

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Patrick Lee Cooper

Case No.: FEC 22-423

TO: Patrick Lee Cooper
4226 Harrison Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

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

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING (IH))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on **February 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **402 South Monroe Street, 12 HOB, Tallahassee, Florida 32399**. Due to heightened security access requirements, please bring only essential items into the building and plan to arrive early to allow for delays coming through security.

Failure to appear in accordance with this notice will constitute a waiver of your right to participate in the hearing. Continuances will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

This hearing will be conducted pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, which governs your participation as follows:

If you are the Respondent, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission. However, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless you request to be heard or the Commission requests that your case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, your case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are the Complainant, you may attend the hearing, but you will *not* be permitted to address the Commission. In addition, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless the Respondent requests to be heard or the Commission requests that the case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, the case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are an Appellant, and you have requested a hearing, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission.

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
January 19, 2024

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 to 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 22-423

v.

Patrick Lee Cooper,
Respondent.

_____ /

ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 15, 2023, in Tallahassee, Florida.

On June 21, 2023, Staff recommended to the Commission that there was probable cause to believe that the Florida Election Code was violated. The facts articulated in Staff's Recommendation are adopted by reference and incorporated herein. Based on the Complaint, Report of Investigation, Staff's Recommendation, and oral statements (if any) made at the probable cause hearing, the Commission finds that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with the following violation(s):

Count 1:

On or about August 19, 2022, Patrick Lee Cooper violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when he failed to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that he would not be filing his 2022 P7 Report.

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

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on November 15, 2023.



Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director
For Chad Mizelle, Chairman
Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to:
Stephanie J. Cunningham, General Counsel
Patrick Lee Cooper, Respondent
Division of Elections, Complainant

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO A HEARING

As the Respondent, you may elect to resolve this case in several ways. First, you may elect to resolve this case by 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: Patrick Lee Cooper

Case No.: FEC 22-423

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

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

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **November 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **402 South Monroe Street, 12 HOB, Tallahassee, Florida 32399**. Due to heightened security access requirements, please bring only essential items into the building and plan to arrive early to allow for delays coming through security.

Failure to appear in accordance with this notice will constitute a waiver of your right to participate in the hearing. Continuances will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

This hearing will be conducted pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, which governs your participation as follows:

If you are the Respondent, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission. However, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless you request to be heard or the Commission requests that your case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, your case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are the Complainant, you may attend the hearing, but you will *not* be permitted to address the Commission. In addition, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless the Respondent requests to be heard or the Commission requests that the case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, the case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are an Appellant, and you have requested a hearing, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission.

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
October 31, 2023

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 to 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

107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050

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

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



September 6, 2023

Patrick Lee Cooper
4226 Harrison Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

RE: Case No.: FEC 22-423; Respondent: Patrick Lee Cooper

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The Florida Elections Commission at its August 15, 2023, virtual meeting was unable to hear this case. Therefore, this case has been rescheduled for its next meeting, which is scheduled for November 14-15, 2023, in Tallahassee. A notice of hearing indicating the exact date and time will be mailed approximately 14 days before the hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the number listed above or at fec@myfloridalegal.com.

Sincerely,

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director

TV/dm

cc: Division of Elections, Complainant

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Patrick Lee Cooper

Case No.: FEC 22-423

TO: Patrick Lee Cooper
4226 Harrison Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Division of Elections
500 South Bronough Street, Room 316
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION)

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard**, at the following location: **Virtual Meeting**.

Register in advance for this meeting via Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYudumrjgoGNJ2UhnWkz6Q8JF6AOXxKwdP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Failure to appear in accordance with this notice will constitute a waiver of your right to participate in the hearing. Continuances will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

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See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
August 1, 2023

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If this is a hearing to consider **an appeal from an automatic fine**, the Filing Officer has imposed a fine on you for your failure to file a campaign treasurer's report on the designated due date and, by filing an appeal, you have asked the Commission to consider either (1) that the report was in fact timely filed; or (2) that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure to file the report timely. You are required to prove your case. If the Commission finds that the report was filed timely or that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure, it may waive the fine, in whole or in part. The Commission may reduce a fine after considering the factors in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes. If the Commission finds that the report was not timely filed and there were no unusual circumstances, the fine will be upheld.

