STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

In Re: New Southern Majority IE PAC Case No.: FEC 25-066

TO: Kate Belinski, Esquire
Ballard Spahr, LLP
1909 K. Street NW, 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

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

NOTICE OF HEARING (AUTOMATIC FINES (AF))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **August 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: **Virtual Meeting via Webinar link:** https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3863768971242962781 and Webinar ID 748-293-987.

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

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

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

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

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

Please be advised that both confidential and public cases are scheduled to be heard by the Florida Elections Commission on this date. As an Appellant, Respondent or Complainant in one case, you will *not* be permitted to attend the hearings on other confidential cases.

The Commission will electronically record the meeting. Although the Commission's recording is considered the official record of the hearing, the Respondent may provide, at his own expense, a certified court reporter to also record the hearing.

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, contact Donna Ann Malphurs at (850) 922-4539 or by mail at 107 West Gaines Street, The Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at least 5 days before the hearing.

See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director Florida Elections Commission July 28, 2025 Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

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

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order before a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed and become public. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the case will remain confidential, unless confidentiality has been waived.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order after a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the Respondent will be entitled to another hearing to determine if the Respondent committed the violation(s) alleged.

If this is a **probable cause hearing**, the Commission will decide if there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent committed a violation of Florida's election laws. Respondent should be prepared to explain how the staff in its recommendation incorrectly applied the law to the facts of the case. *Respondent may not testify, call others to testify, or introduce any documentary or other evidence at the probable cause hearing.* The Commission will only decide whether Respondent should be *charged* with a violation and, before the Commission determines whether a violation has occurred or a fine should be imposed, Respondent will have an opportunity for another hearing at which evidence may be introduced.

If this is an **informal hearing**, it will be conducted pursuant Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes; Chapter 28 and Commission Rule 2B-1.004, Florida Administrative Code. At the hearing, the Commission will decide whether the Respondent committed the violation(s) charged in the Order of Probable Cause. The Respondent will be permitted to testify. However, the Respondent may not call witnesses to testify.

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

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

CASE REPORT

Case Number: FEC-25-066

NAME:	NEW SOUTHERN MAJORITY IE PAC		
DATE APPE	EAL RECEIVED: 01/31/2025	CANDIDATE [] PC []	STATE [X] DISTRICT []
DATE REPO	ORT DUE: 08/09/2024 (2024 P6)	CCE []	COUNTY []
DATE OF E	ELECTRONIC RECEIPT: 08/21/2024	POLITICAL PARTY [] IXO [X]	CITY []
NUMBER O	F DAYS LATE: 12		
AMOUNT O	F FINE: \$888.25		
FINE BASI	ED ON: () NUMBER OF DAYS () 25% O	OF RECEIPTS (X) 25%	OF EXPENDITURES
TOTAL REG	CEIPTS FOR REPORTING PERIOD: \$0		
Тотат Ехт	PENDITURES FOR REPORTING PERIOD: \$3.55°	3 00	

SUMMARY: New Southern Majority IE PAC is an independent expenditure organization (IXO) registered with the State of Florida. The IXO's listed chair is Andrea Mercado. Attorney Kate Belinski is representing the IXO in this matter.

DATE OF FIRST NOTIFICATION: 01/06/2025 (Final Fine Ltr)

The IXO is appealing the fine. According to Kate Belinski, Esquire, "the delays in filing were caused by challenges obtaining the credentials necessary to access the filing portal.". She notes that once credentials were received, they attempted to file the overdue reports. Ms. Belinski also states that they worked with Division staff members to resolve system issues that caused further delays. She requests a waiver of the fine due to the circumstances.

- The 2024 P6 Original Report covers the period from 07/27/24-08/02/24; it was due on 08/09/24.
- The 2024 P6 Queued Transaction Report shows that it was created and filed on 08/21/24. The report was also amended on 08/23/24.
- · New Southern Majority IE PAC reported receiving zero contributions, while making 3 expenditures.
- The Division of Elections provided two notes that pertain to New Southern Majority IE PAC's 2024 P6 report. Both entries dated 08/07/24 and 08/15/24 reference credentials. On 08/15/24, credentials were released to Ms. Mercado.

PRIOR CASES: NONE.

Ballard Spahr

1909 K Street, NW 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006-1157 TEL 202.661.2200 FAX 202.661.2299 www.ballardspahr.com Kate Belinski Tel: 202.661.2225 Fax: 202.661.2299 belinskik@ballardspahr.com

February 20, 2025

Via Federal Express Overnight

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

Re: <u>Case No: FEC 25-066; Campaign Treasurers Report due 08/09/2024; FEC 25-067;</u> <u>Campaign Treasurers Report due 08/16/2024</u>

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in response to the letter we received (attached), which requested that we provide any written documents for consideration during the hearing. Attached are our email communications with the Florida Ethics Commission documenting our attempts to obtain login credentials and file reports. These emails demonstrate the reasons for the delays in submitting our reports.

