#### STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re:	<b>Buster Raggs</b>	Buster Raggs		FEC 24-229
		1		

TO: Markeishia L. Smith, Esquire Law Offices of Markeishia L. Smith, P.A. 131 N. 6th Street Haines City, FL 33844

Sharon Lauther, City Clerk City of Haines City 620 East Main Street Haines City, FL 33844

#### **NOTICE OF HEARING (AUTOMATIC FINE (AF))**

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on **December 3, 2025**, **at 9:30 am,** *or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard*, via Webinar at: **Registration URL**<a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8443550463090426453">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8443550463090426453</a>. **Webinar ID** 144-463-043 **Audio Only** 1 877 309 2074 -- 786-784-735.

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.

<u>Tim Vaccaro</u>

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission November 7, 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.

#### FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

#### CASE REPORT

Case Number: FEC-24-229

CANDIDATE [X]

POLITICAL PARTY [ ]

PC [ ]

CCE [ ]

STATE [ ]
DISTRICT [ ]

COUNTY [ ]

CITY [X]

NAME: BUSTER RAGGS

DATE APPEAL RECEIVED: 08/06/2024

**DATE REPORT DUE:** 07/02/2024 (2024 TR)

DATE OF HAND DELIVERED RECEIPT: 07/08/2024

DATE FILING OFFICER RECEIVED REPORT: 07/08/2024

Number of Days Late: 6

**AMOUNT OF FINE: \$1,650.00** 

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

**TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR REPORTING PERIOD:** Unknown (\$462.01 per the report summary)

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR REPORTING PERIOD: Unknown (\$402.01 per the report summary)

**DATE OF FIRST NOTIFICATION:**07/10/2024 (Fine Ltr)

**SUMMARY:** Buster Raggs was a candidate for Haines City Commission, Seat 4 in the 2024 elections. The treasurer is unknown. Markeisha L. Smith, Esquire is representing the candidate in this matter.

Attorney Markeisha L. Smith, Esquire, requests a hearing before the Commission. She provided an affidavit from Mr. Raggs and medical records to support the appeal.

- The 2024 TR Original Report covers the period from 03/29/24-07/01/24; it was due on 07/01/24<sup>1</sup>.
- The 2024 TR Report shows that it was filed on 07/08/24.<sup>2</sup>
- Buster Raggs reported receiving 6 contributions, while making 6 expenditures.
- The Haines City Clerk's Office does not have any notes that pertain to Buster Raggs' 2024 TR report. However, Ms. Lauther did provide the 2024 M2 report as the "Final Campaign Report."

**PRIOR CASES:** NONE.

**CORRECTION OF FINE:** \$0 (No financial activity shown during the reporting period that was not previously reported.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The date listed on the fine letter is 07/02/24. The correct date is 07/01/24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The date listed on the "Final Report" provided by the filing officer is 07/09/24.

#### 2B-1.005 Appeal of Fines Imposed by Filing Officers.

- (1) To appeal a fine imposed pursuant to section 106.04(8) or 106.07(8), F.S., the party against whom the fine is levied shall shall file a notice of appeal with the Commission, and a copy filed with the filing officer, within 20 days of the appealing party's receipt of notice that a fine is being imposed. The notice of appeal shall contain:
  - (a) The name, address and telephone number of the appealing party;
  - (b) A copy of the notice of imposition of fine issued by the filing officer; and,
- (c) A request for hearing if a personal appearance before the Commission is desired. If no hearing request is made, the appeal shall be decided solely on the documents submitted by the appealing party and Commission staff.
- (2) Upon receipt of a timely notice of appeal, the Commission staff shall notify the appealing party that the appeal has been accepted. The appealing party shall have 20 days from acceptance of the appeal to submit any documents supporting the appeal. Any subsequent supplemental documents shall be filed no later than five business days before the hearing.
- (3) The Commission shall uphold the fine imposed by the filing officer unless the appealing party demonstrates that the report was timely filed or that there were unusual or other circumstances beyond the control of the candidate or committee that caused the report to be filed late.

Rulemaking Authority 106.26(1) FS. Law Implemented 106.04(8), 106.07(8) FS. History–New 9-14-86, Amended 10-19-86, Formerly 1D-1.005, Amended 1-11-99, 4-24-05, 6-2-13.

