

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Joseph C. Carter

Case No.: FEC 22-061

TO: Joseph C. Carter
4421 Treehouse Lane, Apt. 21A
Tamarac, FL 33319

Richard M. Hoyer
3730 N. Pine Island Road, Apt. 149
Sunrise, FL 33351

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING (IH))

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** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8443550463090426453>. **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.

Tim Vaccaro

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.

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**Florida Elections Commission,
Petitioner,**

Case No.: FEC 22-061

v.

**Joseph C. Carter,
Respondent.**

_____ /

ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (“Commission”) at its meeting held on August 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom teleconferencing.

On February 24, 2025, Staff recommended to the Commission that there was probable cause to believe that the Florida Election Code was violated. The facts articulated in Staff’s Recommendation are adopted by reference and incorporated herein. Based on the Complaint, Report of Investigation, Staff’s Recommendation, and oral statements (if any) made at the probable cause hearing, the Commission finds that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with the following violation(s):

Count 1:

On or around March 3, 2022, Joseph C. Carter violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and published a political advertisement (campaign website) that contained express advocacy but did not include the required statutory disclaimer.

Count 2:

On or around March 3, 2022, Joseph C. Carter violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and published a political advertisement (video advertisement) that contained express advocacy but did not include the required statutory disclaimer.

Count 3:

On or around March 3, 2022, Joseph C. Carter violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and published a political advertisement (yard signs) that contained express advocacy but did not include the required statutory disclaimer.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on August 20, 2025.



Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director
For Joseph S. Van de Bogart, Chair
Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to:
Stephanie J. Cunningham, General Counsel
Joseph C. Carter, Respondent
Richard Marshall Hoye, Complainant

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO A HEARING

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

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

Third, you may request a formal hearing held before an administrative law judge in the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH), if you dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have 30 days from the date the Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission to request such a hearing. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order. At the hearing, you will have the right to present evidence

relevant to the violation(s) listed in this order, to cross-examine opposing witnesses, to impeach any witness, and to rebut the evidence presented against you.

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

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

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Joseph C. Carter

Case No.: FEC 22-061

TO: Joseph C. Carter
4421 Treehouse LN, Apt. 21A
Tamarac, FL 33319

Richard M. Hoyer
8320 W. Sunrise Blvd.
Plantation, FL 33322

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **Virtual Meeting Session One via Zoom link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87502116363?pwd=QPHprWtiAvKrbm6H0yViYFTRuxqMEI.1>; Meeting ID 875 0211 6363, Passcode: 183827.

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See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
July 28, 2025

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**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Joseph C. Carter

Case No.: FEC 22-061

STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(c), Florida Statutes, undersigned staff counsel files this written recommendation for disposition of the sworn complaint in this case recommending that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating **Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes**. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on February 14, 2024, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

1. On March 9, 2022, the Florida Elections Commission (“Commission”) received a sworn complaint from Richard Marshall Hoyer (“Complainant”), alleging that Joseph C. Carter (“Respondent”) violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

2. Respondent was a 2022 special election candidate for State Senate, District 33. Respondent’s Statement of Candidate form (“DS-DE 84”) was filed on August 10, 2021. (ROI Exhibit 2)¹

3. By letter dated November 9, 2022, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provision:

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senate, District 33, may have paid for and distributed political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer, as alleged in the complaint.

4. On August 10, 2021, Respondent filed his Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form (“DS-DE 9”) appointing himself as treasurer for his campaign. (ROI Exhibit 1, page 1) On January 10, 2022, Respondent filed a subsequent DS-DE 9 appointing Gisel Suarez as treasurer for his campaign. (ROI Exhibit 1, page 2)

5. By letter dated August 10, 2021, Donna S. Brown, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received his DS-DE 9. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1)

6. The acknowledgment letter advised Respondent that all candidates filing reports with the Division are required to use the electronic filing system (“EFS”) and provided Respondent

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

with a user identification number and initial password to grant access to the EFS. The letter further advised Respondent that all of the Division's publications and reporting forms were available on its website and directed Respondent to print out the *Calendar of Reporting Dates* as well as other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 3)

7. Complainant alleged that Respondent violated Florida's election laws by failing to include a proper disclaimer on four political advertisements, i.e., a campaign website, a video advertisement, yard signs, and door hangers.

8. Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, provides, that

Any political advertisement that is paid for by a candidate, except a write-in candidate, and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election must prominently state: 1. 'Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)'; or 2. 'Paid by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)'.

§106.143(1)(a), Fla. Stat.

9. The first political advertisement at issue is a website which contains language that expressly advocates for the election of a candidate: Joseph C. Carter for State Senate. The website is void of a disclaimer. (ROI Exhibit 4, pages 7 & 8)

10. The next political advertisement at issue is a video which contains language that expressly advocates for the election of a candidate: Joseph C. Carter for State Senate. The video contains the following deficient disclaimer: "Political Ad Paid for and Approved by Joseph C Carter for State Senate." (ROI Exhibit 4, page 6)

11. The next political advertisement at issue is a yard sign which contains language that expressly advocates for the election of a candidate: Vote Joseph C. Carter for State Senate. The yard signs contain the following deficient disclaimer: "POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR AN[D] APPROVED BY JOSEPH C CARTER FOR FLORIDA STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 33." (ROI Exhibit 4, page 3-5)

12. The last political advertisement at issue is a door hanger which contains language that expressly advocates for the election of a candidate: Joseph C. Carter for State Senate. The door hanger appears to contain a deficient disclaimer but is not completely legible. It appears to state, "PAID AND APPROVED BY" before it becomes illegible. (ROI Exhibit 4, page 1 & 2)

13. Candidates are required to prominently mark their political advertisements with the exact political disclaimer language as set forth under Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes. The *Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook* also references the statutory requirement and states that the disclaimer language used must be verbatim as variations are prohibited by law. The

handbook also provides examples of political disclaimers for non-incumbent, partisan candidates running for partisan office. (ROI Exhibit 5)

14. Respondent did not respond to Commission staff's investigation. (ROI Exhibit 6)

15. Respondent paid for and published political advertisements that did not include the required statutory disclaimer, i.e., "Political advertisement paid for and approved by <name of candidate>, <party affiliation>, for <office sought>" or "Paid by <name of candidate>, <party affiliation>, for <office sought>." The campaign website was void of a disclaimer. The video advertisement and yard signs contained deficient disclaimers which omitted Respondent's party affiliation and did not utilize the disclaimer language verbatim. The door hanger appears to contain a deficient disclaimer (as it contains additional language at the beginning of the disclaimer) but as the disclaimer is largely illegible, Commission staff declines to recommend probable cause.