Please let us know if any additional information is required.

Sincerely,

Kate Belinski



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



February 5, 2025

Kate Belinski, Partner Ballard Spahr LLP 1909 K. Street, NW 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006

RE: Case No.: FEC 25-066; Campaign Treasurer's Report due 08/09/24

Dear Ms. Belinski:

The Florida Elections Commission received your letter appealing the fine assessed against your client, New Southern Majority IE PAC, for failing to timely file their campaign treasurer's report. The Commission will hear your case at its next available meeting (meetings are usually held in February, May, August, and November of each year). A notice of hearing will be mailed to you approximately two weeks before the scheduled meeting. Please notify our office immediately should your address change in order to ensure timely receipt of future correspondence from the Commission.

In reaching its decision, the Commission will consider the documents gathered by Commission staff and any documents you submit for the Commission's consideration before the hearing. <u>Unless good cause is shown, the Commission will not consider at the hearing any written document unless it has been filed with the Commission Clerk at least ten days before the hearing.</u> Rules 2B-1005 and 1.0055, Florida Administrative Code, are the Commission's rules on the appeal of automatic fines; a copy of the rules is enclosed.

The Commission will uphold the fine imposed by the filing officer unless you present credible evidence that the report was timely filed or credible evidence that unusual circumstances caused the report to be filed late.

For additional information, please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of the Commission's website (www.fec.state.fl.us) or contact us via email at fec@myfloridalegal.com.

Sincerely,

Br' Axeton Wims

Deputy Agency Clerk

/hew

Enclosure: Rules 2B- 1.005 and 1.0055, Florida Administrative Code

cc: Division of Elections, Filing Officer

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

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

Rulemaking Authority 106 26(1) FS Law Implemented 106.04(8), 106.07(8), F.S. History-New 9-14-86, Amended 10-19-86, Formerly ID-100.5, Amended 1-11-99, 4-24-0.5, 6-2-13.

2B-1.0052 Fine Imposed; Timely Filed Reports.

Rulemaking Authority 106 26(1) Chapter 97-13, Section 52, Laws of Florida. Law Implemented 106 04(8), 106.07(8) FS History-New 1-1199, Amended 1-2-02, 4-24-0.5, Repealed 6-2-13.

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

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

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

Rulemaking Authority 106.26(1) FS Law Implemented 106 04(8), 106 07(8) FS History—New I-11-99 Amended 4-24-05, 6-2-13.



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



February 5, 2025

Kate Belinski, Partner Ballard Spahr LLP 1909 K. Street, NW 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006

RE: Case No.: FEC 25-067; Campaign Treasurer's Report due 08/16/24

Dear Ms. Belinski:

The Florida Elections Commission received your letter appealing the fine assessed against your client, *New Southern Majority IE PAC*, for failing to timely file their campaign treasurer's report. The Commission will hear your case at **its next available meeting** (meetings are usually held in February, May, August, and November of each year). A **notice of hearing will be mailed to you approximately two weeks before the scheduled meeting.** Please notify our office immediately should your address change in order to ensure timely receipt of future correspondence from the Commission.

In reaching its decision, the Commission will consider the documents gathered by Commission staff and any documents you submit for the Commission's consideration before the hearing. <u>Unless good cause is shown, the Commission will not consider at the hearing any written document unless it has been filed with the Commission Clerk at least ten days before the hearing</u>. Rules 2B-1005 and 1.0055, Florida Administrative Code, are the Commission's rules on the appeal of automatic fines; a copy of the rules is enclosed.

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Sincerely,

Br'Axeton Wims

Deputy Agency Clerk

/bew

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- (e) Computer or equipment failure caused by events that could not have been anticipated and that made timely filing of the report impossible.
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Rulemaking Authority 106.26(1) FS Law Implemented 106 04(8), 106 07(8) FS History—New I-11-99 Amended 4-24-05, 6-2-13...

Nyakweba, Jeannette

From:

Hart, Ashleigh < Ashleigh. Hart@dos.myflorida.com>

Sent:

Friday, August 23, 2024 12:53 PM

To:

Rogers, Emory

Subject:

RE: Florida Reporting

▲ EXTERNAL

Good afternoon,

The reason the reports say "Incomplete Detail Records" is because under all expenditures the office field filled out. This field should only ever be filled out if you are giving to a candidates' campaign directly.

To correct these errors, you will have to amend the reports and remove the characters from the office field. See page 51 in the <u>Political Committee EFS User's Guide</u> for step by step instructions on how to amend a report.