#### 2B-1.0055 Late-filed Reports; Unusual Circumstances.

- (1) Unusual circumstances mean uncommon, rare or sudden events over which the actor has no control and which directly result in the failure to act according to the filing requirements. Unusual circumstances must occur within a time period that would clearly prevent the person legally responsible for filing the report from doing so in a timely manner. Unusual circumstances shall include, but are not limited to, the following circumstances:
- (a) Natural disaster or other emergency that prevented timely filing. Evidence submitted shall include copies of newspaper reports or other documents from an independent and reliable source that document the nature, date, and location of the natural disaster or emergency.
- (b) Death of the candidate or campaign treasurer or an immediate family member of the candidate or campaign treasurer. Evidence submitted shall include a copy of the death certificate, newspaper obituary, or funeral program or notice.
- (c) Serious illness, disability or non-elective surgery of the candidate or campaign treasurer. Evidence submitted shall include a physician's certification on professional letterhead stationery that includes the dates of the illness, disability, or surgery; a statement regarding the period of time that the patient was incapacitated; and a statement that surgery, if any, was not elective. The period of incapacitation may also be shown by copies of hospital records reflecting the dates of hospitalization.
- (d) Serious illness, disability or non-elective surgery of the candidate's or campaign treasurer's immediate family member. Evidence submitted shall include evidence of the candidate or treasurer's relationship to the family member, the location of the family member, and the reason the candidate or campaign treasurer's presence was required. Evidence submitted shall also include a physician's certification on professional letterhead stationery that includes the dates of the illness, disability or surgery; a statement regarding the period of time that the patient was incapacitated; a statement that surgery, if any, was not elective; and a statement that the patient required the care of a family member.
- (e) Computer or equipment failure caused by events that could not have been anticipated and that made timely filing of the report impossible.

- (f) The abrupt and unexpected loss of the campaign treasurer, over which the appealing party had no control. The loss of the campaign treasurer shall not constitute unusual circumstances if the appealing party failed to monitor the campaign treasurer's performance before his or her departure or if the appealing party failed to assure prompt preparation of the report after the treasurer's departure.
- (g) Failure of the filing officer to e-mail, telephone, or mail a letter to the candidate, chairman of a political committee, or treasurer of a committee of continuous existence that a report is late no later than seven days after the report was due shall constitute unusual circumstances if the appealing party establishes that lack of notice clearly interfered with the timely filing of the report. The fine imposed by the filing officer shall be reduced to the amount that would have been imposed had the report been filed 13 days late.
  - (2) Unusual circumstances shall not include:
- (a) Failure of the United States Postal Service or other mail delivery service to postmark an envelope, legibly postmark an envelope, or timely deliver mail.
  - (b) Failure of the sender to affix sufficient postage to a report that is being mailed.

Rulemaking Authority 106.26(1) FS. Law Implemented 106.04(8), 106.07(8) FS. History–New 1-11-99, Amended 4-24-05, 6-2-13.

#### THE LAW OFFICES OF MARKEISHIA L. SMITH, P.A.

131 N. 6<sup>th</sup> STREET, HAINES CITY, FL 33844 P.O. BOX 3303, HAINES CITY \*FLORIDA \* 33845 PHONE: (863) 866-9917 \* FACSIMILE: (863)-438-6860

July 31, 2024

To: The Florida Elections Commission

ATTN: Penalty Waiver Department 107 W Gaines Street Suite 224, Collins Bldg Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 922-4539 fec@myfloridalegal.com

RE: Buster Raggs Waiver and Appeal Request

This letter is being sent on behalf of Mr. Buster Raggs to request a hearing and a waiver of the automatic penalty fine for the failure to timely submit his Campaign Treasurer's Report.

We were advised by the City Clerk of Haines City to *email* the appeal request to the Division of Elections and not the Florida Elections Commission.

This was done in a timely manner. However, the information provided for submission was incorrect.

When following up on the emailed submission to verify receipt we were advised that there was no record of Mr. Raggs. Upon reaching back out to the City Clerk, we were provided with the correct information regarding submission.

Please see the attached email communications showing our submission and the email chain with the City Clerk for the City of Haines City.

Respectfully,

/s/ Markeishia Smith, Esq. Markeishia Smith msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org.

MLS/ms

#### **Affidavit**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, duly authorized to take acknowledgments and administer oaths, personally appeared Buster Raggs Jr. ("Affiant"), who depose(s) and say(s) under penalties of perjury that:

1. This affidavit is made with regard to the following described:

#### Appeal of Fine for Late Submission of Campaign Treasurer's Report

- 2. My name is Buter Raggs Jr. I am a 72-year-old prior candidate for office who has recently faced an issue with the timely submission of my campaign treasurer's report.
- 3. In May 2024, I suffered a severe fall resulting in multiple severed tendons in my arm and a broken wrist. This injury has caused significant physical pain and limitations, rendering me incapable of completing and submitting the required documentation within the specified deadline. The ongoing medical treatments and recovery process further hindered my ability to meet the reporting deadline.
- 4. Attached to this affidavit are the following documents which substantiate my claim:
  - The after-visit summary of my injury.
  - A prescription list of medications provided by my physician and showing the Radial Head Fracture.
  - The medical referral form related to my treatment.
- 5. I fully acknowledge the importance of adhering to the deadlines and requirements for campaign documentation. I deeply regret the delay and assure the Commission that there was no intent to disregard or neglect these obligations.
- 6. Given the extenuating circumstances of my medical condition, I respectfully request that the Florida Elections Commission reconsider the fine imposed and grant relief based on the hardship I experienced.
- 7. I affirm that the information provided in this affidavit is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. My intention is to rectify this situation and adhere to all regulatory requirements moving forward.

(Affiant)

Print Name:

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF POLK

Sworn to, affirmed, and subscribed before me by means of physical presence or online notarization, this 29th day of July 2024 by Buster Raggs Jr., who is/are personally known to me or who has/have produced a Driver's License as identification.