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Respondent may argue why the established facts in the Staff Recommendation do not support the violations charged in the Order of Probable Cause. At Respondent's request, the Commission may determine whether Respondent's actions in the case were willful. The Respondent may also address the appropriateness of the recommended fine. If Respondent claims that his limited resources make him unable to pay the statutory fine, *he must provide the Commission with written proof of his financial resources* at the hearing. A financial affidavit form is available from the Commission Clerk.

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Patrick Lee Cooper

Case No.: FEC 22-423

STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(c), Florida Statutes, undersigned staff counsel files this written recommendation for disposition of the referral in this case recommending that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating **Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes**, and **no probable cause** to charge Respondent with violating **Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes**. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on February 27, 2023, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

1. On October 19, 2022, the Florida Elections Commission (“Commission”) received a referral from the Department of State, Division of Elections (“Division”), alleging that Patrick Lee Cooper (“Respondent”) violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

2. Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5. Respondent’s Statement of Candidate form was filed on June 17, 2022. (ROI Exhibit 2)¹

3. By letter dated December 16, 2022, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provisions:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5, failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed on that date because he had not received funds, made contributions, or expended reportable funds during the 2022 P7 reporting period.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the 2022 P7 reporting period.

4. By letter dated June 21, 2022, Donna S. Brown, Chief, Bureau of Election Records, sent Respondent a letter acknowledging that the Division had received his Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form and that his name was placed on the 2022 active candidate list. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1)

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

5. The acknowledgment letter advised Respondent that all candidates filing reports with the Division are required to use the electronic filing system (“EFS”) and provided Respondent with a user identification number and initial password to grant access to the EFS. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 1) The letter further advised Respondent that all of the Division’s publications and reporting forms were available on its website and directed Respondent to print out the *Calendar of Reporting Dates* as well as other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 2)

6. Respondent’s 2022 P7 Report was due to be filed by August 19, 2022; however, Respondent failed to timely file the report or notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. *See* Compl. By letters dated August 22, 2022, and September 23, 2020², the Division notified Respondent that his 2022 P7 Report had not been received. The letters also notified Respondent that he was still required to notify the Division if he had no reportable financial activity. (ROI Exhibits 4 & 5) The September 23, 2020, letter was confirmed delivered. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 2)

7. A subpoena was issued to Respondent’s designated campaign depository to ascertain whether any financial activity occurred during the relevant reporting period, i.e., August 6, 2022 – August 18, 2022. The financial institution was unable to locate a campaign account in Respondent’s name. (ROI Exhibit 7)

8. Respondent was given multiple opportunities to respond to Commission staff’s investigation but failed to do so. (ROI Exhibit 8; ROI, p. 2, ¶¶9-10)

9. As it appears that Respondent had no financial activity, Respondent was required to notify the filing officer in writing that he would not be filing his 2022 P7 Report on the prescribed reporting date but failed to do so. Therefore, it does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in his 2022 P7 Report as the report was waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.

10. “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).

11. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5. Respondent failed to timely file his 2022 P7 Report or notify the filing officer that no report would be filed. It appears that Respondent had no financial activity during the relevant reporting period, and therefore, was required to notify the filing officer in writing that he would not be filing his 2022 P7 Report on the prescribed reporting date but failed to do so. It does not appear that Respondent falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information in his 2022 P7 Report as the report was waived due to a lack of reportable financial activity.