Report: 2024 - P6 - 4	Covers: 7/27/2024 - 8	3/2/2024	Due: 8/9/2	024 St	atus: Reviewed
Expenditure #:	1 Dat	e: 7/29/2024		Amendment:	
Last Name, Suffix:	CHISM STRATEGIES				
First, Middle Name:					
Address:	800 MANSHIP ST				
City:	JACKSON		State:	MS	Zip: 39
Expenditure Type:	Independent Expenditure r	e: a Candidate			
Purpose:	TEXTS - HILLSBOROUGH (COUNTY SCHOOL	BOARD - JES	SICA VAUGHN	
Office:	LOC 3				
Amount:	2,116.00	<u>Distributed</u>		Error Flag	ERR 024 3:37:32 PM
Credit Card Amt:	0.00		0.00	<u> </u>)24 3:37:32 PM)24 3:38:50 PM
Invalid Expenditure Typ	pe: Only type 'Candidate Exp	ense' valid for of	fice data		
				K K K	

Florida Department of State, Division of Elections 2005

Thanks,

Ashleigh Hart

Regulatory Specialist III, Auditor

Bureau of Election Records Florida Department of State Helpline: (850)245-6280 R.A. Gray Building, Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399

From: Rogers, Emory < rogerseb@ballardspahr.com>

Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 9:17 AM

To: ElecRecords < ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com>

Subject: FW: Florida Reporting

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

The attachments/links in this message have been scanned by Proofpoint.

Hi Donna.

Friendly Reminder: Our attached reports are showing "Incomplete Detail Records". Can you please let me know how to fix this in the system? What information is missing from the report?

Thanks!

Emory

From: Rogers, Emory

Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 9:29 AM

To: ElecRecords < ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com>

Subject: RE: Florida Reporting

Our attached reports are showing "Incomplete Detail Records". Can you please let me know how to fix this in the

system? What information is missing from the report?

Thanks! Emory

From: ElecRecords < ElecRecords @ Dos.myflorida.com >

Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 8:28 AM

To: Rogers, Emory < rogerseb@ballardspahr.com>

Subject: RE: Florida Reporting

↑ EXTERNAL

I'm very sorry. The guide should have populated. Here's the link to the guide you should use: Political Committee EFS User's Guide.

If you have any questions, contact our Help Desk at 850-245-6243.

Best regards, Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records Division of Elections

R.A. Gray Bldg. Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 245-6280

From: Rogers, Emory < rogerseb@ballardspahr.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 4:14 PM

To: ElecRecords < ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com>

Subject: RE: Florida Reporting

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

The attachments/links in this message have been scanned by Proofpoint.

Donna,

Is there a guide or manual on how to create/file a campaign finance report using your website? The HELP link is a blank website page.

Thanks Emory

From: ElecRecords < <u>ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com</u>>

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 3:39 PM

To: Rogers, Emory < rogerseb@ballardspahr.com>

Subject: RE: Florida Reporting

▲ EXTERNAL

The 2024 P4 report covering 7/13/2024 – 7/19/2024 is now available.

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records Division of Elections R.A. Gray Bldg. Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 245-6280

From: Rogers, Emory < rogerseb@ballardspahr.com >

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 1:25 PM

To: ElecRecords < ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com >

Subject: RE: Florida Reporting

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

From: ElecRecords < ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com >

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 12:53 PM **To:** Rogers, Emory < rogerseb@ballardspahr.com>

Subject: RE: Florida Reporting

▲ EXTERNAL

What is your account number?

From: Rogers, Emory < rogerseb@ballardspahr.com > Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 10:18 AM

To: ElecRecords < ElecRecords @ Dos.myflorida.com >

Subject: Florida Reporting

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

To Whom It May Concern:

We are attempting to draft and file a Florida campaign finance report for period 7/13/24 - 7/19/24 report was due 7/26. But the system is only showing the reports P6, P7, P7A and G1 available to draft and file. Please advise.

How can I create/file a report for the 7/13 - 7/19 period?

Thanks Emory

Emory B. Rogers

Compliance Specialist

1909 K Street, NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006-1157 202.661.7639 DIRECT 202.661.2299 FAX

rogerseb@ballardspahr.com

www.ballardspahr.com

Nyakweba, Jeannette

From:

Nyakweba, Jeannette

Sent:

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:37 AM

To:

ElecRecords

Cc:

Rivers, Antanese S.

Subject:

RE: Independent Expenditure Committee

Hello,

We recently submitted the below requested letter can you please provide me or direct me to the place to obtain the necessary forms to now file Independent expenditures.

Any assistance is appreciated.

