurricanes in Florida in September and October, which have been declared a National Disaster, and due to the fact that our PAC had NO FURTHER EXPENDITURES POST THE AUGUST DATE OTHER THAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, we need to have these charges reversed. I take my position very seriously, and while we appreciated the help provided by mailchimp-we are a small, grassroots organization who has very limited funds. The only reason we did not catch these withdrawals is because our efforts were completed, and due to the Hurricanes-we had limited access to our books.

Please let me know how we can get this matter resolved. I do not want to have to spend more money on legal services.

Thank you for your help,
Elizabeth Benac
Chairperson, Take Back Manatee



Chris (Mailchimp)

Nov 1, 2024, 10:28PM EDT

Thanks for getting back to me on this.

To provide some context, when signing up from a monthly plan, billing will continue to process on the same day each month unless the billing is cancelled from within the account. With Mailchimp being a self service platform, it is the responsibility of the account owner to monitor the account and make any adjustments to the accounts plan when the account is not being used.

That said, while I understand where you are coming from, without the request coming from the registered email address for the account, we are not able to further discuss the account including any reimbursement opportunities.

I did review this request with a manager and was able to get approval to refund the most recent renewal as a one time courtesy.

You should see a credit for the refund appear on your credit card statement anytime between now and the next 2 to 7 business days. If a debit card was used for payment, the refund may take up to 10 days to appear on your statement. A receipt for the refunded amount will also be sent to the account's billing contact address.

Unless the request comes from the registered email address, any other reimbursement opportunities can be discussed with your bank/card issuer directly through the [chargeback](#) process.

Feel free to reach back out for any other questions.

Thank you,

Chris

Should this ticket close before you are able to reply, please simply reply to this email which will automatically re-open the ticket so that we may pick up where we left off.



Take Back Manatee, PAC #88601
3917 Oak Grove Drive
Sarasota, FL 34243

January 10, 2025

REC'D: FL ELECTIONS COM
17 JAN 25 PM 3:53

Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street, Ste. 224
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0150

Dear Elections Commission:

Today I received ANOTHER letter from the Division of Elections saying that Take Back Manatee has been assessed ANOTHER late fine of \$ 102.50. Previously, we had received the same letter, and in response we sent a letter via email and US postage to the Florida Elections Commission on December 4, 2025 (see enclosed), AND AGAIN ON JAN 2, 2025 VIA FED EX (WE HAVE THE RECEIPT).

THE PROBLEM IS AS WE PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED that following the primary election in August 2024, we had very little activity. We followed the requirement to file waivers for September and October, because we had no activity during that period that we were aware of. We had no idea that the MailChimp account we had used prior to the August primary was purchased by a third party as re-occurring debit "subscription" WITH CHARGES MADE FOR BOTH SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER.

UPON becoming aware of the charges, we submitted an appeal to MailChimp to reverse the charges (see attached email correspondence). They did so for one of the months, but not the other, so we had to file amended reports TO DOCUMENT BOTH THE CHARGES AND THE REFUND. THE OCTOBER FEE WAS REVERSED (HENCE THE \$410 CREDIT), BUT NOT SEPTEMBER, HENCE THE \$410 DEBIT. Please note that all of this was properly documented in our corrected reports FOR BOTH SEPT. AND OCTOBER ON file with the FEC as of November 9, 2024. We appealed the charge that was automatically deducted from our bank account, but not immediately caught by our treasure, as she had to evacuate her home during Hurricanes Helene and Milton. WE FILED A CORRECTED REPORT AS SOON AS WE WERE AWARE OF THE CHARGES AND SHOULD NOT BE CHARGED A LATE FEE AS WE PREVIOUSLY STATED IN A LETTER TO YOU.

Please let me know if you need further information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, 
Elizabeth Benac, Chairperson Take Back Manatee PC
CC: Florida Division of Elections; Patsy Ugarte, Treasurer Take Back Manatee

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-212

(Emergency Management/Elections – Hurricane Helene)

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Big Bend region about 10 miles west-southwest of Perry as a category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of approximately 140 miles per hour, after bringing tropical storm force winds and storm surge conditions up the west coast; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene significantly affected communities across Florida, resulting in loss of lives, evacuation of families from their homes, widespread destruction and damage to homes and businesses, significant disruption in utilities and telecommunications, and substantial physical damage to roads, highways, bridges, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the effects of Hurricane Helene have had a uniquely significant and continuing impact on Charlotte, Citrus, Dixie, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lee, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, and Taylor Counties (the Affected Counties); and

WHEREAS, the Florida Supervisors of Elections (Supervisors) in the Affected Counties have reported to the Department of State in a letter from the Florida Supervisors of Elections (FSE) association dated October 2, 2024, that a significant number of early voting sites and polling locations have been damaged or otherwise rendered unusable, a significant number of voters have been displaced, and a significant number of poll workers may be unavailable for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the General Election (the Election) is scheduled for November 5, 2024, vote-by-mail balloting is already in progress, optional early voting begins on Monday, October 21, 2024, and the mandatory early voting period begins on Saturday, October 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Supervisors in the Affected Counties have reported to the Florida Secretary of State (Secretary) that they anticipate continuing challenges and hardships in meeting upcoming deadlines, providing the usual number of early voting sites and polling locations, and providing adequately trained poll workers; and

WHEREAS, Supervisors of Elections in the Affected Counties have requested accommodations from certain provisions of the Florida Election Code to give voters in those counties ample opportunity to cast a ballot in the Election without impeding necessary action to respond to the ongoing emergency; and