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

17. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was a 2022 special election candidate for State Senate, District 33. Respondent paid for and published three political advertisements in the form of a campaign website, a video advertisement, and yard signs that did not include the required statutory disclaimer, i.e., "Political advertisement paid for and approved by <name of candidate>, <party affiliation>, for <office sought>" or "Paid by <name of candidate>, <party affiliation>, for <office sought>." Commission staff declines to recommend probable cause as to the door hanger due to the largely illegible disclaimer.

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

Count 1:

On or around March 3, 2022, Joseph C. Carter violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and published a political advertisement (campaign website) that contained express advocacy but did not include the required statutory disclaimer.

Count 2:

On or around March 3, 2022, Joseph C. Carter violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and published a political advertisement (video advertisement) that contained express advocacy but did not include the required statutory disclaimer.

Count 3:

On or around March 3, 2022, Joseph C. Carter violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and published a political advertisement (yard signs) that contained express advocacy but did not include the required statutory disclaimer.

Respectfully submitted on February 24, 2025.



Stephanie J. Cunningham
General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 25th day of February 2025.



Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
Case No.: FEC 22-061

Respondent: Joseph C. Carter

Counsel for Respondent: N/A

Complainant: Richard Marshall Hoyer

Counsel for Complainant: N/A

On March 9, 2022, the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) received a sworn complaint alleging that Respondent violated Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes. Commission staff investigated whether Respondent violated the following statute(s):

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, may have paid for and distributed political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer.

I. Preliminary Information:

1. Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senate, District 33; he was defeated in the special election held on March 8, 2022. Respondent was a first-time candidate.

2. An Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9) was filed with the Division of Elections (Division) on August 10, 2021. Respondent was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 9s, refer to Exhibit 1.¹

3. Respondent filed a Statement of Candidate with the Division on August 10, 2021, in which Respondent certified that he had been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. To review the Statement of Candidate, refer to Exhibit 2.

4. An acknowledgement letter was mailed to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 on August 10, 2021. The letter advised Respondent that all candidates filing reports with the Division are required to file by means of the Division's electronic filing system (EFS). Respondent was provided with a user identification number and initial password allowing access to the EFS.

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

II. Alleged Violation of Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes:

6. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by paying for and distributing political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not

¹ Another DS-DE 9 was filed on January 10, 2022, appointing Gisel Suarez as campaign treasurer.

include proper disclaimers.

7. Specifically, Complainant alleged that Respondent failed to include proper disclaimers on several political advertisements, including: door hanger, signs, a video advertisement, and a campaign website. Complainant provided photos and screenshots of the advertisements at issue. To review the advertisement images, refer to Exhibit 4.

8. Complainant provided photos of the front and back of the door hanger. On the front is the text, "JOSEPH C. CARTER FOR STATE SENATE FLORIDA'S 33RD DISTRICT." The text on the back is written in the first-person, and Respondent's campaign website, www.josephccarter.com, is printed near the bottom. A disclaimer is partially visible on the back of the door hanger. It begins with the text, "PAID AND APPROVED BY," but the rest of the disclaimer is not legible due to lack of focus and a circle of light that obstructs the image. To review the door hanger advertisement, refer to Exhibit 4, pages 1-2.

9. Complainant provided three photos of two identical signs posted at different locations. The first two photos show the entire text printed on the signs, including the phrase, "VOTE JOSEPH C. CARTER FOR STATE SENATE." Disclaimers are present at the bottom of both signs, but they are not legible in the photos. However, the third photo is a close-up image of the disclaimer, which states, "POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY JOSEPH C. CARTER FOR FLORIDA STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 33." To review the yard signs, refer to Exhibit 4, pages 3-5.

10. Complainant provided what appears to be a screenshot from a video. Text on the screenshot states, "JOSEPH C. CARTER FOR STATE SENATE FLORIDA'S 33RD DISTRICT." The disclaimer at the bottom of the screenshot states, "Political Ad Paid for and Approved by Joseph C. Carter for State Senate." To review the video screenshot, refer to Exhibit 4, page 6.

11. Finally, Complainant provided screenshots from Respondent's campaign website, which contains a graphic stating, "JOSEPH C. CARTER FOR STATE SENATE FLORIDA'S 33RD DISTRICT." No disclaimer is visible on the screenshots. At the bottom of the page is the copyright symbol followed by the text, "2022 Joseph C. Carter For State Senate." To review the website screenshots, refer to Exhibit 4, pages 7-8.

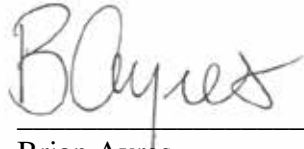
12. According to the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*, any political advertisement that is paid for by a candidate and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election, must prominently state either, "*Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)*" or "*Paid by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)*." The *Handbook* further states in bold font, "Also, the disclaimer language alternatives provided above must be verbatim as quoted in Section 106.143, Florida Statutes. Variations are prohibited by law." The *Handbook* provides visual examples of advertisements with correct verbiage and disclaimers. To review the pertinent parts of the *Handbook*, refer to Exhibit 5.