[Notary Seal]

KOJIYAH BOWLAND
Notary Public
State of Florida
Comm# HH570323

Expires 7/12/2028

Notary Public

Printed Name: Kojiyan Bowland

My Commission Expires: 7 12 6



620 East Main Street Haines City, FL 33844 Phone (863) 421-3600 Fax (863) 421-5561 www.hainescity.com

July 10, 2024

**Buster Raggs** 2122 Navel Circle Haines City, FL 33844

Dear Mr. Raggs:

Your campaign treasurer's report, which was due July 2,2024, was not filed until July 8, 2024. Section 106.07 (8)(b), Florida Statutes, provides that the fine shall be \$50 per day for the first 3 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. Since your report was filed on July 8, 2024, you are fined the amount of \$1650.00

Section 106.07 (8)(c), Florida Statutes, provides for appealing or disputing the assessed fine by submitting a notice of appeal in writing within 20 days of the date of receipt of the notice of payment due stating any unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date. A failure to timely file such notice will constitute a waiver of the right of appeal.

Moreover, the notice of appeal must be accompanied by any and all supporting evidence you wish the Commission to consider in making its determination. Examples of such evidence that the Florida Elections Commission will consider are: (1) an affidavit attesting, in specific detail, to a timely mailing; (2) an affidavit or letter from the post office documenting a mailing problem; or (3) an affidavit or statement from an attending physician or a hospital bill, setting forth specific dates if there is a health-related reason as to why your report was not timely filed. If you fail to submit documentation or evidence demonstrating the unusual circumstances which prevented you from timely filing your report within the 20-day period stated above, no documentation or evidence submitted thereafter will be considered by the Florida Elections Commission.

You also have the right to a hearing before the Commission. However, if you desire a hearing before the Commission, you must request such hearing in the notice of appeal within 20 days of receipt of this notice. If no timely request for a hearing is made in your notice of appeal, you will be deemed to have waived your right to a hearing and the Commission's determination shall be based upon your written record.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or our office.

Sincerely,

City Clerk

**Our Mission** 

850-245-6500 divelections "Our team of professionals will provide our residents and business community with the highest quality services in a fiscally responsible manner through cooperation, strong ethical leadership with a lifelong

commitment to enriching lives."

Buster 843-236-0408



Buster Raggs Jr. MRN:

☐ 6/5/2024 • AdventHealth Heart of Florida Hospital Emergency Department 863-419-2278

### Instructions

Return emergency department immediately for numbness/tingling/ weakness in your extremity, cold/pale/blue fingers, any symptoms that concern you.



#### Your medications have changed

medication list below.



Pick up these medications at Publix #1076
Haines City Mall - HAINES CITY, FL - 617 U.S.
HIGHWAY 17-92 WEST AT US 27 & US 92

Address: 617 U.S. HIGHWAY 17-92 WEST, HAINES CITY FL

33844

Phone: 863-419-1231



Schedule an appointment with Manuel Gil Jain, MD as soon as possible for a visit in 2 days (around 6/7/2024)

Specialty: Family Medicine Contact: 2380 North Blvd Ste 1

Davenport FL 33837 863-422-8574



Schedule an appointment with Nathan Bernard Hill, MD as soon as possible for a visit in 2 days (around 6/7/2024)



Specialty: Orthopaedic Surgery Contact: 108 Park Place Boulevard Suite C Davenport FL 33837

863-422-1734



# What's Next

You currently have no upcoming appointments scheduled.

# Today's Visit

You were seen by Ronald Berman, MD

**Reason for Visit** 

Elbow Pain

Diagnosis

Imaging Tests

X Ray Elbow 3+ Views Right

# AdventHealth

To connect and view your health records, send messages to your doctor, renew your prescriptions, schedule appointments, and more, create an account by downloading our app or going to https://account.adventhealth.com/register/

-2

RAGGS, Buster DOB:

(72 yo M) Acc No.

#### REFERRAL

Manuel G Jain, MD

Buster Raggs

Family Medicine

WellMed at Haines City

2380 NORTH BLVD W, DAVENPORT, FL-33837-8924

Tel: 863-422-8574 Fax: 863-422-7251

Date:

07/11/2024

Patient Information:

Patient Name:

**Buster Raggs** 

Patient DOB:

Patient Work Phone: Patient Cell Phone: Patient SSN:

**Insurance Information** 

Insurance Name:

**Referral From Information:** 

Provider Name:

Jain, Manuel, G

Provider ID Number:

Provider UPIN:

Provider NPI:

1568480655

Provider Facility:

WellMed at Haines City

Provider Speciality:

Family Medicine

Address1:

2380 NORTH BLVD W

Address2:

City, State, Zip:

DAVENPORT, FL, 33837-8924

Phone:

863-422-8574

Fax:

863-422-7251

Referral To Information:

Provider Name:

Rothman Orthopaedics, Davenport

Provider ID Number:

Provider UPIN:

Provider NPI:

1669086872

Provider Facility:

Provider Speciality:

Orthopedic Surgery 410 Lionel Way

Address1: Address2:

Suite 201

City, State, Zip:

Davenport, FL, 33837

Phone:

Appt. Date/Time:

Fax:

863-588-0350

844-407-4070

Facility Tax ID Number:

RAGGS, Buster DOB:

(72 yo M) Acc No.