WHEREAS, section 252.36(6)(a), Florida Statutes, provides that the Governor may “[s]uspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency”; and

WHEREAS, because of the effects of Hurricane Helene in the Affected Counties, the strict application of some provisions of the Florida Election Code may prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action to cope with the emergency and may prevent the Supervisors of Elections in the Affected Counties from providing voters with an adequate opportunity to vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, chapter 252, Florida Statutes, as amended, including specifically

section 252.36(6)(a), Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. (Early Voting) The deadlines set forth in section 101.657(1)(b), Florida Statutes, requiring the designation and notice of the location and hours of early voting sites are suspended for each Supervisor in an Affected County, except that such requirements must be satisfied no later than 20 days prior to the Election. The Secretary may also suspend the facility eligibility restrictions set forth in section 101.657(1)(a), Florida Statutes, if the Secretary approves the proposed early voting site based on a specific showing of need by a Supervisor in an Affected County.

Section 2. (Secure Ballot Intake Stations) The deadlines set forth in section 101.69(2)(b), Florida Statutes, requiring the designation and notice of the location of secure ballot intake stations are suspended for each Supervisor in an Affected County, except that such requirements must be satisfied no later than 20 days prior to the Election. Each Supervisor must comply with the requirements of section 101.69(2)(a), Florida Statutes.

Section 3. (Vote-By-Mail Ballots) The provisions of section 101.62(1)(b), Florida Statutes, requiring that vote-by-mail ballot requests be made in a signed writing when the requestor asks for the ballot to be mailed to an address other than the requestor's address on file in the Florida Voter Registration System, are suspended for any voter registered in an Affected County. Accordingly, each Supervisor in an Affected County, in his/her discretion, shall have the authority to accept a request for a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed to an address other than the requestor's address on file in the Florida Voter Registration System in the same manner as for absent uniformed service voters or overseas voters seeking a vote-by-mail ballot. In accordance with section 101.62(1)(b), Florida Statutes, the requestor must provide his/her Florida driver license number, Florida identification card

number, or the last four digits of his/her social security number, whichever may be verified in the Supervisor's records, regardless of the format in which the request is made.

The provisions of section 101.62(3)(d)(I), Florida Statutes, requiring each Supervisor to provide a vote-by-mail ballot to each elector who makes a request by non-forwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail, are suspended for each Supervisor in an Affected County. Accordingly, each Supervisor of Election, in his/her discretion, shall have the authority to send vote-by-mail ballots by forwardable mail to allow electors to accept delivery at an alternative address provided by the elector to the U.S. Postal Service.

Section 4. (Relocation or Consolidation of Polling Places) The provisions of section 101.71(2), Florida Statutes, prohibiting Supervisors from moving a voting location to another site less than 30 days prior to the election, are suspended to allow each Supervisor in an Affected County, in his/her discretion, to relocate or consolidate any polling location if the Supervisor finds that the continuing impacts of Hurricane Helene so warrant. If the Supervisor finds such relocation or consolidation necessary, the Supervisor shall provide for the voting location to be moved to another accessible site within the same precinct or, if such site is not available, to another site in a contiguous precinct as provided in section 101.71(2), Florida Statutes. Furthermore, due to the ongoing emergency and if time does not permit full compliance with section 101.71(2), Florida Statutes, the Supervisor may designate a new polling location and provide notice to the public as provided in section 101.71(3), Florida Statutes. Any Supervisor who cannot fully comply with section 101.71(2), Florida Statutes, should notify the Director of the Division of Elections of the Department of State of any partial or substitute measures the Supervisor undertakes.

Section 5. (Poll Worker Training) The provisions of section 102.014, Florida Statutes, requiring poll workers to meet certain training requirements before the Election are suspended in the

Affected Counties, if the Supervisor in such Affected County determines there is a shortage of poll workers within the Affected County and that each available poll worker received, at a minimum, the requisite training under section 102.014, Florida Statutes, for the 2022 election cycle, or within the two years preceding the Election.

The provision of section 102.012(2), Florida Statutes, requiring each member of the election board to be a registered qualified elector of the county in which he/she is appointed, or to be preregistered to vote, pursuant to section 97.041(1)(b), Florida Statutes, in the county in which the member is appointed, is suspended for each Supervisor in an Affected County. Accordingly, each Supervisor in an Affected County, in his/her discretion, may appoint election board members who are registered qualified electors in Florida outside of such Affected County.

Section 6. (State Employee Poll Workers) Where feasible, employees of the State Personnel System, as defined in Rule 60L-29.002(6), Florida Administrative Code, are encouraged to serve as poll workers in the Affected Counties. To assist such employees, Rule 60L- 34.0071(3)(g), Florida Administrative Code, is suspended for the limited purpose of authorizing employees to use their administrative leave while serving as a poll worker in an Affected County, subject to approval by their supervisor, under the following conditions:

A. The state employee shall receive administrative leave for every hour of training the Supervisor requires, up to a maximum of 10 hours, provided that the employee shows proof that the employee completed such training. *See* section 102.014(1), Florida Statutes;

B. If a state employee serves as a poll worker during the Election, the employee shall receive 16 hours of administrative leave, provided that the employee shows proof that the employee completed such work;

C. A state employee is not entitled to additional administrative leave for service as a poll

worker during early voting for the Election; and

D. In accordance with section 110.131(3), Florida Statutes, other-personal-services (OPS) employees are not eligible for any form of paid leave, including administrative leave, for serving as a poll worker.