13. Respondent did not respond to the complaint.

14. I attempted to contact Respondent on four occasions for the purpose of providing an opportunity to discuss the allegations made in the complaint. As of the date of this report, neither my telephone calls nor email have been returned. Therefore, I am unable to ascertain whether Respondent has read Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and/or the *Candidate and Campaign*

Treasurer Handbook. To review the phone log and email, refer to Exhibit 6.

Respectfully submitted on February 14, 2024.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "BAyres", written in dark ink.

Brian Ayres
Investigation Specialist

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
Joseph C. Carter -- FEC 22-061

LIST OF EXHIBITS	
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits
Exhibit 1	Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9)
Exhibit 2	Statement of Candidate (DS-DE 84)
Exhibit 3	Acknowledgement Letter
Exhibit 4	Complaint Images
Exhibit 5	2022 Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook – Political Disclaimers
Exhibit 6	Phone Log

**APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER
AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN
DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES**

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

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

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

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2021 AUG 10 AM 9:03
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

79678

OFFICE USE ONLY

1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

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

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

Joseph Cecil Carter

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

6471 NW 22nd St, Sunrise, FL, 33313

4. Telephone

(954) 798-7288

5. E-mail address

jc@josephccarter.com

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

Florida State Senate, District 33

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

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

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

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

9. I have appointed the following person to act as my ☒ Campaign Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer

10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

Joseph Cecil Carter

11. Mailing Address

6471 NW 22nd St

12. Telephone

(954) 798-7288

13. City

Sunrise

14. County

Broward

15. State

Florida

16. Zip Code

33313

17. E-mail address

jc@josephccarter.com

18. I have designated the following bank as my

☒ Primary Depository ☐ Secondary Depository

19. Name of Bank

Synovus

20. Address

1790 East Commercial Boulevard

21. City

Fort Lauderdale

22. County

Broward

23. State

Florida

24. Zip Code

33334

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

25. Date

August 2, 2021

26. Signature of Candidate

X

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

I, Joseph Cecil Carter, do hereby accept the appointment
(Please Print or Type Name)

designated above as: ☒ Campaign Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer.

August 2, 2021

Date

X

Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

**APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER
AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN
DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES**

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

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

RECEIVED

2022 JAN 10 AM 9:42

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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

OFFICE USE ONLY

1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

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

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

Joseph C. Carter

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

PO Box 370
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302

4. Telephone

(954) 798-7288

5. E-mail address

JC@josephccarter.com

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

State Senate district 33

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

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

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

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

9. I have appointed the following person to act as my ☒ Campaign Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer

10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

Gisel Suarez

11. Mailing Address

11371 NW 32nd Place

12. Telephone

(754) 209-6031

13. City

Sunrise

14. County

Broward

15. State

FL

16. Zip Code

33323

17. E-mail address

giselsuarez2@msn.com

18. I have designated the following bank as my ☒ Primary Depository ☐ Secondary Depository

19. Name of Bank

Synovus

20. Address

1142 Weston Rd

21. City

Weston

22. County

Broward

23. State

Florida

24. Zip Code

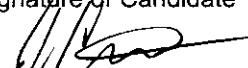
33326

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

25. Date

1/4/2022

26. Signature of Candidate

X 

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

I, Gisel Suarez, do hereby accept the appointment

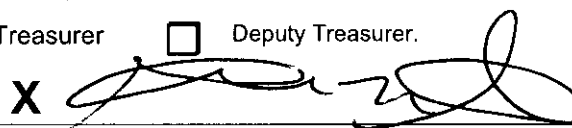
(Please Print or Type Name)

designated above as:

☒ Campaign Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer.

1/4/2022

Date

X 

Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2021 AUG 10 AM 9:03

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
777 N. W. 11th St.

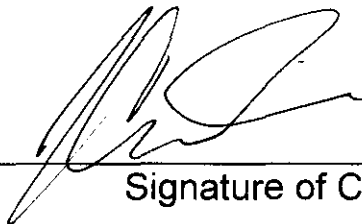
I, Joseph C. Carter,

candidate for the office of Florida State Senate, District 33;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of

Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

X



Signature of Candidate

8/2/2021
Date

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



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RON DESANTIS

Governor

LAUREL M. LEE

Secretary of State

August 10, 2021

Joseph Cecil Carter
6471 Northwest 22nd Street
Sunrise, Florida 33313

Dear Mr. Carter:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for the office of State Senator, which was placed on file in our office on August 10, 2021. Your name has been placed on the 2022 active candidate list.

Campaign Treasurer's Reports

Your first campaign treasurer's report will be due on **September 10, 2021**. The report will cover the period of August 1-31, 2021 (2021 M8). All candidates who file reports with the Division of Elections are required to file by means of the Division's Electronic Filing System (EFS).

EFS Access

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

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

Identification Number: 79628

Timely Filing

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

Division of Elections

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



Joseph Cecil Carter
August 10, 2021
Page Two

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

Electronic Receipts

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

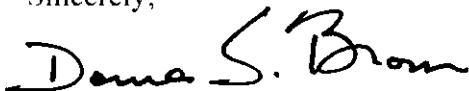
Instructions and Assistance

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

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

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

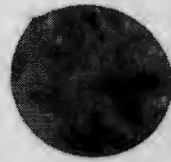


Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

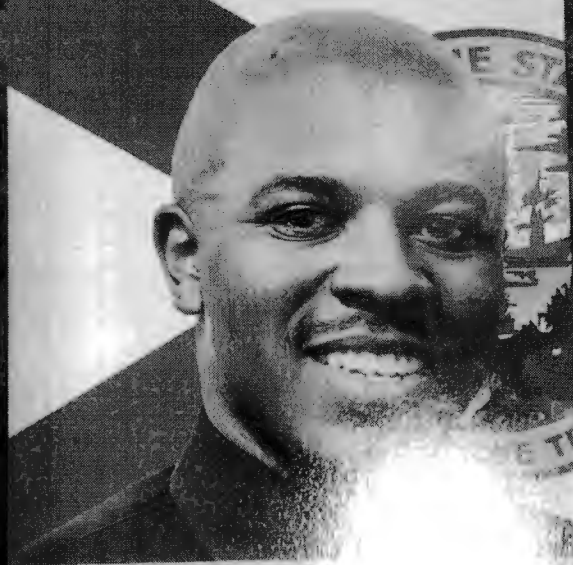
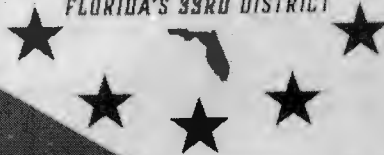
DSB/tds