#### REFERRAL

Manuel G Jain, MD

Family Medicine

WellMed at Haines City

2380 NORTH BLVD W, DAVENPORT, FL-33837-8924

Tel: 863-422-8574 Fax: 863-422-7251

Buster Raggs

#### Reason For Referral:

**Authorization No:** 

GLEX05112023

**Authorization Type:** 

Reason: Diagnosis: E/M Codes:

Procedures:

Visits Allowed:

V (VISIT)

Unit Type: Start Date:

06/27/2024 06/27/2025

End Date: Priority:

Stat

General Notes:

Ramos, Karen 06/27/2024 11:58:58 AM > Please call patient for a STAT appointment, thank you Ramos, Karen 06/27/2024 11:59:25 AM > Temporary Referral Waiver For dates of service September 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024, WellMed will be extending the Waiver for PCP Referral Plans If you need a referral number for your records, please use reference number GLEX05112023 Leading Reach WellMed will be fully implementing the Leading Reach platform for referrals in 2024. Please visit WellMed Partnership - Leading Reach, Inc. for registration and onboarding. Prior Authorization Requests and Advance Notifications Prior authorization and admission notification requirements still apply.

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Provider NPI:

1568480655

Electronically signed by Manuel G Jain, MD on 07/11/2024 at 10:01 AM CDT

# **Your Medication List**

TAI/F Hander



Patient Education

#### **Table of Contents**

Radial Head Fracture



To view videos and all your education online visit, https://pe.elsevier.com/WHxKLmfK or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

Access to this content will expire in one year.

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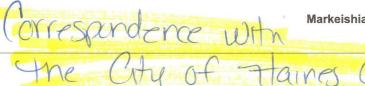
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Raggs, Buster Jr. Page 4 of 5

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Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org>

#### **Elections info**

5 messages

Sharon Lauther <Sharon.Lauther@hainescity.com>
To: "msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org" <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org>

Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 3:22 PM

#### **Director's Office**

Phone Number: 850.245.6200

Email: DivElections@dos.myflorida.com

Fax Numbers: 850.245.6217 or 850.245.6218

Mailing Address: Division of Elections

Florida Department of State

R. A. Gray Building, Room 316

500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

(If mailing to a specific bureau, include the name of the bureau in the mailing address.)

Sharon Laather, MMC

City Clerk





#### City of Haines City

620 E. Main Street

Haines City, FL 33844

T. (863) 421-3600 ext. 5113

F. (863) 421-3626

sharon.lauther@hainescity.com

www.hainescity.com

Want to stay in the loop? Subscribe to the City Manager's Report.

#### Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org> To: Sharon Lauther <Sharon.Lauther@hainescity.com>

Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 5:32 PM

#### Received, thank you.



Markeishia L. Smith Esquire / The Law Offices of Markeishia L. Smith, P.A.

A: 408 Tenth Street S, Haines City, FL 33844

P: 863-866-9917 F: 863-438-6860

E: msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org W: www.thesmithlawfirm.org





Every Client, Everyday

[Quoted text hidden]

Sharon Lauther <Sharon.Lauther@hainescity.com> To: Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org> Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 9:42 AM

Perfect!!! Let me know if I can be of further assistance

From: Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 5:32 PM

To: Sharon Lauther <Sharon.Lauther@hainescity.com>

Subject: Re: Elections info

[WARNING!!! This e-mail originated from outside the City of Haines City's mail system. Do not open any attachments or click on any links unless you know the sender or can verify this e-mail's authenticity.]

[Quoted text hidden]

Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org> To: Sharon Lauther <sharon.lauther@hainescity.com> Cc: Armando Flores < legal@thesmithlawfirm.org>

Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 11:56 AM

Hi.

We do need assistance. Tallahassee is stating they have no record of Mr. Raggs.

My office attempted to verify that the letter we sent on his behalf yesterday was in fact received by them.

Can you call me?



Markeishia L. Smith, Esq.

The Law Offices of Markeishia L. Smith, P.A.

A: 408 S 10th Street Haines City, FL 33844 Sent from my iPhone

**P:** 863-866-9917 **F:** 863-438-6860

C: msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org
On Jul 30, 2024, at 3:22 PM, Sharon Lauther Sharon



Every Client Everyday

# **Director's Office**

Phone Number: 850.245.6200

Email: DivElections@dos.myflorida.com

Fax Numbers: 850.245.6217 or 850.245.6218

Mailing Address: Division of Elections

Florida Department of State R. A. Gray Building, Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

(If mailing to a specific bureau, include the name of the bureau in the mailing address.)