The Secretary of the Department of Management Services shall provide guidance to state agencies for tracking state employees who serve as poll workers during the Election. County, municipal, and other public entities are encouraged to provide the same or similar incentives for their employees to serve as poll workers and to cooperate with the Supervisors to fill any poll worker needs. Nothing in this section shall affect the requirements of sections 102.012 and 102.021, Florida Statutes.

Section 7. (Election Coordination) I hereby direct the Secretary, as Chief Election Officer, to coordinate efforts between Supervisors in the Affected Counties and Supervisors outside the Affected Counties to ensure voting opportunities for those affected by Hurricane Helene, including efforts to ensure the delivery of vote-by-mail ballots to law enforcement, military, first responders, utility lineworkers, and volunteers assisting with recovery efforts; efforts to ensure the delivery of vote-by-mail ballots to residents of nursing homes and hospital patients in the Affected Counties who were evacuated to facilities outside their counties of residence; and all other appropriate actions consistent with the Florida Election Code and this Executive Order.

All executive agencies are directed, and all other state agencies are requested, to render such aid and assistance as needed by the Supervisors in the Affected Counties to accomplish the purposes of this Executive Order.

Section 8. (Notice to the Public and the Division of Elections) Each Supervisor in an Affected County who exercises authority under this Executive Order shall immediately certify that fact to the Director of the Division of Elections of the Department of State and shall provide notice thereof to

the public in a manner designed to ensure widespread dissemination of voting information in the Affected County, including through print and broadcast media, social media, website postings, and posted signage at polling locations.

The Secretary shall notify me of any Supervisors in the Affected Counties who avail themselves of the limited exceptions contained in this Executive Order.

Section 9. Pursuant to section 252.36(1)(a), Florida Statutes, the Secretary is hereby delegated the authority to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute within the purview of the Department of State prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of the Department, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

Section 10. If any provision of this Executive Order, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Executive Order and the application of its other provisions to any other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 11. This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall expire on November 6, 2024.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 3rd day of October, 2024.

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of the Secretary of State, written in a cursive style, positioned above the title "SECRETARY OF STATE".

SECRETARY OF STATE

2024 OCT -3 AM 10:36
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-214 (Emergency Management – Tropical Storm Milton)

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, showers and thunderstorms associated with an area of low pressure located over the southwestern Gulf of Mexico have gradually become better organized, and the storm is now identified as Tropical Storm Milton; and

WHEREAS, atmospheric and oceanic conditions are anticipated to support rapid intensification over the Gulf of Mexico, and Tropical Storm Milton is forecast to become a hurricane by early Monday; and

WHEREAS, this system could become a major hurricane near or at landfall along the West Florida Coast by the middle of next week; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and wind impacts for portions of the western Florida Peninsula beginning as soon as later Tuesday and Wednesday; and

WHEREAS, areas of heavy rainfall will impact portions of Florida well ahead of the tropical system, impacting Florida Gulf Coast communities still recovering from recent Major Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, current computer modeling shows rainfall predictions of four to eight inches across the Florida Peninsula, with locally higher amounts in excess of eight to twelve inches possible; and

WHEREAS, much of Florida has recorded above normal rainfall over the past thirty days; North Florida has experienced rainfall totals of six to twelve inches above normal, with portions

of the eastern Florida Panhandle measuring fifteen to twenty inches above normal for this time of year; and

WHEREAS, this level of soil saturation will likely lead to a more rapid onset to flash, urban, and riverine flooding through next week; and

WHEREAS, heavy rainfall, flooding, and gusty winds will cause power outages due to downed trees and powerlines due to the already vulnerable state of Florida's vegetation and coastal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of these impacts could damage the operational capability of critical infrastructure including major interstates and roadways, bridges, airports, schools, hospitals, power grids, in addition to prolonging recovery efforts from Major Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, as Governor of Florida, I am responsible to meet the dangers presented to the State of Florida and its people by this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, which are projected to constitute a major disaster, I declare that a state of emergency exists in Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, DeSoto, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia counties.

Section 2. I designate the Executive Director of the Division of Emergency Management (“Director”) as the State Coordinating Officer for the duration of this emergency and direct him to execute the State’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and other response, recovery, and mitigation plans necessary to cope with the emergency, including any logistical, rescue or evacuation operations. Pursuant to section 252.36(1)(a), Florida Statutes, I delegate to the State Coordinating Officer the authority to exercise those powers delineated in sections 252.36(6)-(12), Florida Statutes, which he shall exercise as needed to meet this emergency, subject to the limitations of section 252.33, Florida Statutes. In exercising the powers delegated by this Executive Order, the State Coordinating Officer shall confer with the Governor to the fullest extent practicable. It is further ordered that the requirements of sections 943.13 and 943.131, Florida Statutes, as they may be applicable to the State Coordinating Officer, shall be waived for the duration of this emergency. The State Coordinating Officer shall not have the authority to suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of firearms pursuant to section 252.36(6)(h), Florida Statutes. The State Coordinating Officer shall also have the authority to:

A. Invoke and administer the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (“EMAC”) (sections 252.921-252.9335, Florida Statutes) and other compacts and agreements existing between the State of Florida and other states, and the further authority to coordinate the allocation of resources from such other states that are made available to Florida under such compacts and agreements so as to best meet this emergency.

B. Seek direct assistance and enter into agreements with any and all agencies of the federal government as may be needed to meet this emergency.

C. Direct all state, regional, and local governmental agencies, including law enforcement agencies, to identify personnel needed from those agencies to assist in meeting the response, recovery, and mitigation needs created by this emergency, and to place all such personnel

under the direct command and coordination of the State Coordinating Officer to meet this emergency.