Enclosures

Comp. Exhibit C



★ JOSEPH C. ★
★ CARTER ★
FOR STATE SENATE
FLORIDA'S 39RD DISTRICT



Election date May 19, 2014

jc@josephcarter.com



@josephcarter

for

Florida State Senate District 33

Issues:

EDUCATION - I believe we should give parents as much freedom in their child's education as possible. No child's options for a quality education should be limited to their zip code. I know more can be done to foster a cooperative relationship between public schools, charter schools, private schools, and parents who choose to homeschool.

JOBS - Small businesses and the jobs they create are vital to our economic growth and stability. The best way to promote healthy economic growth is by providing individuals with the proper education and training to fill a variety of in-demand jobs. It is important to ensure that we have a robust education to career pipeline by partnering trade schools and education centers with local businesses. This will also serve as an incentive for businesses to relocate plants and headquarters to Broward County.

HEALTHCARE - Every individual is unique and there is no one size fits all approach to healthcare. This is why I believe that every citizen should have the opportunity for healthcare that is affordable and customizable to the needs of their family. Allowing politics to play a role in the availability of treatments and medical protocols is bad for our collective health.

www.josephccarter.com

RAID AND APPROVED BY LOOSEFOY, C



Comp Exhibit D



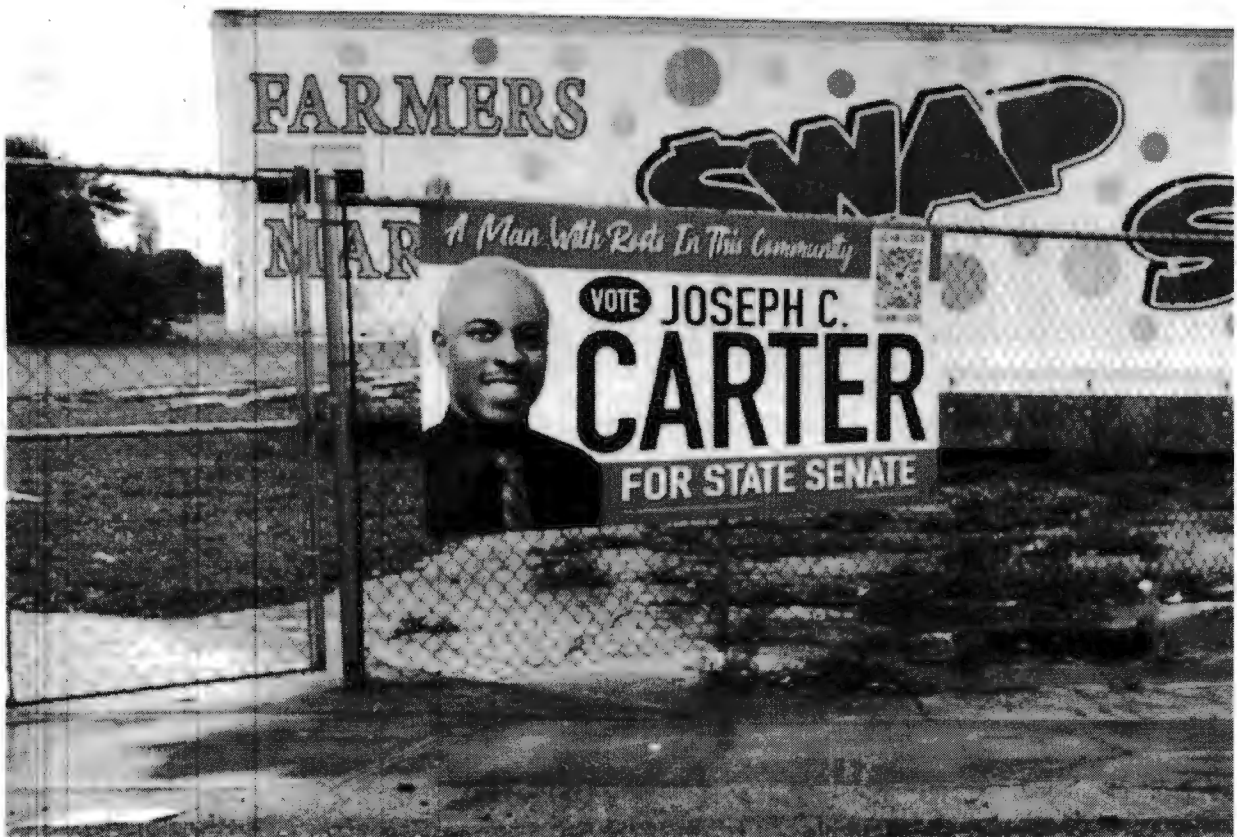




Exhibit F



Political Ad Paid for and Approved by Joseph C Carter
for State Senate

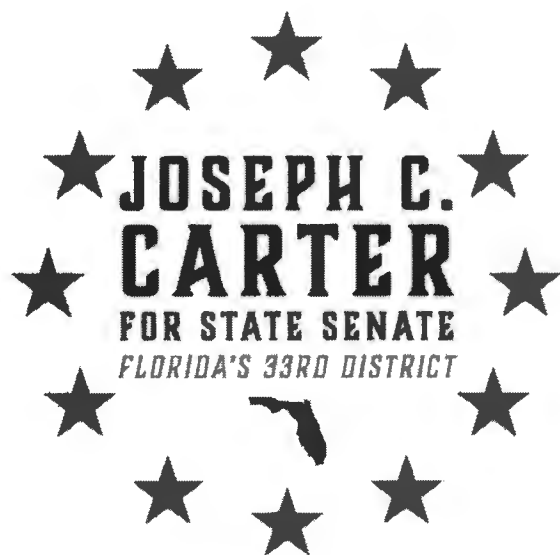
www.josephccarter.com



Donate



Home Issues News Events Media Contact



A man with roots in this community.