Sharon Lauther, MMC

City Clerk





[Quoted text hidden]

Sharon Lauther <Sharon.Lauther@hainescity.com> To: Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org> Cc: Armando Flores < legal@thesmithlawfirm.org>

Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 12:29 PM

Mrs. Smith:

I have contacted the Florida Elections Commission-This department directly handles the waiving of any fees. They instructed me that a letter has to be mailed with the request for waiving of the fees and any corresponding back along with the letter I sent Mr. Raggs- (I have attached for your records). Due to the late nature of this request, I do not know how successful you will be.

It should be mailed to:

The Florida Elections Commission

# Collins Bldg. Tallahassee, FL 32399 Their direct line is 850.922.4539 I was informed that they will then respond via USPS- they do not accept emails Should you need any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me From: Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org> Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 11:56 AM To: Sharon Lauther <Sharon.Lauther@hainescity.com> Cc: Armando Flores <legal@thesmithlawfirm.org> Subject: Re: Elections info [WARNING!!! This e-mail originated from outside the City of Haines City's mail system. Do not open any attachments or click on any links unless you know the sender or can verify this e-mail's authenticity.]

Hi,

[Quoted text hidden]

Penalty Letter.docx 137K



#### Appeal within 20 Days for Buster Raggs - Campaign Report

2 messages

Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org>
To: "DivElections@DOS.MyFlorida.com" <DivElections@dos.myflorida.com>

Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 5:41 PM

Hi,

Please see the attached appeal. The 20th day to respond should be today. Please confirm receipt.



Markeishia L. Smith

Esquire / The Law Offices of Markeishia L. Smith, P.A.

A: 408 Tenth Street S, Haines City, FL 33844

P: 863-866-9917 F: 863-438-6860

E: msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org W: www.thesmithlawfirm.org





Every Client, Everyday

Buster Raggs - Campaign Report.pdf 10695K

Markeishia Smith <msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org>
To: Armando Flores <legal@thesmithlawfirm.org>

Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 11:52 AM



Markeishia L. Smith, Esq.

The Law Offices of Markeishia L. Smith, P.A.

A: 408 S 10th Street Haines City, FL 33844

P: 863-866-9917

**F:** 863-438-6860

E: msmith@thesmithlawfirm.org

W: www.thesmithlawfirm.org

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:



To: DivElections@dos.myflorida.com Subject: Appeal within 20 Days for Buster Raggs - Campaign Report

[Quoted text hidden]







PRESS FIRMLY TO SEAL

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620 East Main Street Haines City, FL 33844 Phone (863) 421-3600 Fax (863) 421-5561 www.hainescity.com

July 10, 2024

**Buster Raggs** 

2122 Navel Circle

Haines City, FL 33844

Dear Mr. Raggs:

Your campaign treasurer's report, which was due July 2,2024, was not filed until July 8, 2024. Section 106.07 (8)(b), Florida Statutes, provides that the fine shall be \$50 per day for the first 3 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. Since your report was filed on July 8, 2024, you are fined the amount of \$1650.00

Section 106.07 (8)(c), Florida Statutes, provides for appealing or disputing the assessed fine by submitting a notice of appeal in writing within 20 days of the date of receipt of the notice of payment due stating any unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date. A failure to timely file such notice will constitute a waiver of the right of appeal.

Moreover, the notice of appeal must be accompanied by any and all supporting evidence you wish the Commission to consider in making its determination. Examples of such evidence that the Florida Elections Commission will consider are: (1) an affidavit attesting, in specific detail, to a timely mailing; (2) an affidavit or letter from the post office documenting a mailing problem; or (3) an affidavit or statement from an attending physician or a hospital bill, setting forth specific dates if there is a health-related reason as to why your report was not timely filed. If you fail to submit documentation or evidence demonstrating the unusual circumstances which prevented you from timely filing your report within the 20-day period stated above, no documentation or evidence submitted thereafter will be considered by the Florida Elections Commission.

You also have the right to a hearing before the Commission. However, if you desire a hearing before the Commission, you must request such hearing in the notice of appeal within 20 days of receipt of this notice. If no timely request for a hearing is made in your notice of appeal, you will be deemed to have waived your right to a hearing and the Commission's determination shall be based upon your written record.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or our office.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lauther

City Clerk

From: Sharon Lauther
To: Br"Axeton Wims

**Subject:** RE: Florida Elections Commission- Info Request for Buster Raggs

**Date:** Friday, May 16, 2025 3:33:53 PM **Attachments:** Final Campaign Report.pdf

Raggs-Amended Financial through 03.15.2024.pdf

Raggs-Financial thru 03.15.24.pdf Raggs-Financial thu 03.29.2024.pdf

#### This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

From: Br'Axeton Wims < Braxeton. Wims@myfloridalegal.com>

**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 1:44 PM

To: Sharon Lauther <Sharon.Lauther@hainescity.com>

Subject: Florida Elections Commission- Info Request for Buster Raggs

[WARNING!!! This e-mail originated from outside the City of Haines City's mail system. Do not open any attachments or click on any links unless you know the sender or can verify this e-mail's authenticity.]

Good afternoon,

We need additional information for the campaign of Buster Raggs (FEC 24-229). Can you send the 2024 Termination Report (activity period 3/29/24-7/1/24)?

Thank you and have a wonderful day.