² The date on the September 23, 2020, letter contains a scrivener’s error in the year. The USPS Tracking confirmation shows that it was received on September 29, 2022. (ROI Exhibit 5, page 2)

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

Count 1:

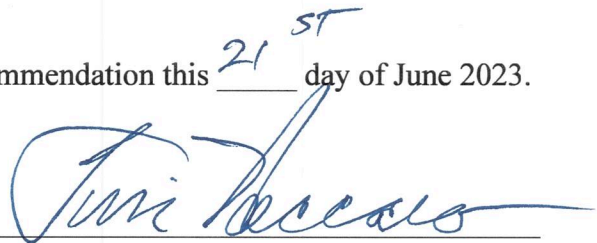
On or about August 19, 2022, Patrick Lee Cooper violated Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes, when he failed to notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that he would not be filing his 2022 P7 Report.

Respectfully submitted on June 21, 2023.



Stephanie J. Cunningham
General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 21ST day of June 2023.



Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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

Case Number: FEC 22-423

Sections 106.07(7) and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes, failure of a candidate or political committee that did not receive any contributions or make any expenditures during a reporting period to notify timely the filing officer, in writing, that no report is being filed or failure to file a campaign report to reflect financial activity.

Respondent: Patrick Lee Cooper

Respondent's Atty: N/A

Division of Elections (Division)

Referral Filed: October 19, 2022

Respondent Type: Candidate

I. Preliminary Information:

1. Respondent was a 2022 candidate for State Senate, District 5; he was defeated in the general election held on November 8, 2022. Respondent was a first-time candidate.

2. An Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9) was filed on June 17, 2022. Respondent was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 9, refer to Exhibit 1.¹

3. Respondent filed a Statement of Candidate with the Division on June 17, 2022, in which Respondent certified he had been provided access to read and understand Chapter 106, F.S. To review the Statement of Candidate, refer to Exhibit 2.

4. An acknowledgement letter was mailed to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 on June 21, 2022, advising Respondent that all candidates filing reports with the Division are required to file by means of the Division's electronic filing system (EFS). Respondent was provided with a user identification number and initial password allowing access to the EFS.

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

6. The Division sent correspondence to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report, or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed: 2022 P7. The letter included reference to the filing date for the report. To review the failure to file correspondence, refer to Exhibit 4.

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

7. On September 23, 2022², the Division sent a letter marked “Final Notice” with delivery confirmation to the address provided on the DS-DE 9 notifying Respondent that the following campaign report, or the required notification that no reportable activity occurred, had not been filed: 2022 P7. The letter was confirmed delivered on September 29, 2022. To review the letter marked “Final Notice” and delivery confirmation, refer to Exhibit 5.

II. Alleged Violation of Sections 106.07(7), and 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes:

8. I investigated whether Respondent violated these sections of the election laws either by not notifying the filing officer, in writing, that no report would be filed due to not receiving any contributions or making expenditures during the following reporting period or by not a filing campaign report to reflect financial activity for the reporting period. To review the filing history, refer to Exhibit 6.

| Report | Report Cover Period | Due Date | Report or Waiver Required | Exhibit 7 ³ |
|---------|---------------------|----------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2022 P7 | 8/6/22 – 8/18/22 | 8/19/22 | Waiver | 7 |

9. Respondent did not respond to the referral.

10. I attempted to contact Respondent on three occasions for the purpose of providing an opportunity to discuss the allegations made in the referral. As of the date of this report, Respondent has not replied to my emails. When I called the number specified on Respondent’s qualifying documents, an unidentified individual answered and stated that I had reached the wrong number.⁴ Therefore, I am unable to ascertain whether Respondent has read Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and/or the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*. To review the phone log and emails, refer to Exhibit 8.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR:



Date: February 27, 2023 _____

² The Division’s “Final Notice” was erroneously dated September 23, 2020.

³ I subpoenaed campaign account records from the designated campaign depository. However, the campaign depository provided notification declaring that it had no record of a campaign account and/or no records from the account during the relevant timeframe. To review the depository’s affidavit, refer to Exhibit 7.

⁴ Commission staff verified that the phone number dialed was registered solely to Respondent.