- Pro-Life
- Pro 2A
- School Choice
- Voter Rights
- Individual Liberty

Interested In Volunteering?

Text WIN2022 to 866-891-4169 to join our volunteer text list.

Election Day

0 5 : 1 4 : 4 1 : 4 7



ABOUT

Find out more about our candidate, Joseph C. Carter.

EVENTS

How can you help with our legislative agenda?

DISTRICT 33

How do I live in this district?

REGISTER TO VOTE

 [Contact Us](#)




[Donate](#)



[Home](#) [Issues](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Media](#) [Contact](#)

Enter your email here*

First Name

I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
Privacy • Terms

[Subscribe](#)

© 2022 Joseph C. Carter For State Senate.

[Contact Us](#)

Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook



Florida Department of State
Division of Elections
R. A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
850.245.6280

(Rev. 4/27/2022)

Chapter 12: Political Advertising

A political advertisement is a paid expression in a communications medium prescribed in Section [106.011\(4\)](#), Florida Statutes, whether radio, television, newspaper, magazine, periodical, campaign literature, direct mail, or display or by means other than the spoken word in direct conversation, which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a candidate or the approval or rejection of an issue.

(Section [106.011\(15\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Candidate Disclaimers

Except as noted below, any political advertisement that is paid for by a **candidate (except a write-in candidate)** and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election must prominently state:

“Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)” or “Paid by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought).”

Any political advertisement that is paid for by a **write-in candidate** and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election must prominently state:

“Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), write-in candidate, for (office sought)” or “Paid by (name of candidate), write-in candidate, for (office sought).”

(Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Also, the disclaimer language alternatives provided above must be verbatim as quoted in Section [106.143](#), Florida Statutes. Variations are prohibited by law.

Any political advertisement of a candidate running for **partisan office** shall express the name of the political party of which the candidate is seeking nomination or is the nominee.

If the **candidate for partisan office is running as a candidate with no party affiliation**, any advertisement of the candidate must state that the candidate has no party affiliation.

Candidates running for **non-partisan** office may not state the candidate’s political party affiliation in the disclaimer, or in the body of the advertisement. *Exception*: The candidate is not prohibited from stating the candidate’s partisan-related experience.

(Sections [106.143\(3\)](#) and [\(5\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Note: A candidate running for an office that has a district, group, or seat number does not have to indicate the district, group, or seat number in the political advertisement or disclaimer.

Exceptions to Disclaimer Requirements

The disclaimer requirements in Section [106.143](#), Florida Statutes, do not apply to any campaign message or political advertisement used by a candidate and the candidate's supporters or by a political committee if the message or advertisement is:

- Designed to be worn by a person.
- Placed as a paid link on an Internet website provided the message or advertisement is no more than 200 characters in length and the link directs the user to another Internet website that complies with the disclaimer requirements in Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes.
- Placed as a graphic or picture link where compliance with the requirements of Section [106.143](#), Florida Statutes, is not reasonably practical due to the size of the graphic or picture link and the link directs the user to another Internet website that complies with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes.
- Placed at no cost on an Internet website for which there is no cost to post content for public users.
- Placed or distributed on an unpaid profile or account which is available to the public without charge or on a social networking Internet website, as long as the source of the message or advertisement is patently clear from the content or format of the message or advertisement. A candidate or political committee may prominently display a statement indicating that the website or account is an official website or account of the candidate or political committee and is approved by the candidate or political committee. A website or account may not be marked as official without prior approval by the candidate or political committee.
- Distributed as a text message or other message via Short Message Service, provided the message is no more than 200 characters in length or requires the recipient to sign up or opt in to receive it.
- Connected with or included in any software application or accompanying function, provided that the user signs up, opts in, downloads, or otherwise accesses the application from or through a website that complies with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes.
- Sent by a third-party user from or through a campaign or committee's website, provided the website complies with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes.

- Contained in or distributed through any other technology-related item, service, or device for which compliance with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes, is not reasonably practical due to the size or nature of such item, service, or device as available, or the means of displaying the message or advertisement makes compliance with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes, impracticable.

(Section [106.143\(10\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Disclaimer requirements do not apply to individuals seeking a publicly elected position on a political party executive committee.

Examples of Advertisements with Disclaimers

Note: The word “*elect*” or “*re-elect*” is not required to be used in political advertisements. The word “*re-elect*” may not be used if the candidate is not the incumbent for the office sought.

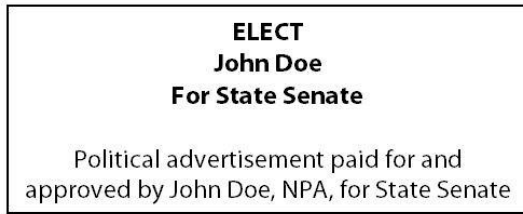
1. Non-incumbent, partisan candidate running for partisan office:

ELECT JANE DOE For State Representative District 9 Paid by Jane Doe, Rep., for State Representative	OR	ELECT JANE DOE For State Representative District 9 Political advertisement paid for and approved by Jane Doe, Republican, for State Representative
--	----	--

2. Incumbent, partisan candidate running for partisan office:

RE-ELECT JOHN DOE Sheriff Political advertisement paid for and approved by John Doe, Democrat, for Sheriff	OR	RE-ELECT John Doe Sheriff Paid by John Doe, Democrat, for Sheriff
--	----	--