Thank you,

Br'Axeton E. Wims Deputy Agency Clerk Florida Elections Commission 107 West Gaines St Collins Building, Suite 224 Tallahassee, FL 32399-6596 850-922-4539 br'axeton.wims@myfloridalegal.com

CAMPAIGN TREASURE	R'S REPORT SUMMARY				
(1) Buster Rogas Sr	OFFICE USE ONLY				
(2) 2/22 Navel Circle 5.	7-9-24				
Address (number and street) Hainer City, FL 33844 City, State, Zip Code	4:318n Q8				
Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number: 0002				
(4) Check appropriate box(es):  Candidate Office Sought:  Political Committee (PC)  Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO)  Party Executive Committee (PTY)  Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an individual making electioneering communications)  Check here if PTY has disbanded  Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed					
(5) Report	Identifiers				
Cover Period: From $03 / 02 / 24$ To	03 / 15 / 29 Report Type: m2				
☐ Original ☐ Amendment ☐ Spe	ecial Election Report				
(6) Contributions This Report	(7) Expenditures This Report				
Cash & Checks \$ , , <u>00</u> . <u>00</u>	Monetary Expenditures \$ , , <u>40</u> . <u>O</u>				
Loans \$,, <u>U62</u>	Transfers to Office Account \$ , , & . &				
Total Monetary \$,, <u>46</u> <u>0</u>	Total Monetary \$ , , <u>40</u> . <u>0</u>				
In-Kind \$ , , ,	(0)				
585 [	(8) Other Distributions \$ , ,				
(9) TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date \$,,,	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date \$,,				
(11) 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:					
(Type name) Buster Raga Sr ☐ Individual (only for IE ☐ Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer or electioneering comm.)  (Type name) Buster Raga Sr ☐ Candidate ☐ Chairperson (only for PC and PT)					
X Signature	X Signature				

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT - ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES
(1) Name Suster Raggs Sr (2) I.D. Number COO2
(3) Cover Period 03 /02/24 through 03 / 15/24 (4) Page 1 of 1

(5) Date	(7)	(8)	(9)	T	10)	(11)
(6) Sequence Number	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & City, State, Zip Code	Purpose (add office sought if contribution to a candidate)	Expenditure Type			
26 0				Ame	ndment	Amount
03/03/24	Wal-Mart 36205 US Hwy 27 Haines Cty, FL 33844	campaign community give back	CAN	Z	/A	ti 62.16
03/08/24 2	HAINES CHY IFL	materials for campaign advertising	CAH	M	A	\$ 29.53
03/09/24	Haines Oty, FL 33844	Supplies for commundity give back #	CAN	N	A	B 67.52
63/69/24 4	22011	Drinks ADMORISM	CAP	N	A	93.04
03,09,24 5	Wal-Mart 36205 US Husy 27 Haines City, FL 33844	cooking materials, paper link	CAH	N/	4	)32.14
6	Haines City 1 FL 33844	materials Sor ofmonion Adversising	CAN	NF	1 4	18.64
33/30/24	Wal-Mart	Supplier for Compaign Rentleiny	CAN	N/A	7	188.33
11	•					
S-DE 14 (Rev. 11/	13)					

CAMPAIGN TREASURER	R'S REPORT SUMMARY
(1) Buster Raggs Sr.  (2) 8122 Name Cir S.  Address (number and street)  Hoines City, FL 3384	OFFICE USE ONLY
City, State, Zip Code  Check here if address has changed	(3) ID Number: 0000
(4) Check appropriate box(es):  Candidate Office Sought:  Political Committee (PC)  Electioneering Communications Org. (ECO)  Party Executive Committee (PTY)  Independent Expenditure (IE) (also covers an individual making electioneering communications)	Check here if PC or ECO has disbanded  Check here if PTY has disbanded  Check here if no other IE or EC reports will be filed
(5) Report	Identifiers
Cover Period: From <u>b3</u> / <u>b2</u> / <u>34</u> To	
Z Original	
(6) Contributions This Report  Cash & Checks \$,,	(7) Expenditures This Report  Monetary  Expenditures \$,, 400 . 0
Loans \$	Transfers to Office Account \$,
Total Monetary \$	Total Monetary \$, 462 · 01
III-Killu	(8) Other Distributions S
(9) TOTAL Monetary Contributions To Date \$, <u>る</u> , <u>601</u> . <u>65</u>	(10) TOTAL Monetary Expenditures To Date
It is a first degree misdemeanor for any pers	tification son to falsify a public record (ss. 839.13, F.S.)
Certify that I have examined this report and it is true, condition   Compared the Rages Sc   Compared the Suster Rages Sc   Compared the Individual (only for IE or electioneering comm.)   Compared the Individual (only for IE or electioneering comm.)	(Type name) Buster Rags Sr (Candidate Chairperson (only for PC and PTY)
x	X
Signature	Signature
DS-DE 12 (Rev. 11/13)	SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

DS-DE 12 (Rev. 11/13)

#### CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT - ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

(1) Name Buster Raggs Sr (2) I.D. Number 0002 (3) Cover Period 03 / 02 / 24 through 03 / 15 / 24 (7)(8) (9)(11)(5)(10)(12)Date Full Name (6)(Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & Sequence Contributor Contribution In-kind Number City, State, Zip Code Type Occupation Description Amendment Туре Amount Buster Kaggs 03/02/24 2122 NAVEL CIT Haines Cthu Buster Raggs Sr 2122 NAVEL Cor MAINES Coly 124 Buster Rogge Sr 2122 NAVEY C'r Halnes Caty Ret LOA 109 24 Buster Ragges Sr Haines City 03,10 24 Buster Roggs S DS-DE 13 (Rev. 11/13) SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND CODE VALUES

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT - ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES
(1) Name Buster Raggs Sr (2) I.D. Number 60000
(3) Cover Period 03 102 34 through 03 15 34 (4) Page 1 of 1

			(+) rage		_ 01	
(5) Date	(7)	(8)	(9)		(10)	(11)
(6) Sequence Number	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & City, State, Zip Code	Purpose (add office sought if contribution to a candidate)	Expenditure Type	Ame	ndment	Amount
03/02/24	Haines Cty, FL 33844	Supplies for campaign community give back	CAN	N	/A	t/ 62.12
03/08/24	73844	materials for campaign advertising	CAH	M	A	\$ 29.53
3	Haines City, FL 33844	Supplies for Commundity Give back #	CAN	N	A	B 67.52
53/69/24 4	Waines Chy FL 33844	Drinks  TCE campaish  community  giveback #2	CAP	N	A !	33.04
23/09/24	36205 US Hury 27 Haines City, FL	cooking	CAH	N/	A	332.14
10/04		materials Sor ofmotion Adversising	CAN	NI	7	48.64
_/_/						
//						
S DE 44/D	40)					

# **WAIVER OF REPORT**

(Section 106.07(7), F.S.)

(PLEASE TYPE)

le 3/29/24 ES

OFFICE USE ONLY

Buster Rac	ne .	City Co	Office Sought
2122 Navel	ess	Haines	City FL 33884 State Zip Code
Candidate  NOTE: This form does not app  waiver) that no reportable	Political Committee by to an electioneering communic contributions or expenditures we	cations organization (ECC	Executive Committee  ). An ECO must file a report (not a ting period (s. 106.0703(6), F.S.).
Check here if address has	changed since last report.	Check here if PC ha reports.	s DISBANDED and will no longer file
TYPE OF REPORT	(Check Appropriate Box	and Complete App	licable Line beneath Box)
MONTHLY REPORT	PRIMARY ELECTION	GENERAL ELECT	
Indicate report #	Indicate report # P	Indicate report #	Indicate report type and # as applicable:
	☐ TERMINATION REPORT	SPECIAL ELECTION	DN
_	NO ACTIVITY IN CAMPAIG		
march	15, 2024 THRO	onen worch s	49,2024
X Burte	Kan	mar	4606, PG 15
S	ignature /		Date
X	ignature .	ma	Date
REQUIRED SIGNATURES FOR:	Candidates: Candidate and Campaign Political Committees: Chairman and Campaign T Party Executive Committees Treasurer and Chairman (s	reasurer or Deputy Treas	• •
Except as noted above for an ECO received) the filing of the requir	, in any reporting period when the ed report is waived. However, the reporting date that no re	he filing officer must be no	n the account (no funds expended or stified in writing on the prescribed

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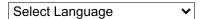
Name:		

PAPERS FILED 2024 Municipal Election	Date and Time	Initials	Initials
Identification Number:	Filed with City Clerk	of City Clerk	of Candidate
"Resign to Run" letter (applicable only to candidates serving on City Boards and must be submitted by Friday, January 27, 2024)			
Appointment of Campaign Treasurer – Form DS-DE9 (Due before opening of campaign account)			
Qualifying / Application Fee \$25.00 for the Candidate Manual and the \$220 (1% Assessment Fee) for a total of \$245 (Due after the campaign account has been opened and the first check must be made payable to the City of Haines City)			
Statement of Candidate - Form DS-DE84 (Due within 10 days of filing Appointment of Campaign Treasurer)			
Candidate Oath – Form DS-DE302NP (Due during qualifying)			
Notice of Logic & Accuracy Testing Notice – City Form (Due during qualifying)			
Financial Disclosure - Form 6 – 2024 Version (Due during qualifying)			

Loyalty Oath – City Form per Sections 876.05-876.10 of the Florida Statutes (Due during qualifying)	
Statement of Residency – City Form (Due during qualifying)	
Certification of Elector; Supervisor of Elections affidavit, personal affidavit, or valid voter registration card	
(Due during qualifying)	
Certification Letter to Candidate (Due to candidate when candidate qualified)	
Oath of Office (Due to candidate when a candidate is sworn in)	
Poll-Watcher Forms Optional – Must be filed before noon to SOE on the second Tuesday preceding the election (March 19, 2024 for the regular election and April 23, 2024 for the runoff election)	
TREASURERS REPORTS OR WAIVERS	
09/1/23 – 09/30/23 – Due by 1/10/23	
Due by 5:00 p.m.	
10/1/23 – 12/31/23 – Due by 1/10/24 Due by 5:00 p.m.	
1/1/24-1/31/24— Due by 2/10/24 (Monthly) Due by 5:00 p.m.	
2/1/24 – 2/29/24 – Due by 3/11/24 (Monthly)	
1st Treasurer's Report – M1	
Due by 5:00 p.m. on 3/8/24	