Best,

Jeannette

From: ElecRecords < ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 2:22 PM

To: Nyakweba, Jeannette <nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com>; ElecRecords <ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com>

Cc: Rivers, Antanese S. <Antanese.Rivers@dos.myflorida.com>

Subject: RE: Independent Expenditure Committee

△ EXTERNAL

You can email the letter to the <u>ElecRecords@dos.myflorida.com</u> address.

From: Nyakweba, Jeannette <nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 2:17 PM

To: ElecRecords < ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com>

Cc: Rivers, Antanese S. < Antanese.Rivers@dos.myflorida.com >

Subject: RE: Independent Expenditure Committee

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

The attachments/links in this message have been scanned by Proofpoint.

Thanks you so much for the below response. Who should we send the letter you mention below? Is there a specific person or email address?

From: ElecRecords < <u>ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com</u> >

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 2:10 PM

To: Nyakweba, Jeannette <nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com>; ElecRecords <ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com>

Cc: Rivers, Antanese S. < Antanese. Rivers@dos.myflorida.com >

Subject: RE: Independent Expenditure Committee

↑ EXTERNAL

Your independent expenditure organization may file with the Division of Elections. Send a signed letter stating the organization has, or intends to, exceed the threshold amount to expressly advocate the election/defeat of candidate/issue, which expenditure is not controlled by, coordinated with, or made upon consultation with any candidate, political committee, or agent of such. (§ 106.011(12), F.S.). Provide the name and address of the chairperson (for purposes of campaign finance), an address and telephone number of the organization.

Please refer to the Political Committee Handbook (political-committee-handbook 2024-9-23-1.pdf (floridados.gov)), pages 21 and 58 regarding Independent Expenditures.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Help Desk at 850-245-6280.

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records Division of Elections R.A. Gray Bldg. Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 245-6280

From: Nyakweba, Jeannette <<u>nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com</u>>

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:57 AM

To: ElecRecords < <u>ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com</u>> **Subject:** Independent Expenditure Committee

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

Hello,

We have a federal independent expenditure committee who wants to make some independent expenditures in relation to races in Duval County, Seminole County and Hillsborough County, do they need to register as a committee in Florida and report those expenditures?

We contacted each individual county and they did not have a way for us to register/report these expenditures in their individual county.

I appreciate your help in advance, Jeannette

Jeannette Nyakweba

1909 K Street, NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006-1157 202.661.7618 DIRECT 202.661.2299 FAX

nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com VCARD

Nyakweba, Jeannette

From:

Nyakweba, Jeannette

Sent:

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 10:36 AM

To:

 ${\it ElecRecords@dos.myflorida.com}$

Subject:

RE: Independent Committee

Attachments:

NSM - Florida Division of Elections - AM Signed.pdf

Hello,

We submitted the attached letter on July 23 and we will have not received the credentials to allow us to log into the account that will allow us to file Independent Expenditure forms. Can we please have our credentials issued.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Jeannette

From: Nyakweba, Jeannette

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:34 AM To: ElecRecords@dos.myflorida.com Subject: Independent Committee

Hello,

Please see attached a signed letter from New Southern Majority IE PAC.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best, Jeannette

Jeannette Nyakweba

Ballard Spahr

1909 K Street, NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006-1157 202.661.7618 DIRECT 202.661.2299 FAX

nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com VCARD

www.ballardspahr.com

Nyakweba, Jeannette

From:

Nyakweba, Jeannette

Sent:

Monday, August 12, 2024 11:26 AM

To:

ElecRecords

Subject:

RE: IE Late Reporting

New Southern Majority IE PAC.

From: ElecRecords < ElecRecords @ Dos.myflorida.com >

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 11:25 AM

To: Nyakweba, Jeannette <nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com>

Subject: RE: IE Late Reporting

▲ EXTERNAL

What is the name of the Independent Expenditure Committee?

From: Nyakweba, Jeannette < nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com >

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 12:59 PM

To: ElecRecords < ElecRecords@Dos.myflorida.com >

Cc: Rivers, Antanese S. <<u>Antanese.Rivers@dos.myflorida.com</u>>

Subject: IE Late Reporting

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

Hi,

We recently submitted an Independent Expenditure Committee form and are waiting to receive the credentials to file reports. If we submit a report late, what are the late fees for submitting reports late?

Any guidance on this matter is appreciated.

Thanks, Jeannette

Jeannette Nyakweba

Ballard Spahr

1909 K Street, NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006-1157 202.661.7618 DIRECT 202.661.2299 FAX

nyakwebaj@ballardspahr.com VCARD

www.ballardspahr.com

Ballard Spahr

1909 K Street, NW 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006-1157 TEL 202.661.2200 FAX 202.661.2299 www.ballardspahr.com Kate Belinski Tel: 202.661.2225 Fax: 202.661.2299 belinskik@ballardspahr.com

January 29, 2025

Via Federal Express Overnight

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

Re: Late Fee Waiver Request

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing regarding the letter received on January 13 concerning late fees assessed to New Southern Majority IE PAC. Specifically these fees pertain to a report due on August 9, filed on August 21. We also had another filing due on August 16, filed on August 21 but have not received a letter in relation to that report but wanted to include it here.