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
Patrick Lee Cooper -- FEC 22-423

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

RECEIVED

2022 JUN 17 AM 10:58

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

HAND DELIVERED

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.

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)

Patrick Lee Cooper

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

4226 Harrison Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

4. Telephone

(904) 312-8598

5. E-mail address

patcoop80@gmail.com

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

Florida Senate District 5

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 Democrat Party candidate.

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

10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

Patrick Lee Cooper

11. Mailing Address

4226 Harrison Street

12. Telephone

(904) 312-8598

13. City

Jacksonville

14. County

Duval

15. State

FL

16. Zip Code

32207

17. E-mail address

patcoop80@gmail.com

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

19. Name of Bank

Hancock Whitney

20. Address

101 N Monroe St

21. City

Tallahassee

22. County

Leon

23. State

FL

24. Zip Code


32301

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

6/17/2022

26. Signature of Candidate



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

I, Patrick Lee Cooper, do hereby accept the appointment
(Please Print or Type Name)

designated above as: Campaign Treasurer. Deputy Treasurer.

6/17/2022

Date


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
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2022 JUN 17 AM 11:24
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Hand Delivered

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)

Patrick Lee Cooper

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

4226 Harrison Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

4. Telephone

(904) 312-8598

5. E-mail address

patcoop80@gmail.com

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

Florida Senate District 5

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

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10. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

Patrick Lee Cooper

11. Mailing Address

4226 Harrison Street

12. Telephone

(904) 312-8598

13. City

Jacksonville

14. County

Duval

15. State

FL

16. Zip Code

32207

17. E-mail address

patcoop80@gmail.com

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19. Name of Bank

Hancock Whitney

20. Address

101 N Monroe St

21. City

Tallahassee

22. County

Leon

23. State

FL

24. Zip Code

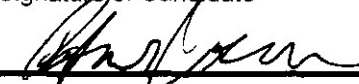
32301

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

6/17/2022

26. Signature of Candidate



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

I, Patrick Lee Cooper, do hereby accept the appointment
(Please Print or Type Name)

designated above as: Campaign Treasurer. Deputy Treasurer.

6/17/2022

Date


Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

**STATEMENT OF
CANDIDATE**

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

RECEIVED
OFFICE USE ONLY

2022 JUN 17 AM 10:58

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

HAND DELIVERED

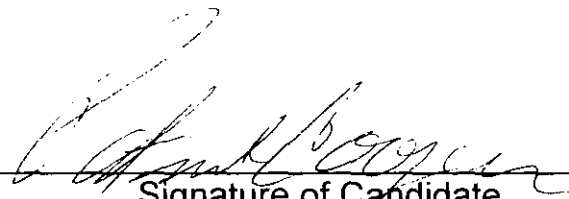
I, Patrick Lee Cooper,

candidate for the office of State Senate District 5;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of

Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

X



Signature of Candidate

6/17/2022

Date

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



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

June 21, 2022

Patrick Lee Cooper
4226 Harrison Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Dear Mr. Cooper:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for the office of State Senator, which was placed on file in our office on June 17, 2022. Your name has been placed on the 2022 active candidate list.

Campaign Treasurer's Reports

Your first campaign treasurer's report will be due on **June 24, 2022**. The report will cover the period of June 1 -17, 2022 (2022 P1). All candidates who file reports with the Division of Elections are required to file by means of the Division's Electronic Filing System (EFS).

EFS Access

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

EFS Website Address: <https://efs.dos.state.fl.us>
Identification Number: 82563

Timely Filing

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

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.myflorida.com/elections)



Patrick Lee Cooper
June 21, 2022
Page Two

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

Electronic Receipts

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

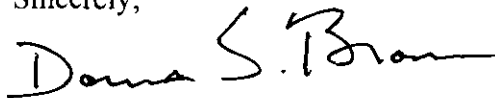
Instructions and Assistance

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

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

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

DSB/bct

Enclosures



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

August 22, 2022

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

CAN 82563

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Our records indicate that you have not filed either your campaign treasurer's report or notification that no reportable activity occurred, whichever is applicable. The filing date was August 19, 2022.