Reporting period Qualifying – 3/1/24		
2nd Transcorer's Report M2		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Treasurer's Report – M2		
Due by 5:00 p.m. on 3/22/24		
Reporting Period 3/2/24-3/15/24		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Treasurer's Report – M3		
Due by 5:00 p.m. on 3/29/24		
Reporting Period 3/16/24 - 3/28/24		
No Contributions After Midnight on Thursday 3/28/24		
Final with election – Final		
March 30, 2024, through close of account		
Due by 5:00 p.m. on 7/1/24		
Final Unopposed – 90 days after qualifying		
Due by 5:00 p.m.		
RUN-OFF TREASURERS REPORTS OR WAIVERS		
<i>Ist Treasurer's Report</i> – RO-1 (25 <sup>th</sup> day before election)		
Due by 5:00 p.m. on 4/5/2024		
Reporting Period 3/30/24 – 3/30/24		
This will be a waiver report since no contributions were allowed to be accepted after midnight on 3/28/2024 and the M3 report was filed.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Treasurer's Report – RO-2 (11 <sup>th</sup> day before election)		
Due by 5:00 p.m. on 4/19/24		
Reporting Period 4/1/24 - 4/12/24		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Treasurer's Report – RO-3		
Due by 5:00 p.m. on 4/27/24 (4th day before election)		
Reporting Period 4/13/24 - 4/26/24		
	1	l

No Contributions After Midnight on 4/26/24		
Final with runoff election – Final		
April 31, 2024 – Close of Account		
Due by 5:00 p.m. on 7/2/2024		



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# 2024 April Municipal Election

Election Date: 4/2/2024

(Website last updated at: 04/08/2024 9:53:54 am)

Registered Voters: 38,549
Ballots Counted: 5,739
Voter Turnout: 14.89%

**Precincts Reporting:** 

6/6

**Election Day:** 

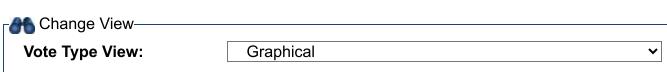
**Completely Reported** 

Vote By Mail:

**Completely Reported** 

# FINAL OFFICIAL RESULTS

# **Summary Results**



**☆ Dundee Amendment 1** 

Participating Precincts Reporting: 1 / 1



Choice Percent Votes
Yes for approval 31.43% 143

No against approval 68.57% 312

455

# ☆ Davenport Commissioner - Seat 1

Participating Precincts Reporting: 1 / 1



Choice Percent Votes
Linda M. Robinson 71.29% 509
Timothy Scott Woodlee 28.71% 205
714

## ☆ Davenport Commissioner - Seat 2

Participating Precincts Reporting: 1 / 1



 Choice
 Percent
 Votes

 Jeremy Clark
 57.52%
 409

 Christopher A. Lopez
 42.48%
 302

 711
 711

# ☆ Haines City - City Commission, Seat 3

Participating Precincts Reporting: 2 / 2



 Choice
 Percent
 Votes

 Joseph Burgos
 28.27%
 625

 Jayne Hall
 19.63%
 434

 Morris L. West
 52.10%
 1,152

 2,211
 2,211

# ☆ Haines City - City Commission, Seat 4

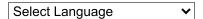
Participating Precincts Reporting: 2 / 2



Choice	Percent	Votes
Clarence Daniels	30.80%	672
Kim Downing	32.91%	718
Buster Raggs Sr	6.87%	150
Carlos Surita	29.42%	642
		2,182

☆ Lake Wales City Commission	ner, Seat 2		
Participating Precincts Reporting:	2/2		Show Detailed View
Choice		Percent	Votes
Brandon Alvarado		42.13%	939
Crystal Higbee		15.57%	347
Daniel Williams		42.31%	943
			2,229

☆ Lake Wales City Commissioner, Seat 4		
Participating Precincts Reporting: 2 / 2		Show Detailed View
Choice	Percent	Votes
Carol Gillespie	57.40%	1,327
Danny Krueger	42.60%	985
		2,312



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# 2024 Haines City Run-off Election

Election Date: 4/30/2024

(Website last updated at: 05/03/2024 9:15:30 am)

Registered Voters: 18,686
Ballots Counted: 1,566
Voter Turnout: 8.38%

**Precincts Reporting:** 

2/2

**Election Day:** 

**Completely Reported** 

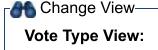
Vote By Mail:

**Completely Reported** 

# FINAL OFFICIAL RESULTS

# **Summary Results**

~



Graphical



Participating Precincts Reporting: 2 / 2



Choice Percent Votes
Clarence Daniels 47.18% 737
Kim Downing 52.82% 825

1,562