3. Non-incumbent, no party affiliation candidate running for partisan office:



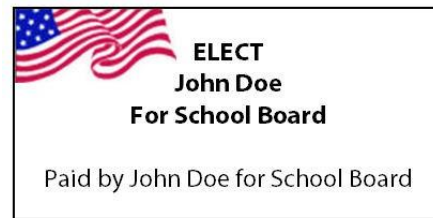
OR



4. Non-incumbent candidate running for nonpartisan office:



OR



5. Incumbent candidate running for nonpartisan office:



OR



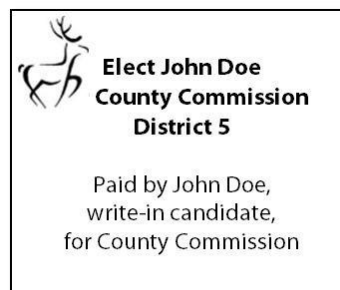
Disclaimer for Write-in Candidates

Any political advertisement that is paid for by a write-in candidate and that is published, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election **must prominently state:** *“Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), write-in candidate, for (office sought)”* **OR** *“Paid by (name of candidate), write-in candidate, for (office sought).”*

Example:



OR



**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
PHONE LOG
Case No.: FEC 22-061**

Respondent: Joseph Carter

Complainant: Richard Marshall Hoye

1. **Date and time:** June 20, 2023 @ 11:40 am
Name: Joseph Carter - Respondent
Phone #: 954-798-7288
Summary: I attempted to call Respondent. The call was unsuccessful and appears to have not connected to Respondent. I will follow up with another call and an email.
Entered by: Brian Ayres
2. **Date and time:** June 20, 2023 @ 11:45 am
Name: Joseph Carter – Respondent
Phone #: 954-798-7288
Summary: I attempted to call Respondent. The call connected, but there was no response or tone after connection to leave a message or speak with Respondent.
Entered by: Brian Ayres
3. **Date and time:** June 23, 2023 @ 2:00pm
Name: Joseph Carter – Respondent
Phone #: 954-798-7288
Summary: I attempted to call Respondent. The call did not go through and I was unable to leave a message.
Entered by: Brian Ayres

RESPONDENT INTERVIEW MEMO – Call details at #[LOG NUMBER]

Type and ask your case specific question(s) first, then ask the remaining questions.

- Did you specifically refer to the Handbook for your disclaimers used for your campaign?
- Did you refer to any additional sources regarding your disclaimer for your political advertisements?
- Did you change your disclaimer during your campaign? Or did you become aware of the inaccuracy of your disclaimer?
- Have you ever run for public office? If so, please name each office you ran for and state what year each election occurred.

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

Brian Ayres

From: Brian Ayres
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 11:44 AM
To: jc@josephccarter.com
Subject: Florida Elections Commission - FEC 22-061

Good Morning Mr. Carter,

I am investigator with the Florida Elections Commission. I am trying to reach you to discuss a case we have regarding your 2022 campaign for State Senate, District 33. I called today at 11:40 am and will try again soon.

Please let me know if you get this email, and please let me know if there is a better time to contact you.

Respectfully,

Brian Ayres

Investigation Specialist
Florida Elections Commission
107 W Gaines St., #224
(850) 404-5616
Brian.Ayres@myfloridalegal.com

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RESPONDENT INTERVIEW MEMO – Call details at #[LOG NUMBER]

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- Have you ever run for public office? If so, please name each office you ran for and state what year each election occurred.

- Have you ever been appointed to act as a campaign treasurer for a candidate? If so, please name each such candidate, the office each ran for, and state what year each election occurred.
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Please let me know if you get this email, and please let me know if there is a better time to contact you.

Respectfully,

Brian Ayres

Investigation Specialist
Florida Elections Commission
107 W Gaines St., #224
(850) 404-5616
Brian.Ayres@myfloridalegal.com



Florida Elections Commission

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

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

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



November 9, 2022

Joseph C. Carter
P. O. Box 370
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33302

RE: Case No.: FEC 22-061; Respondent: Joseph C. Carter

Dear Mr. Carter:

On March 9, 2022, the Florida Elections Commission received a complaint alleging you violated Florida's election laws. I have reviewed the complaint and find that it contains one or more **legally sufficient allegations**. The Commission staff will investigate the following alleged violation(s):

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senate, District 33, may have paid for and distributed political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer, as alleged in the complaint.

However, prior to an investigation, you have the option to **resolve your case now by** signing a minor violation consent order and **paying a fine of \$750**, per Rule 2B-1.003, Florida Administrative Code, **rather than the potential \$1,000 per violation** provided for in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes.

If you sign the consent order, **you would not be required to admit or deny the allegation(s)** in the complaint, but you would be required to immediately correct the violation, if feasible.

The signed consent order would then be considered by the Commission at its next available meeting and would constitute final action by the Commission once it is accepted and approved by the Commission. You and the Complainant will receive notice at least 14 days before any hearing at which your case is to be considered.

Please contact Todd Smith-Schoenwalder by phone at (850) 922-4539, by email at Todd.Smith-Schoenwalder@myfloridalegal.com, or at the address listed above, to accept this minor violation consent order.

If you choose not to resolve this case by consent order, an investigation will be conducted, the Commission will hold one or more hearings to determine whether the alleged violation(s) occurred and, if so, the amount of fine to be imposed upon you.

Joseph C. Carter
November 9, 2022
Page 2
FEC 22-061

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tim Vaccaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

TV/jd

COMPLAINT

The Commission's records and proceedings in a case are confidential until the Commission rules on probable cause. A copy of the complaint will be provided to the person against whom it is brought.

1. PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT:

Name: RICHARD MARSHALL HOYE Work Phone: (313) 910-4035
Address: 8320 W. SUNRISE BLVD. Home Phone: (313) 910-4035
City: PLANTATION County: BROWARD State: FL Zip Code: 33322

2. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT:

If you intend to name more than one individual or entity, please file multiple complaints. A person can be an individual, political committee, political party, electioneering communication organization, club, corporation, partnership, company, association, or other type of organization.