D. Direct the actions of any state agency as necessary to implement the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Disaster Recovery Framework.

E. Designate Deputy State Coordinating Officers and Deputy State Disaster Recovery Coordinators, as necessary.

F. Suspend the effect of any statute, rule, or order that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay any mitigation, response, or recovery action necessary to cope with this emergency. In accordance with section 252.3611(1), Florida Statutes, any such order, declaration, or other action shall specify each statute or rule being amended or waived, if applicable, and the expiration date for the order or action.

G. Enter orders as may be needed to implement any of the foregoing powers; however, the requirements of sections 252.46 and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, do not apply to any such orders issued by the State Coordinating Officer. No such order shall remain in effect beyond the expiration of this Executive Order, including any extension thereof.

H. Direct all state, regional, and local governmental agencies, including law enforcement agencies, to allow Floridians to return to their properties when it is reasonably safe to do so.

Section 3. I order the Adjutant General to activate the Florida National Guard, as needed, to deal with this emergency. I further order the Director of the Florida State Guard to activate the Florida State Guard, as needed, to respond to this emergency.

Section 4. I find that the special duties and responsibilities resting upon some state, regional, and local agencies and other governmental bodies in responding to this emergency may

require them to suspend or waive certain statutes, rules, ordinances, and orders they administer. Therefore, I issue the following authorizations:

A. Pursuant to section 252.36(6)(a), Florida Statutes, the Executive Office of the Governor may suspend all statutes and rules affecting budgeting to the extent necessary to provide budget authority for state agencies to cope with this emergency. The requirements of sections 252.46 and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, do not apply to any such suspension issued by the Executive Office of the Governor. No such suspension shall remain in effect beyond the expiration of this Executive Order, including any extension thereof.

B. Each state agency may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to suspend any and all statutes, rules, ordinances, or orders which affect leasing, printing, purchasing, travel, and the condition of employment and the compensation of employees. In accordance with section 252.3611(1), Florida Statutes, any agency order, declaration, or other action suspending a statute or rule shall specify each statute or rule being amended or waived, if applicable, and the expiration date for the order or action. The requirements of sections 252.46 and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, shall not apply to any such suspension issued by a state agency. No such suspension shall remain in effect beyond the expiration of this Executive Order, including any extension thereof.

C. In accordance with section 252.38(3), Florida Statutes, each political subdivision within the State of Florida may waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to:

1) Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;

2) Following local procurement and contracting policies;

3) Entering into contracts; however, political subdivisions are cautioned against entering into time and materials contracts without a ceiling as defined by 2 CFR 200.318(j) or cost plus a percentage of cost contracts prohibited by 2 CFR 200.324(d);

4) Incurring obligations;

5) Employment of permanent and temporary workers;

6) Utilization of volunteer workers;

7) Rental of equipment;

8) Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities; and

9) Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

D. All agencies whose employees are certified as disaster service volunteers within the meaning of section 110.120(2)(d), Florida Statutes, may, in accordance with section 110.120(3), Florida Statutes, release any such employees for such service as requested by the employee to meet this emergency.

E. The Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) may:

1) Waive the collection of tolls and other fees and charges for the use of the Turnpike and other public highways, to the extent such waiver may be needed to provide emergency assistance or facilitate the evacuation of the affected counties;

2) Manage the flow of traffic or close any and all roads, highways, and portions of highways as may be needed for the safe and efficient transportation of evacuees to those counties

that the State Coordinating Officer may designate as destination counties for evacuees in this emergency;

3) Suspend enforcement of the registration requirements pursuant to section 316.545(4), Florida Statutes, for commercial motor vehicles that enter Florida to provide emergency services or supplies, to transport emergency equipment, supplies or personnel, or to transport FEMA mobile homes or office style mobile homes into or from Florida;

4) Waive by special permit the warning signal requirements in the Utility Accommodations Manual to accommodate public utility companies from other jurisdictions which render assistance in restoring vital services; and

5) Waive the size and weight restrictions for divisible loads on any vehicles transporting emergency equipment, services, supplies, and agricultural commodities and citrus as recommended by the Commissioner of Agriculture, allowing the establishment of alternate size and weight restrictions for all such vehicles for the duration of the emergency. The DOT shall issue permits and such vehicles shall be subject to such special conditions as the DOT may endorse on any such permits.

Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to allow any vehicle to exceed weight limits posted for bridges and like structures, or relieve any vehicle or the carrier, owner, or driver of any vehicle from compliance with any restrictions other than those specified in this Executive Order, or from any statute, rule, order, or other legal requirement not specifically waived or suspended herein or by supplemental order by the State Coordinating Officer.

F. The Executive Director of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) may:

1) Suspend enforcement of the registration requirements pursuant to sections 316.545(4) and 320.0715, Florida Statutes, for commercial motor vehicles that enter Florida to

provide emergency services or supplies, to transport emergency equipment, supplies or personnel, or to transport FEMA mobile homes or office style mobile homes into or from Florida;

2) Waive the hours-of-service requirements for such vehicles;

3) Suspend the enforcement of the licensing and registration requirements under the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) pursuant to chapter 207, Florida Statutes, and the International Registration Plan (IRP) pursuant to section 320.0715, Florida Statutes, for motor carriers or drivers operating commercial motor vehicles that are properly registered in other jurisdictions and that are participating in emergency relief efforts through the transportation of equipment and supplies or providing other assistance in the form of emergency services;

4) Waive fees for duplicate or replacement vessel registration certificates, vessel title certificates, vehicle license plates, vehicle registration certificates, vehicle tag certificates, vehicle title certificates, handicapped parking permits, replacement drivers' licenses, and replacement identification cards and to waive the additional fees for the late renewal of or application for such licenses, certificates, and documents due to the effects of adverse weather conditions; and

5) Defer administrative actions and waive fees imposed by law for the late renewal or application for the above licenses, certificates, and documents, which were delayed due to the effects of adverse weather conditions, including in counties wherein the DHSMV has closed offices, or any office of the County Tax Collector that acts on behalf of the DHSMV to process renewals has closed offices due to adverse weather conditions. Recordkeeping and other applicable requirements for existing IFTA and IRP licensees and registrants are not affected by this Executive Order. The DHSMV shall promptly notify the State Coordinating Officer when the waiver is no longer necessary.