The law (s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) requires the filing officer to immediately notify you about the missed filing date and the automatic fines that will be assessed for late filing of a report, if a report was due.

- If reportable activity occurred and you have not filed a report, statutory fines are automatically assessed as follows until you file your report:

\$50 per day for the first 3 days late

\$500 per day for each day after the 3rd day late

If the required report immediately precedes a primary and general election, the automatic fine is \$500 for each late day.

The total fine for the untimely report cannot exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the cover period. Even if you end up filing your report late, we cannot waive the statutory fines. We will notify you of the specific amount of fines owed once you file your report. You have 20 days from the day you receive the notice to pay the fine or to appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission.

- If no reportable activity occurred for the report date(s), you are still required to notify us in writing, via the Division's Electronic Filing System, that no reportable activity occurred. No automatic fines are statutorily assessed.

However, in all cases, failure to file and/or untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

Final Notice
Delivery Confirmation:

USPS TRACKING # **9114 9022 0085 2074 1092 60**
& CUSTOMER RECEIPT For Tracking or inquiries go to USPS.com
or call 1-800-222-1811.

September 23, 2020

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

CAN 82563

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Report</u> | <u>Cover Period</u> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 2022 | P7 | 8/6/22 - 8/18/22 |

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

Tracking Number:

[Remove X](#)

9114902200852074109260

[Copy](#)

[Add to Informed Delivery](#)

(<https://informedelivery.usps.com/>)

Latest Update

Your item was delivered to an individual at the address at 5:16 pm on September 29, 2022 in JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207.

Delivered

Delivered, Left with Individual

JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

September 29, 2022, 5:16 pm

[See All Tracking History](#)

Feedback

Text & Email Updates



USPS Tracking Plus®



Product Information



[See Less ^](#)

Track Another Package

Enter tracking or barcode numbers



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

Florida Department of State - Division of Elections

Florida Election System Reports

Candidate/Committee Lookup

Candidate Name: Patrick Lee Cooper

Name:

Account: 82563

Election:

Acct:

Type:

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

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HARRISON

**AFFIDAVIT
OF CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS**

Customer Name as described in Subpoena;

Patrick Lee Cooper

Case No. FEC 22-423 Subpoena No. 22-423-062

DOL# 13918

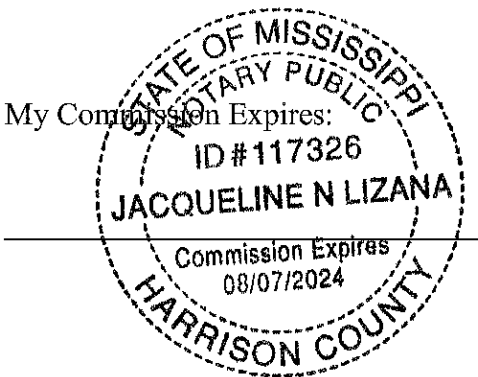
PERSONALLY CAME AND APPEARED before me, notary public in and for the aforesaid county and state,
Kristen Chapman, Legal Specialist and states as follows:

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

Kristen Chapman
Affiant's Signature

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

Jacqueline N. Lizana
Notary Public



**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
PHONE LOG
Case No.: FEC 22-423**

Respondent: Patrick Lee Cooper

Complainant: Division of Elections

1. **Date and time:** 1/17/23 @ 2:30pm
Name: Patrick Lee Cooper
Phone #: 904-312-8598
Summary: I called the number provided on Respondent's qualifying documents. I spoke to someone who did not provide their name; however, when I identified that I was calling from the Commission and asked for Respondent, I was told that I had reached the wrong number. I'm double-checking available phone numbers once again.
[**Note:** Double-checking qualifying documents. Melissa database confirmed this was a cell number that is registered to Mr. Cooper.]
Entered by: CHS
2. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:
3. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:
4. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:
5. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:
6. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