Name of individual or entity: JOSEPH C. CARTER
Address: P.O. BOX 370 Phone: (954) 798-7288
City: FT. LAUDERDALE County: BROWARD State: FL Zip Code: 33302

If individual is a candidate, list the office or position sought: STATE SENATE DIST. 33

Have you filed this complaint with the State Attorney's Office? (check one) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.271(2), F.S.? (check one) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.2715, F.S.? (check one) ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. ALLEGED VIOLATION(S):

Please attach a **concise** narrative statement in which you list the provisions of the Florida Election Code that you believe the person named above may have violated. The Commission has jurisdiction only to investigate provisions of Chapter 104 and Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Please include the following items as part of your attached statement:

- The facts and actions that you believe support the violations you allege;
- The names/telephone numbers of persons whom you believe may be witnesses to the facts;
- A copy or picture of any political advertisement(s) you mention in your statement;
- A copy of each document you mention in your statement;
- An explanation of why you believe information you reference from websites is relevant; and
- Any other evidence supporting your allegations.

SEE REVERSE SIDE OF DOCUMENT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any person who files a complaint while knowing that the allegations are false or without merit commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Sections 775.082 and 775.083, Florida Statutes.

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

4. **OATH:**

STATE OF FLORIDA

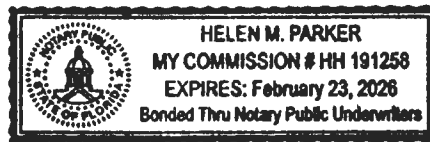
COUNTY OF BROWARD

I swear or affirm that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Richard Marshall Hop
Original Signature of Person Bringing Complaint

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of
March, 20 22

Helen M. Parker
Signature of Officer Authorized to Administer Oaths or Notary Public



(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

Personally Known ☒ Or Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced _____

5. **IMPROPERLY COMPLETED COMPLAINT FORMS MAY BE RETURNED:**

- You **MUST submit this** completed complaint **form** in order to file a complaint.
- You **MUST** complete **ALL FOUR** of the above sections of this form. **DO NOT** leave any blanks.
- You **MUST** submit the **ORIGINAL** complaint form. Copied/faxed/emailed forms are returned.
- Each complaint can only be filed against **ONE PERSON** or **ENTITY**. If you wish to file against multiple parties, you **MUST** submit a complaint form **for each party** you wish to file against.
- **DO NOT** submit multiple complaint forms with one set of attachments applying to multiple complaints. You **MUST** attach **copies** of attachments **to each complaint** to which they apply.
- **MAKE SURE** the alleged violation(s) of **Chapters 104 or 106** occurred within the last **2 years**.
- **MAKE SURE** your complaint is **sworn** and there is **no defect** to the **notarization** in Section 4.

EMERGENCY COMPLAINT AGAINST JOSEPH C. CARTER

Joseph C. Carter (“Carter”) has continuously and egregiously engaged in a systematic violation of the Florida Election Code in an effort to mislead the voters of Florida Senate District 33 in his bid for election to that seat. Specifically, Carter has regularly, repeatedly, and systematically hidden his political party affiliation from the District 33 voters in violation of §106.143, Florida Statutes (2021) and the spirit of Sunshine and transparency that is the crux of our Florida Election Code.

Carter is a candidate in the 2022 special election for State Senate District 33. A copy of his Division of Elections candidate page is attached hereto as Exhibit “A.” The special election for that seat is to be held on March 8, 2022 pursuant to Executive Order 21-224 issued by the Governor on October 27, 2021. A copy of the Executive Order is attached hereto as Exhibit “B.” During the course of his campaign for this seat, Carter has distributed multiple political advertisements including but not limited to door hangers, billboards, and video messages. None of these include the disclaimer as required by the Florida Election Code. That requirement reads, in pertinent part,

106.143 Political advertisements circulated prior to election; requirements.—

(1)(a) Any political advertisement that is paid for by a candidate, except a write-in candidate, and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election must prominently state:

1. “Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate) , **(party affiliation)**, for (office sought) ”; or
2. “Paid by (name of candidate) , **(party affiliation)** , for (office sought).”

§106.143, Florida Statutes (2021) (emphasis added). “Under the rules of statutory construction, by providing the required language explicitly within quotation marks the Legislature has indicated its intention that those are to be the exact words which are to be used.” Division of Election Advisory Opinion DE 06-12, Sept. 8, 2006.

In no less than four instances, Carter specifically omitted his party affiliation, from the disclaimer on his political advertisements. It should also be noted that his party affiliation appears nowhere else on these political advertisements so as to alert the reader of the information otherwise required by the Florida Election Code’s disclaimer requirements.

- 1) Photos of Carter’s non-compliant door hanger reflecting the unlawful disclaimer is attached as Composite Exhibit “C.”

- 2) Photos of Carter's non-compliant political advertisement signs which are posted across the District reflecting the unlawful disclaimer is attached as Composite Exhibit "D." A close-up of the disclaimer from on the signs is attached as Exhibit "E."

The following two websites are also non-compliant and reflect the unlawful disclaimer that Carter systematically uses to defraud the voters of Senate District 33.

- 3) The first is <https://fb.watch/bunDItpwn/> which depicts Carter's non-compliant video political advertisement. A screenshot of the final slide from that ad depicting the unlawful disclaimer is attached hereto as Exhibit "F."
- 4) The second is <https://www.josephccarter.com/>, Carter's campaign website, which is not only non-compliant in that it does not contain any disclaimer required by the Florida Election Code, but is also unlawful in that it is used to distribute and share Carter's unlawful and non-compliant political advertisement video discussed above. A screenshot of the homepage from Carter's non-compliant campaign website is attached hereto as Exhibit "G." Of importance is also the fact that no disclaimer appears on any of the sub-pages found within the website either.