G. In accordance with section 465.0275(2), Florida Statutes, pharmacists may dispense up to a 30-day emergency prescription refill of maintenance medication to persons who reside in an area or county covered under this Executive Order and to emergency personnel who have been activated by their state or local agency but who do not reside in an area or county covered by this Executive Order. In accordance with section 465.019(4)(b), Florida Statutes, a hospital that operates a Class II or Class III institutional pharmacy located in an area or county covered under this Executive Order may prescribe and dispense a supply of medicinal drug lasting up to 72 hours.

H. All state agencies responsible for the use of state buildings and facilities may close such buildings and facilities in those portions of the State affected by this emergency, to the extent necessary to meet this emergency. I direct each state agency to report the closure of any State building or facility to the WebEOC system utilized by the Division of Emergency Management. Under the authority contained in section 252.36, Florida Statutes, I direct each county to report the closure of any building or facility operated or maintained by the county or any political subdivision on a daily basis to the WebEOC system. Furthermore, I direct the Secretary of the Department of Management Services to:

- 1) Maintain an accurate and up-to-date list of all such closures; and
- 2) Provide that list daily to the State Coordinating Officer.

I. All State agencies may abrogate the time requirements, notice requirements, and deadlines for final action on applications for permits, licenses, rates, and other approvals under any statutes or rules under which such application are deemed to be approved unless disapproved in writing by specified deadlines. All such time requirements that have not yet expired as of the date of this Executive Order are suspended and tolled to the extent necessary to meet this emergency.

J. All agencies shall implement Selected Exempt Services (SES) Extraordinary Payment Plans and Career Service Regular Compensatory Leave Payment Plans for:

1) All essential agency personnel who are required to work extraordinary hours when state-owned or state-operated facilities are closed in response to an emergency condition. Employees who are eligible to receive extraordinary pay under the agency's activated plan shall accrue special compensatory leave credits for work performed during facility closures up to the number of hours in the employee's established workday. For these employees, any additional time worked beyond the employee's established workday during facility closures will result in extraordinary pay;

2) All agency personnel who are assigned to the State Emergency Operations Center and are required to work extraordinary hours; and

3) All agency personnel who are deployed throughout the state in response to an emergency condition and are required to work extraordinary hours.

K. All State agencies may waive the forty-day time limit to issue a warrant pursuant to section 215.422(3)(b), Florida Statutes. This waiver applies to invoices and reimbursement requests arising from this emergency that were received, inspected, and approved by the agency prior to the expiration of this Executive Order, including any extension thereof. This waiver of section 215.422(3)(b), Florida Statutes, and all waivers based upon this waiver shall expire upon the expiration of this Executive Order, including any extension thereof.

L. The provisions of section 934.50, Florida Statutes, excluding subsection (4), are waived for state and local agencies conducting emergency operations arising from the state of emergency for the limited purpose of capturing aerial evidence concerning the amount of damage sustained to private and public property; to assist in search, rescue, and recovery activities; and prevent imminent danger to life or serious damage to property.

Section 5. All public facilities, including elementary and secondary schools, community colleges, state universities, and other facilities owned or leased by the state, regional or local governments that are suitable for use as public shelters shall be made available at the request of the local emergency management agencies to ensure the proper reception and care of all evacuees. Under the authority contained in section 252.36, Florida Statutes, I direct the Superintendent of each public-school district in the State of Florida to report the closure of any school within its district to the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education. Furthermore, I direct the Commissioner of the Department of Education to:

- A. Maintain an accurate and up-to-date list of all such closures; and
- B. Provide that list daily to the State Coordinating Officer.

Section 6. I find that the demands placed upon funds specifically appropriated to state and local agencies for disaster relief or response are unreasonably great and that such funds may be inadequate to pay the costs of coping with this emergency. In accordance with section 252.37(2), Florida Statutes, I direct that sufficient funds be made available, as needed, by transferring and expending moneys from the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund.

Section 7. All state agencies entering emergency orders, emergency rules, or other emergency actions in response to this emergency shall advise the State Coordinating Officer contemporaneously or as soon as practicable thereafter, and, pursuant to section 252.36(3)(b), Florida Statutes, shall submit the order or declaration to the Division of Administrative Hearings within five (5) days of issuance.

Section 8. Medical professionals and workers, social workers, and counselors with good and valid professional licenses issued by states other than the State of Florida may render such services in Florida during this emergency for persons affected by this emergency with the condition that such services be rendered to such persons free of charge, and with the further

condition that such services be rendered under the auspices of the American Red Cross or the Florida Department of Health.

Section 9. Pursuant to section 501.160, Florida Statutes, it is unlawful and a violation of section 501.204, Florida Statutes, for a person to rent or sell or offer to rent or sell at an unconscionable price within the area for which the state of emergency is declared, any essential commodity including, but not limited to, supplies, services, provisions, or equipment that is necessary for consumption or use as a direct result of the emergency.