The delays in filing were caused by challenges obtaining the credentials necessary to access the filing portal. We created an account on July 22 and were informed that only the treasurer, Ms. Mercado, could receive the credentials and it had to be via phone. However, repeated attempts by Ms. Mercado to connect with the Division of Elections were unsuccessful until August 15.

Once the credentials were obtained, we began preparing the overdue reports. Unfortunately, the election system had locked access to past due filings, further delaying the process. Over several days, we worked with Donna Brown and Ashleigh Hart from the Division of Elections to resolve these system issues, after which the reports were promptly filed.

Given these circumstances, we kindly request a waiver of the assessed late fees. We understand from conversations with the Division of Elections that these type of challenges are not uncommon and would greatly appreciate your assistance in resolving this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Very truly yours,

Kate Belinski

Ballard Spahr

RECEIVED

1909 K Street, NW 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006-1157 TEL 202.661.2200 FAX 202.661.2299 www.ballardspahr.com

2025 JAN 31 AM 10: 05

Kate Belinski Tel: 202.661.2225 Fax: 202.661.2299 belinskik@ballardspahr.com

January 29, 2025

Via Federal Express Overnight

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

Re: Late Fee Waiver Request

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing regarding the letter received on January 13 concerning late fees assessed to New Southern Majority IE PAC. Specifically these fees pertain to a report due on August 9, filed on August 21. We also had another filing due on August 16, filed on August 21 but have not received a letter in relation to that report but wanted to include it here.

The delays in filing were caused by challenges obtaining the credentials necessary to access the filing portal. We created an account on July 22 and were informed that only the treasurer, Ms. Mercado, could receive the credentials and it had to be via phone. However, repeated attempts by Ms. Mercado to connect with the Division of Elections were unsuccessful until August 15.

Once the credentials were obtained, we began preparing the overdue reports. Unfortunately, the election system had locked access to past due filings, further delaying the process. Over several days, we worked with Donna Brown and Ashleigh Hart from the Division of Elections to resolve these system issues, after which the reports were promptly filed.

Given these circumstances, we kindly request a waiver of the assessed late fees. We understand from conversations with the Division of Elections that these type of challenges are not uncommon and would greatly appreciate your assistance in resolving this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Kate Belinski

From: Setzer, Tracie D.

To: Br"Axeton Wims

Subject: Southern Majority IE PAC (88594) appeals letter

Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 10:49:31 AM
Attachments: New Southern Majority IE PAC.pdf

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Br'Axeton,

Here is an appeal letter for Southern Majority IE PAC.

The appeal is for both 2024 P6 and 2024 P7.

Let me know if you need anything else from me.

Respectfully,

Tracie Setzer

Regulatory Analyst III
Bureau of Election Records
Florida Department of State
Division of Elections

Helpline: 850.245.6280 Fax No.: 850-245-6260 R.A. Gray Building, Room 316 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399 https://dos.fl.gov/elections



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cord Byrd

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

USPS TRACKING # 9488 8178 9820 3256 4104 96

FOR TRACKING GO TO USPS.COM

Final Notice Delivery Confirmation:

January 6, 2025

Andrea Mercado, Chairperson New Southern Majority IE PAC 150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue Suite 340 Decatur, GA 30030-0030

IXO 88594

Dear Ms. Mercado:

The campaign treasurer's report that was due on August 9, 2024, was filed on August 21, 2024. By law, you are automatically assessed a late fine of \$888.25.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Brown, Chief Bureau of Election Records