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

- 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 Treasurer Handbook*? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Did you receive any other materials from your filing officer? If so, please describe them.
- Why were you unable to file any campaign treasurer reports (or waivers)?
- Did someone advise you that filing campaign treasurer reports (or waivers) was not necessary?
- Did you open a new campaign depository or use a pre-existing one?
- Did your mailing address change during the campaign?
- During your campaign, did you reach out to the Division (or any other entity) for assistance in completing or filing campaign treasurer reports?
- Division records show that you acted as your own campaign treasurer. Is this accurate?
- Do you have anything else to add for the Commission's consideration regarding the charges specified in the letter of legal sufficiency in this case?

Fw: Florida Elections Commission 22-423

Courtney Harrold <Courtney.Harrold@myfloridalegal.com>

Wed 1/18/2023 5:00 PM

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

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

Good afternoon, Mr. Cooper:

I wanted to follow-up regarding my current review of FEC 22-423 and your 2022 campaign. Yesterday, I attempted reaching you via phone (904-312-8598), but was unsuccessful. Has your phone number changed in the past few months?

I have a few questions to ask about your 2022 P7 reporting period. Can you please get back with me to schedule a phone interview?

Thank you and I look forward to speaking with you,

Courtenay Harrold Sheppard

Investigation Specialist

Florida Elections Commission

107 W. Gaines St., #224

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(Ph:) 850-922-4539

From: Courtney Harrold <Courtney.Harrold@myfloridalegal.com>**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:39 PM**To:** patcoop80@gmail.com <patcoop80@gmail.com>**Subject:** Florida Elections Commission 22-423

Good afternoon, Mr. Cooper:

I'm reaching out to schedule a time to speak about our agency's review of your case, FEC 22-423. When would you have availability to answer a few questions regarding your 2022 campaign?

I look forward to speaking with you.

Have a nice evening,

Courtenay Harrold Sheppard

Investigation Specialist

Florida Elections Commission

107 W. Gaines St., #224

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(Ph:) 850-922-4539

**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
PHONE LOG**

Case No.: FEC 22-423

Respondent: Patrick Lee Cooper

Complainant: Division of Elections

1. **Date and time:** 1/17/23 @ 2:30pm
Name: Patrick Lee Cooper
Phone #: 904-312-8598
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[**Note:** Double-checking qualifying documents. Melissa database confirmed this was a cell number that is registered to Mr. Cooper.]
Entered by: CHS

2. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

3. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

4. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

5. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

6. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

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

- 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 Treasurer Handbook*? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it?
- Did you receive any other materials from your filing officer? If so, please describe them.
- Why were you unable to file any campaign treasurer reports (or waivers)?
- Did someone advise you that filing campaign treasurer reports (or waivers) was not necessary?
- Did you open a new campaign depository or use a pre-existing one?
- Did your mailing address change during the campaign?
- During your campaign, did you reach out to the Division (or any other entity) for assistance in completing or filing campaign treasurer reports?
- Division records show that you acted as your own campaign treasurer. Is this accurate?
- 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?



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



December 16, 2022

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

RE: Case No.: FEC 22-423; Respondent: Patrick Lee Cooper

Dear Mr. Cooper:

On October 19, 2022, the Florida Elections Commission received a complaint alleging that you violated Florida's election laws. I have reviewed the complaint and find that it contains one or more **legally sufficient allegations**. The Commission staff will investigate the following alleged violations:

Section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5, failed to notify the filing officer on the prescribed reporting date that no report would be filed on that date because he had not received funds, made contributions, or expended reportable funds during the 2022 P7 reporting period.

Section 106.19(1)(c), Florida Statutes: As alleged in the complaint, Respondent, a 2022 candidate for State Senator, District 5, may have falsely reported or deliberately failed to include information required by Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, during the 2022 P7 reporting period.