Section 10. Under the authority contained in sections 252.36(6)(a), (g), and (m), Florida Statutes, I direct that, for the purposes of this emergency, the term “essentials”, as defined by section 252.359(2), Florida Statutes, shall be the same as and no more expansive than the term “commodity”, as defined by section 501.160(1)(a), Florida Statutes (hereinafter referred to collectively or alternatively as “essential commodities”). Accordingly, any person who delivers essential commodities to a location in the area(s) declared to be under a state of emergency by this Executive Order, and when necessary to ensure that those commodities are made available to the public, may travel within evacuated areas and exceed curfews, provided the State Coordinating Officer determines, after consultation with the appropriate Emergency Support Function(s), that:

A. Law enforcement officials in the declared area(s) can provide adequate security to protect the essential commodities from theft;

B. The weight of a delivery vehicle will not jeopardize the structural integrity of any roadway or bridge located within the declared area;

C. Delivery vehicles will not negatively impact evacuation activities in the declared area(s); and

D. Delivery vehicles will not negatively impact any response or recovery activities occurring within the declared area(s).

After consulting with the appropriate Emergency Support Function(s), and after consulting with local officials, the State Coordinating Officer may dictate the routes of ingress, egress, and movement within the declared area(s) that drivers must follow when delivering essential commodities.

Provided he or she is actually delivering medications, any person authorized to deliver medications under chapter 893, Florida Statutes, qualifies as a person delivering essential commodities.

In order to qualify as a person delivering essential commodities under this section, a person must be in the process of delivering essential commodities only. If an individual is transporting both essential and non-essential commodities, then this section shall not provide any authorization for that individual to enter into or move within the declared area(s).

Section 11. Consistent with Executive Order 80-29, nothing in this Executive Order shall prevent local jurisdictions in any area not declared to be under a state of emergency by this Executive Order from taking prompt and necessary action to save lives and protect the property of their citizens, including the authority to compel and direct timely evacuation when necessary.

Section 12. I authorize the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to distribute funds pursuant to section 420.9073, Florida Statutes, to any county, municipality, or other political subdivision located within the area(s) declared to be under a state of emergency by this Executive Order. The authority of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to distribute funds in connection with this emergency shall expire six months after the expiration of this Executive Order, including any extension thereof.

Section 13. Pursuant to sections 252.36(6)(b) and 252.35(2)(z), Florida Statutes, it is further ordered that all Disaster Debris Management Sites and landfills in all counties impacted by Hurricane Helene shall remain open and allow twenty-four-hour debris drop off.

Section 14. All actions taken by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this Executive Order are ratified.

Section 15. This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall expire sixty (60) days from this date unless extended.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 5th day of October, 2024.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2024 OCT -5 PM 4:28
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-264

(Emergency Management – Extension of Executive Order 24-214 – Hurricane Milton)

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, I issued Executive Order 24-214, declaring a state of emergency for thirty-five counties due to the severe weather, heavy rainfall, flash flooding, river flooding, and gusty winds caused by Tropical Storm Milton; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2024, I issued Executive Order 24-215, which amended Executive Order 24-214, and extended the state of emergency to fifty-one counties; and

WHEREAS, the tropical system surged from a tropical storm to a category 5 hurricane in less than twenty four hours on its trajectory in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2024, Hurricane Milton made landfall as a dangerous category 3 hurricane along Florida's Gulf Coast near Siesta Key, about five miles west of Sarasota; and

WHEREAS, the affected areas are still recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Milton; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 24-214, as amended by Executive Orders 24-215 and 24-234, expires on December 4, 2024, unless extended; and

WHEREAS, an extension of Executive Order 24-214 is necessary because recovery efforts and those affected by this disaster require the continued support of the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1. The state of emergency and all provisions of Executive Order 24-214 are renewed for sixty (60) days following the date of this Executive Order.

Section 2. This Executive Order will not extend the amendments and accommodations made by Executive Order 24-234 which are now moot.

Section 3. Except as amended herein, Executive Order 24-214, as amended by Executive Order 24-215, is ratified and reaffirmed.

Section 4. This Executive Order is effective immediately.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 3rd day of December, 2024.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL
2024 DEC -3 PM 4:19

DEC 3 2024



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

USPS TRACKING # **9488 8178 9820 3256 4105 02**

FOR TRACKING GO TO USPS.COM

Final Notice
Delivery Confirmation:

January 6, 2025

Ellizabeth Benac, Chairperson
Take Back Manatee
3917 Oak Grove Drive
Sarasota, FL 34243-4243

PAC 88601

Dear Ms. Benac:

The campaign treasurer's report that was due on October 26, 2024, was filed on November 9, 2024. By law, you are automatically assessed a late fine of \$102.50.

You have 20 days from the receipt of this notice to either:

1. Pay the fine to the Florida Division of Elections (For a candidate only, a fine is not an allowable campaign expenditure and must be paid from personal funds) at:

*Florida Division of Elections
R.A. Gray Building, Room. 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-025011*

2. Appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission (See Rules 2B-1.005 and 2B-1.0055, Florida Administrative Code) at:

*Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street, Ste. 224
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0150*

If you appeal, please send a copy also to the Florida Division of Elections so that you will not receive further notices from the Division about this matter.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

November 13, 2024

Elizabeth Benac, Chairperson

Take Back Manatee

3917 Oak Grove Drive

Sarasota, FL 34243-4243

PAC 88601

Dear Ms. Benac:

The campaign treasurer's report that was due on October 26, 2024, was filed on November 9, 2024. By law, you are automatically assessed a late fine of \$102.50.