(850) 245-6260 (fax) • DOS.MyFlorida.com/Elections

/Elections

ElecRecords@dos.myflorida.com

(1) New Southern Majority IE PAC Candidate, Committe or Party Name (3) 150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue			DEPARTMENT MPAIGN TREA	•				ONS	
Candidate, Committe or Party Name	(1)	New Southern Majority IE PAC		((2)	88594			
Address (number and street) Check box if address has changed since last report Check box if address has changed since last report Check appropriate box(es): Candidate (office sought): Political Committee Check if PC has DISBANDED Committee Check if CCE has DISBANDED Cover Period: From 07/27/2024 To 08/02/2024 Report Type: P6 Original Manendment Special Election Report		Candidate, Committe or Party Name			. – ,	I.D. Numbe	r		
Check box if address has changed since last report (4) Check appropriate box(es):	(3)	150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue		Decatur			GA	30030	
Candidate (office sought):		record	e last report	City			State	Zip Code	
Check If PC has DISBANDED Committee of Continuous Existance Check If CCE has DISBANDED Party Executive Committee Cover Period: From 07/27/2024 To 08/02/2024 Report Type: P6 Original Manendment Special Election Report	(4)	Check appropriate box(es):							
Cover Period: From 07/27/2024		Political Committee Committee of Continuous Existance							
Certification It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.) Certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete Certificature Deputy Treasurer Deputy Treasurer Name of Treasurer Deputy Treasurer Name of Candidate Chaiman (PC/PTY Only X X X X X X X X X			(5) REPOR	T IDENTIFIER	S				
(6) CONTRIBUTIONS THIS REPORT Cash & Checks \$0.00	Cove	er Period: From 07/27/2024	To 08/	02/2024		Report	Type:	P6	
Cash & Checks \$0.00 Monetary Expenditures \$3,553.00 Total Monetary \$0.00 Total Monetary \$3,553.00 In-Kind \$0.00 (8) Other Distributions Certification It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.) I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete Name of Treasurer Deputy Treasurer Name of Candidate Chaiman (PC/PTY Only		Original Amendment	☐ Spe	ecial Election Re	eport				
Loans \$0.00 Transfers to Office Account \$0.00 Total Monetary \$0.00 Total Monetary \$3,553.00 In-Kind \$0.00 (8) Other Distributions Certification It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.) I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete Name of Treasurer Deputy Treasurer Name of Candidate Chaiman (PC/PTY Only		(6) CONTRIBUTIONS THIS REPORT			(7) EXPENDI	TURES T	HIS REPORT	
Total Monetary \$0.00	Cash	& Checks \$	0.00	Monetary E	xpen	ditures			\$3,553.00
Certification It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.) I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete Name of	Loans	9	0.00	Transfers to	o Offi	ce Account			\$0.00
Certification It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.) I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete Name of Treasurer Deputy Treasurer The sure of Deputy Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	To	tal Monetary	0.00	Total	Mon	etary			\$3,553.00
It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.) I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete Name of Treasurer Deputy Treasurer Name of Candidate Chaiman (PC/PTY Only X	In-Kin	d s	60.00	(8) Other D	istrib	utions		".	
It is a first degree misdemeanor for any person to falsify a public record (ss.839.13, F.S.) I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete I certify that I have examined this report and it is true, correct and complete Name of Treasurer Deputy Treasurer Name of Candidate Chaiman (PC/PTY Only X									
true, correct and complete true, correct and complete true, correct and complete Name of Treasurer Deputy Treasurer Name of Candidate Chaiman (PC/PTY Only X		It is a first degree misdem			a pub	lic record (ss	.839.13, F	S.)	
X				•			this repo	rt and it is	
X Signature X Signature	Nam	e of	reasurer	Name of		Candidate		Chaiman (PC/	PTY Only
Signature Signature	<u> </u>			X					
	Sign	ature		Signature					

Prepared on: 2/24/25 4:11:46PM Reviewed On: 8/23/24 1:27 pm

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

Page 1 of 1

Name: No

New Southern Majority IE PAC

Report: 2024 P6

Period: 07/27/2024

to 08/02/2024

** Records in Filed Report **						
Seq#	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle	Contributor	Occupation	Amount		
Date	Street Address & City, State, Zip	Туре	In-Kind Description	Amend		
		·	10000			

* Incomplete Record

Reviewed On: 8/23/24 1:27 pm

Prepared on: 2/24/25 4:11:46PM

ID: 88594

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT - ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES

Page 1 of 1

Name: New Southern Majority IE PAC

Report: 2024 P6

Period: <u>07/</u>27/2024

to 08/02/2024

** Records in Filed Report **

04	Full Name			Amount
Seq#	(Last, Suffix, First, Middle	Type	Purpose	
Date	Street Address & Citv. State, Zip		·	Amend
1	CHISM STRATEGIES	IEC	TEXTS THE SPOROLOU COUNTY SOURCE	\$2,116.00
07/29/2024	800 MANSHIP ST	IEC	TEXTS - HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOL	TIDD
0712972024	JACKSON, MS 39202		BOARD - JESSICA VAUGHN	UPD
* 1	CHISM STRATEGIES	IEC	TEVES AND SPONGLING COUNTY SOURCE	\$2,116.00
07/00/0004	800 MANSHIP ST	1EC	TEXTS - HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOL	77' . 00/00/04
07/29/2024	JACKSON, MS 39202		BOARD - JESSICA VAUGHN	History 08/23/24
2	CHISM STRATEGIES	IEC	TEXTS BUILDING COUNTY COULDED BOARD BD	\$751.00
07/29/2024	800 MANSHIP ST	IEC	TEXTS - DUVALL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD - DR.	TIND
	JACKSON, MS 39202		KELLY COKER	UPD
* 2	CHISM STRATEGIES	IEC	TEXTS DURANT COUNTY COURSE BOARD BD	\$751.00
07/29/2024	800 MANSHIP ST	IEC	TEXTS - DUVALL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD - DR.	ATT
01/29/2024	JACKSON, MS 39202		KELLY COKER	History 08/23/24
3	CHISM STRATEGIES	IEC	TEVTO BUILDING COUNTY COULDS DO ADD	\$686.00
07/00/0004	800 MANSHIP ST	IEC	TEXTS - DUVALL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD -	1700
07/29/2024	JACKSON, MS 39202		CINDY PEARSON	UPD
* 3	CHISM STRATEGIES	IEC	TEVES DURANT COUNTY CON COL BOARD	\$686.00
07/00/0004	800 MANSHIP ST	IEC	TEXTS - DUVALL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD -	1
07/29/2024	JACKSON, MS 39202		CINDY PEARSON	History 08/23/24

ID: **CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED FUND TRANSFERS**

Name: New Southern Majority IE PAC

Report: 2024 P6

to 08/02/2024

Page 1 of 1

** Records in Filed Report **

Period:	07/27/2024

Seq #	Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle Street Address & City, State, Zip	Туре	Nature of Account	Amount Amend
	,			

* Incomplete Record

Reviewed On: 8/23/24 1:27 pm

Prepared on: 2/24/25 4:11:46PM

ID:

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED DISTRIBUTIONS

Page 1 of 1

New Southern Majority IE PAC Name:

Report: <u>2024</u> <u>P6</u>

Period: 07/27/2024

to 08/02/2024

** R

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

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

* Incomplete Record

Reviewed On: 8/23/24 1:27 pm

Prepared on: 2/24/25 4:11:46PM

Queued Items for 2024-P6

Account: 88594 New Southern Majority IE PAC

Rpt Seq: 4

ProcessDescription	Status	Submitter	Created	LastUpdate
Create Pending Report	Processing Complete	88594	8/21/2024 3:13:13 PM	8/21/2024 3:13:13 PM
Recalc Pending Report Total	Processing Complete	88594	8/21/2024 3:42:57 PM	8/21/2024 3:42:57 PM
Review Pending Report	Processing Complete	88594	8/21/2024 3:43:05 PM	8/21/2024 3:43:05 PM
Review Pending Report	Processing Complete	88594	8/21/2024 3:46:01 PM	8/21/2024 3:46:01 PM
Review Pending Report	Processing Complete	88594	8/21/2024 3:52:10 PM	8/21/2024 3:52:10 PM
File Pending Report	Processing Complete	88594	8/21/2024 3:54:44 PM	8/21/2024 3:54:44 PM
Amend Filed Report	Processing Complete	88594	8/23/2024 1:25:26 PM	8/23/2024 1:25:26 PM
Recalc Pending Report Total	Processing Complete	88594	8/23/2024 1:27:48 PM	8/23/2024 1:27:48 PM
Review Pending Report	Processing Complete	88594	8/23/2024 1:27:55 PM	8/23/2024 1:27:55 PM
File Pending Report	Processing Complete	88594	8/23/2024 1:31:39 PM	8/23/2024 1:31:39 PM



New Southern Majority IE PAC

Campaign Finance Activity

Note: The information presented below was obtained from the Committee's/Candidate's Campaign Treasurer's Report filed with the Division of Elections. About the Campaign Finance Data Base. If all contributions for a reporting period are less than 1 dollar Then they may not be displayed.

		Contributions					
	Filing Period	Monetary	Loans	InKind	Expend	Other	Transfers
	07/13/2024 - 07/19/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
\bigcirc	07/20/2024 - 07/26/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,000.00	0.00	0.00
	07/27/2024 - 08/02/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,553.00	0.00	0.00
	08/03/2024 - 08/15/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,861.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/16/2024 - 08/16/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	08/17/2024 - 08/23/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,084.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/24/2024 - 08/30/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	08/31/2024 - 09/06/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	09/07/2024 - 09/13/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	09/14/2024 - 09/20/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	09/21/2024 - 09/27/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	09/28/2024 - 10/04/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	10/05/2024 - 10/11/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/12/2024 - 10/18/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	10/19/2024 - 10/31/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W	11/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	All Dates (Totals)	0.00	0.00	0.00	116,998.00	0.00	0.00

Note: (E) indicates that report was filed electronically

X Indicates that detail has not been released

W Indicates that a waiver was filed and L Indicates that a loan report was filed

Select Detail Type Select Sort Order Select Output Type
Contributions ✓ Date(Ascending) ✓ Display On Screen ✓