Relating to Carter's unlawful campaign webpage, it should be noted that the Division has made clear, "...any individual web page, including web pages which are part of a multi-page website, which meets the definition of a political advertisement must contain the disclaimer language required by section 106.143, Florida Statutes." Division of Election Advisory Opinion DE 05-02, February 22, 2005.

Carter should be immediately sanctioned, fined, and ordered to cease and desist from his continued attempts to defraud the voters of District 33 by blatantly violating the above-evidenced sections of the Florida Election Code.

Exhibit A

Candidate Tracking System

2022 Special Election - STR 88 & 94 & STS 33

State Senator

District 33

Joseph C. Carter

Republican

Address

Post Office Box 370
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302

Campaign Treasurer

Gisel Suarez
11371 Northwest 32nd Place
Sunrise, FL 33323-

Phone: (954)798-7288 [📞](#)

Status:Qualified

Date Filed:08/10/2021

Date Qualified:11/17/2021

Method:Paid Qualifying Fee

[Campaign Finance Activity](#)

[Campaign Documents](#)

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-224

(Special Elections – Senate District 33, House District 88, and House District 94)

WHEREAS, section 100.101(2), Florida Statutes, provides that a vacancy in the membership of the State Senate or the State House of Representatives shall be filled by special election; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to article X, section 3 of the Florida Constitution, and section 114.01(1)(d), Florida Statutes, vacancies now exist in the State Senate and the State House of Representatives due to the resignations of Senator Perry E. Thurston, Jr., Senate District 33, Representative Omari J. Hardy, House District 88, and Representative Bobby B. DuBose, House District 94; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 100.141(1), Florida Statutes, the Governor, after consultation with the Secretary of State, shall issue an order declaring the dates on which the special elections shall be held; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 100.111(2), Florida Statutes, prior to setting the special election dates, the Governor shall consider any upcoming elections in the jurisdictions where the special elections will be held; and

WHEREAS, an upcoming election is scheduled to be held in Congressional District 20, if necessary, on January 11, 2022; and

WHEREAS, upcoming elections are scheduled to be held in Broward County and Palm Beach County on March 8, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, in obedience to my solemn constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. A Special Election shall be held in Senate District 33, House District 88, and House District 94 to fill the vacancies in the State Senate and the State House of Representatives.

Section 2. A Special Primary Election shall be held on January 11, 2022.

Section 3. A Special Election shall be held on March 8, 2022, if necessary, to select the State Senator for Senate District 33, the State Representative for House District 88, and the State Representative for House District 94.

Section 4. The Secretary of State shall work to implement other scheduling requirements for these special elections.



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 27th day of October, 2021.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

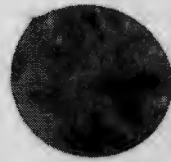
ATTEST:



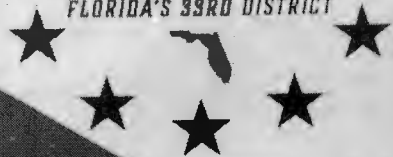
SECRETARY OF STATE

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2021
TALLAHASSEE
FLORIDA

Comp. Exhibit C



★ JOSEPH C. ★
★ CARTER ★
FOR STATE SENATE
FLORIDA'S 33RD DISTRICT



Election date May 19, 2014

jc@josephcarter.com



@josephcarter



Florida State Senate District 33

Issues:

EDUCATION - I believe we should give parents as much freedom in their child's education as possible. No child's options for a quality education should be limited to their zip code. I know more can be done to foster a cooperative relationship between public schools, charter schools, private schools, and parents who choose to homeschool.

JOBS - Small businesses and the jobs they create are vital to our economic growth and stability. The best way to promote healthy economic growth is by providing individuals with the proper education and training to fill a variety of in-demand jobs. It is important to ensure that we have a robust education to career pipeline by partnering trade schools and education centers with local businesses. This will also serve as an incentive for businesses to relocate plants and headquarters to Broward County.

HEALTHCARE - Every individual is unique and there is no one size fits all approach to healthcare. This is why I believe that every citizen should have the opportunity for healthcare that is affordable and customizable to the needs of their family. Allowing politics to play a role in the availability of treatments and medical protocols is bad for our collective health.

www.josephccarter.com

RAID AND APPROVED BY LOOSEFOY, C



Comp Exhibit D





POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR/AN APPROVED BY JOSEPH C. CARTER FOR FLORIDA STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 33.

FOR STATE

CARTER

Exhibit F



Political Ad Paid for and Approved by Joseph C Carter
for State Senate

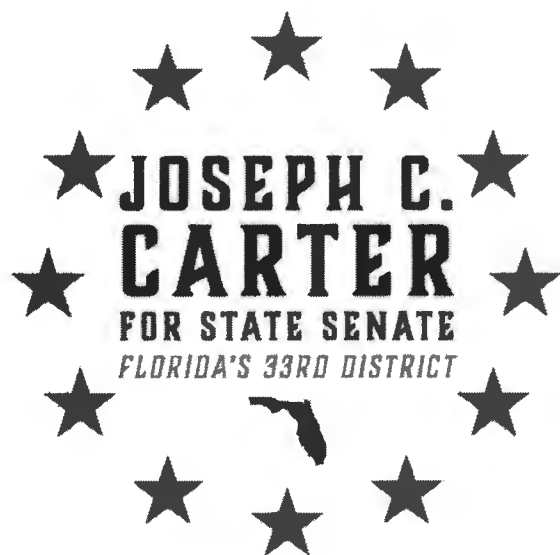
www.josephccarter.com



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A man with roots in this community.

- Pro-Life
- Pro 2A
- School Choice
- Voter Rights
- Individual Liberty

Interested In Volunteering?

Text WIN2022 to 866-891-4169 to join our volunteer text list.

Election Day

0 5 : 1 4 : 4 1 : 4 7



ABOUT

Find out more about our candidate, Joseph C. Carter.

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How can you help with our legislative agenda?

DISTRICT 33

How do I live in this district?

REGISTER TO VOTE

Learn more about how to register to vote. [Contact Us](#)



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