You have 20 days from the receipt of this notice to either:

1. Pay the fine to the Florida Division of Elections (For a candidate only, a fine is not an allowable campaign expenditure and must be paid from personal funds) at:

*Florida Division of Elections
R.A. Gray Building, Room. 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-025011*

2. Appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission (See Rules 2B-1.005 and 2B-1.0055, Florida Administrative Code) at:

*Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street, Ste. 224
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0150*

If you appeal, please send a copy also to the Florida Division of Elections so that you will not receive further notices from the Division about this matter.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief

Bureau of Election Records

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

- (1) Take Back Manatee (2) 88601
Candidate, Committee or Party Name I.D. Number
- (3) 3917 Oak Grove Drive Sarasota FL 34243
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 10/19/2024 To 10/25/2024 Report Type: D1
☐ 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	\$410.00
Transfers to Office Account	\$0.00
<i>Total Monetary</i>	\$410.00

(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: Take Back Manatee

Report: 2024 D1

Period: 10/19/2024 to 10/25/2024

**** 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	

Name: Take Back Manatee

Report: 2024 D1

Period: 10/19/2024 to 10/25/2024

** Records in Filed Report **

Seq #	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Type	Purpose	Amount
Date				Amend
1	INTUIT MAILCHIMP	MON	TEXTING	\$410.00
10/21/2024	405 N ANGLIER AV NE ATLANTA, GA 30308			ADD

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED FUND TRANSFERS

Page 1 of 1

Name: Take Back Manatee

Report: 2024 D1

Period: 10/19/2024 to 10/25/2024

**** 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: Take Back Manatee

Report: 2024 D1

Period: 10/19/2024 to 10/25/2024

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

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

Queued Items for 2024-D1

Account: 88601 Take Back Manatee
Rpt Seq: 14

<i>ProcessDescription</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Submitter</i>	<i>Created</i>	<i>LastUpdate</i>
Create Pending Report	Processing Complete	88601	10/28/2024 2:07:32 PM	10/28/2024 2:07:32 PM
Recalc Pending Report Total	Processing Complete	88601	10/28/2024 2:07:37 PM	10/28/2024 2:07:37 PM
File Pending Report	Processing Complete	88601	10/28/2024 2:08:10 PM	10/28/2024 2:08:10 PM
Amend Filed Report	Processing Complete	88601	11/9/2024 1:57:34 PM	11/9/2024 1:57:34 PM
Review Pending Report	Processing Complete	88601	11/9/2024 1:59:08 PM	11/9/2024 1:59:08 PM
File Pending Report	Processing Complete	88601	11/9/2024 1:59:34 PM	11/9/2024 1:59:34 PM


[search](#) | [directory](#) | [contact us](#) | [411](#) | [subscribe](#) | [tour](#) | [help](#)

Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Florida Election System Reports

Candidate/Committee Lookup

Committee Name: Take Back ManateeName: **Account:** 88601Election: Acct: Type:

Date Due	Type	Date Filed	Status	Days Late	Fine Assessed	Appealed	Amount Fined	Amount Paid
11/1/2024	G6	11/12/2024	PEN	11	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/31/2024	D6	11/12/2024	PEN	12	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/30/2024	D5	11/11/2024	PEN	12	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/29/2024	D4	11/8/2024	PEN	10	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/28/2024	D3	10/31/2024	PEN	3	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/27/2024	D2	11/9/2024	PEN	13	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/26/2024	D1	10/28/2024	SNT	0	\$102.50		\$102.50	\$0.00
10/26/2024	D1	10/28/2024	PEN	2	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10/25/2024	G5	10/23/2024						
10/18/2024	G4A	10/16/2024						
10/11/2024	G4	10/7/2024						
10/4/2024	G3A	10/1/2024						
9/27/2024	G3	9/25/2024	SNT	0	\$102.50		\$102.50	\$0.00
9/20/2024	G2A	9/17/2024						
9/13/2024	G2	9/10/2024						
9/6/2024	G1A	9/5/2024						
8/30/2024	G1	8/29/2024						
8/23/2024	P7A	8/23/2024						
8/16/2024	P7	8/16/2024						
8/9/2024	P6	8/9/2024						
8/2/2024	P5	8/2/2024						

HISTORY NOTES

Take Back Manatee - 88601

Unique ID	Date Recorded	Last Edited Date	Originally Recorded By
-----------	---------------	------------------	------------------------

82879

7/26/2024 3:58:00 PM

ASRivers

On Friday, July 26, 2024, I contacted Elizabeth and provided her with her credentials for chairperson. I also contacted Patsy and provided her with her treasurer credentials. ASR.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

July 26, 2024

Elizabeth Benac, Chairperson
Take Back Manatee
3917 Oak Grove Drive
Sarasota, Florida 34243

Dear Ms. Benac:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Statement of Organization and Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for **Take Back Manatee**, which were placed on file in our office on July 25, 2024. This information appears to comply with the requirements of Section 106.03, Florida Statutes, and the name of this organization has been placed on our active committee list as a political committee.

Campaign Treasurer's Reports

Your first campaign treasurer's report will be due on **August 2, 2024**. The report will cover the period of July 20 - July 26, 2024 (2024 P5). All political committees that 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 the committee's user identification number. Enclosed are the committee's confidential, filing credentials.