Submit Query Now

[Department of State] [Division of Elections] [Candidates and Races] [Campaign Finance Information]

HISTORY NOTES New Southern Majority IE PAC - 88594

Unique ID	Date Recorded	Last Edited Date	Orginally Recorded By
83038	8/15/2024 2:40:00 PM		cnhudson
Credentials Released credentials to An	drea Mercado		
82970	8/7/2024 1:21:00 PM		cnhudson
Creedntals Call made to (954) 303-720	2 no answer left a voice masage		

Page 1 of 1 2/24/2025

Committee Tracking System

New Southern Majority IE PAC

Type:Independent Expenditures Organization

Status:Active

Address: 150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue

Suite 340

Decatur, GA 30030

Phone:(954)303-7202

Chairperson: Andrea Mercado

Treasurer:None

Registered Agent:None

Purpose:

Affiliates:

Campaign Finance Activity

Campaign Documents

Campaign Documents Search

Forms are available in Adobe's Acrobat PDF format for viewing or printing at your site. Accessing documents in PDF format requires use of <u>Adobe's Acrobat Reader</u>, which may be installed free of charge.

Account Num						
Account Name						
Account Type	all			~		
Form Desc				~		
Election Id	all			~		
Office Desc				~		
Submit	Clear					
Name		Type	Received	Description		Select
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	01/31/25	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	01/06/25	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	12/04/24	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	12/04/24	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	12/04/24	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	11/26/24	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	11/14/24	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	11/13/24	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	11/13/24	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	07/24/24	Acknowledgment Letter		<u>PDF</u>
New Southern Majority IE PAC		IXO	07/23/24	Miscellaneous		<u>PDF</u>



RON DESANTIS

Governor

CORD BYRDSecretary of State

July 24, 2024

Andrea Mercado, Chairperson 150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue Suite 340 Decatur, Georgia 30030

Dear Ms. Mercado:

This will acknowledge receipt of the letter dated July 23, 2024, stating the New Southern Majority IE PAC organization plans to make independent expenditures in excess of \$5,000. This information was placed on file with our office on July 23, 2024.

Independent expenditure organizations shall file periodic reports of expenditures in the same manner, at the same time, subject to the same penalties, and with the same filing officer as a political committee supporting or opposing such candidate or issue. Please refer to the *Calendar of Reporting Dates* to determine when to file such reports. If you need assistance determining when to file your reports, please contact the Division's help desk at (850) 245-6280.

The reports shall contain the full name and address of each person to whom and for whom each expenditure has been made; the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure; a description of the services or goods obtained by each expenditure; the issue to which the expenditure relates; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made. All independent expenditure organizations that file reports with the Division of Elections are required to file by means of the Division's Electronic Filing System (EFS).

Credentials and Sign-ons

Below is the web address to access the EFS and the organization's user identification number. The enclosed contains the organization's initial password. Once you have logged in using the initial password, you will be immediately prompted to change it to a confidential sign-on.

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

Identification Number: 88594



Andrea Mercado, Chairperson July 24, Page Two

Timely Filing

All reports must be completed and filed through the EFS not later than midnight, Eastern Standard Time (EST), of the due date. Reports not filed by midnight, EST, 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, Eastern Standard Time, of the first business day the EFS becomes operable. No fine will be levied during the period the EFS was inoperable.

Any organization failing to file a report on the designated due date is subject to a fine of \$50 per day for the first 3 days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total expenditures for the period covered by the late report. However, for the reports immediately preceding each primary and general election, the fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total expenditures 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 report filed by means of the EFS is considered to be under oath and is subject to the provisions of Section 106.07(5), Florida Statutes.

Instructions and Assistance

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

All of the Division's publications and reporting forms are available on the Division of Elections' website at https://dos.myflorida.com/elections. It is your responsibility to read, understand, and follow the requirements of Florida's election laws. Therefore, please print a copy of the following documents: Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, 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/

Enclosures

New **Southern** Majority

2024 JUL 23 PM 12: 16

newsouthernmajority.org

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

TALLAHASSEE.FL

July 22, 2024

Via E-mail

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

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to inform you that New Southern Majority IE PAC intends to exceed the \$5000 threshold amount in independent expenditures to expressly advocate for Nadine Ebri (FL- Duval Co School Board District 1), Cindy Pearson (FL- Duval Co School Board District 3), Nadia Combs (FL- Hillsborough Co. School Board. District 1), Jessica Vaughn (FL- Hillsborough Co School Board District 3). Please note that these expenditures are not controlled by, coordinated with or made upon consultation with any candidate, political committee or agent of such.

Please let us know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

New Southern Majority IE PAC

Andrea Mercado

Treasurer

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