When we conclude the investigation, a copy of the Report of Investigation (ROI) will be mailed to you at the above address. Based on the results of the investigation, a staff attorney will prepare and present a written Staff Recommendation (SR) to the Commission as to whether there is probable cause to charge you, the Respondent, with violating Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes. You will have an opportunity to respond to both the ROI and the SR. The Commission will then hold one or more hearings to determine whether the alleged violations occurred and, if so, the amount of the fine to be imposed upon you. Notice will be mailed to you and the Complainant at least 14 days before any hearing at which your case is to be considered.

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(i)3., Florida Statutes, the Commission may enter into a consent agreement with a Respondent to settle a complaint prior to a finding of probable cause. If you are interested in entering negotiations directed towards reaching a consent agreement to resolve this matter, please contact the Commission and request to speak with the attorney assigned to this case.

Patrick Lee Cooper
December 16, 2022
Page 2
FEC 22-423

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

Pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, complaints, investigations, investigative reports, and other documents relating to an alleged violation of Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes, are confidential until the Commission finds probable cause or no probable cause, unless the Respondent files a written waiver of confidentiality with the Commission. The confidentiality provision does not apply to the Complainant or the Respondent.

Should you retain counsel, your attorney must file a notice of appearance with the Commission before any member of the commission staff can discuss this case with him or her.

For additional information, please refer to the “Frequently Asked Questions” section of the Commission’s website.

If you have additional questions, please contact **Courtenay Harrold Sheppard**, the investigator assigned to this case, by phone at (850) 922-4539 or by email at Courtney.Harrold@myfloridalegal.com

Sincerely,



Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

TV/jd

**DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
FEC NOTICE FORM**

To FEC from Division of Elections

Candidate: Patrick Lee Cooper

Account Number: 82563

Treasurer: Patrick Lee Cooper

The Division of Elections hereby provides this notice to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to sections 106.07(8)(d), 106.22(7) and 106.25, Florida Statutes. An apparent violation of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, has occurred based upon the candidate's alleged failure to file a report after notice or failure to file a notification to the filing officer in writing that no report was being filed on the prescribed reporting date as required by section 106.07(7), Florida Statutes.

The following report is outstanding after notification: 2022 P7

- Patrick Lee Cooper (82563) is a 2022 candidate for the office of State Senator.
- On June 17, 2022, Mr. Patrick Lee Cooper filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository with the Division.
- The 2022 P7 campaign treasurer's report was due on August 19, 2022. On August 22, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Patrick Lee Cooper notification that the 2022 P7 campaign treasurer's report had not been filed.
- On September 23, 2022, the Division mailed Mr. Patrick Lee Cooper final notification with delivery confirmation that the 2022 P7 report had not been filed. (See attached letter and delivery confirmation.)
- Mr. Patrick Lee Cooper did not notify the Division of Elections prior to or on the prescribed reporting date for the 2022 P7 report that no report was to be filed.
- As of October 17, 2022, Mr. Patrick Lee Cooper has not filed the 2022 P7 report.

Sent By: Donna S. Brown *DSB*
Date: October 17, 2022
CEN



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

Final Notice
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September 23, 2020

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

CAN 82563

Dear Mr. Cooper:

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

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Report</u> | <u>Cover Period</u> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 2022 | P7 | 8/6/22 - 8/18/22 |

The Division has previously notified you of the unfiled report or notification. Please file your report or notification. If the report is not filed within 7 days of receipt of this letter, the Division will refer this matter to the Florida Elections Commission, which may impose civil penalties of up to \$1000 per violation, apart from that automatic fine provisions of s. 106.07(8)(b), Fla. Stat.) that are applicable only to campaign finance reports.

As we stated in the prior notices, even if you now file the report or notification, the untimely filing of a report of reportable activity, or if applicable, a notice that no reportable activity occurred, may constitute an apparent violation of chapter 106, Fla. Stat. If we refer such matter to the Florida Elections Commission, the Commission may subsequently impose a civil penalty for each violation under chapter 106.265(1), Fla. Stat.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief
Bureau of Election Records

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