EFS Website Address: <https://efs.dos.state.fl.us>
Identification Number: 88601

Timely Filing

All reports 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

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)



Elizabeth Benac, Chairperson
July 26, 2024
Page Two

due date, the report will be accepted as timely filed if filed no later than midnight, Eastern Standard Time, of the first business day the EFS becomes operable. No fine will be levied during the period the EFS was inoperable.

Any political committee failing to file a report on the designated due date is 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 the 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 chairperson and campaign treasurer, and such persons are subject to the provisions of Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes.

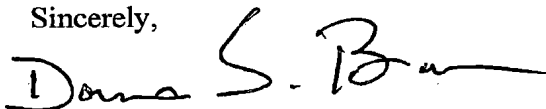
Instructions and Assistance

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: Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, *Political Committee Handbook*, *Calendar of Reporting Dates*, Rules 1S-2.017, and 1S-2.021, Florida Administrative Code.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

DSB/asr

Enclosures

pc: Patsy Ugarte, Treasurer

**APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER
AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN
DEPOSITORY FOR
POLITICAL COMMITTEES**
(Sections 106.011(2) and 106.021(1), F.S.)

RECEIVED

2024 JUL 25 AM 8:23

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

Initial Filing for: ☒ Primary Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer

OFFICE USE ONLY

Re-filing to Change: ☐ Primary Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer ☐ Primary/Secondary Depository

1. Committee
Take Back Manatee

2. Telephone
(941) 685-4209

3. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer
Patsy Ugarte

4. Email (optional)
patsyugarte@gmail.com

5. Telephone (optional)
(941) 920-5741

6. Mailing Address
1906 21st Street W., Palmetto, FL 34221

7. Street Address
1906 21st Street W., Palmetto, FL 34221

8. The following bank has been designated as the ☒ Primary Depository ☐ Secondary Depository

9. Name of Bank
First Southern Bank

10. Street Address
1825 Manatee Avenue W.

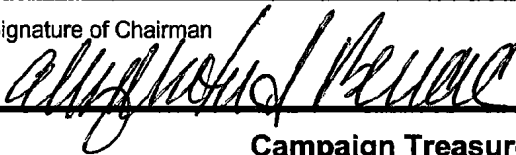
11. City
Bradenton

12. State
FL

13. Zip Code
34221

14. Signature of Chairman

X



15. Name of Chairman (Print or Type)
Elizabeth Benac

Campaign Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment

I, Patsy Ugarte, do hereby accept the appointment as
(Please Print or Type)

treasurer or deputy treasurer for Take Back Manatee

(Committee)

UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S
ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT AND THAT THE FACTS STATED ARE TRUE.

July 23, 2024

Date

X


Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Take Back Manatee

RECEIVED

OFFICE USE ONLY

2024 JUL 25 AM 8:23

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

1. Full Name of Committee

Take Back Manatee

Telephone

941-685-4209

Mailing Address (include city, state and zip code). 3917 Oak Grove Drive, Sarasota, FL. 34243

Street Address (include city, state and zip code) 3917 Oak Grove Drive, Sarasota, FL. 34243

2. Affiliated or Connected Organizations (includes other committees of continuous existence and political committees)

Name of Affiliated or Connected
Organization

Mailing Address

Relationship

None

2. Area, Scope and Jurisdiction of the Committee

Political committee supporting or opposing statewide, legislative, multi-county candidates and/or issues and other activities not prohibited by Chapter 106 F.S.

3. Nature of Organization or Organization's Special Interest (e.g., medical, legal, education, etc.)

Political

5. Identify by Name, Address and Position, the Custodian of Books and Accounts (include treasurer's name)

Full Name

Mailing Address

Committee Title or Position

Patsy Ugarte

1906 21st Street West Palmetto, FL. 34221

Treasurer and Records Custodian

DS-DE 5 (Rev. 06/11) – Rule 1S-2.017

(continued on reverse side)

6. List by Name, Address and Position, Other Principal Officers, Including Officers and Members of the Finance Committee, If Any (include chairman's name)

Full Name

Mailing Address

Committee Title or Position

Elizabeth Benac

3917 Oak Grove Drive, Sarasota, FL. 34243

Registered Agent and Chairperson

Patsy Ugarte

1906 21st Street W., Palmetto, FL 34221

Treasurer and Records Custodian

7. List by Name, Address, Office Sought and Party Affiliation Each Candidate or Other Individual that this Committee is Supporting (if none, please indicate)

Full Name

Mailing Address

Office Sought

Party

To be determined

8. List Any Issues this Committee is Supporting: To be determined

List Any Issues this Committee is Opposing: To be determined

9. If this Committee is Supporting the Entire Ticket of a Party, Give Name of Party. N/A

10. In the Event of Dissolution, What Disposition will be Made of Residual Funds?

Return donations or donate to an organization that is tax exempt per Section 527

11. List all Banks, Safety Deposit Boxes, or Other Depositories Used for Committee Funds

Name of Bank or Depository & Account Number	Mailing Address
First Southern Bank	1825 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton, FL. 34205

12. List all Reports Required to be Filed by this Committee with Federal Officials and the Names, Addresses and Positions of Such Officials, If Any

Report Title	Dates Required to be Filed	Name & Position of Official	Mailing Address
Form 8871	Upon Formation	Internal Revenue Service	Ogden, Utah
Form 1120 POL			
Form 990			

STATE OF Florida Manatee Manatee COUNTY

I, ELIZABETH J. BENJAC, certify that the information in this Statement of
Organization is complete, true and correct.

X

Signature of Chairman of Political Committee

Date

7/24/24