

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In re. Referral from the SEEC's Audit and Disclosure Unit

File No. 2015-074SF

FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

The State Elections Enforcement Commission initiated this complaint based on a referral from the Commission's audit and disclosure unit in July 2015. The referral stemmed from the failure of the *Rodriguez for State Rep. 2014* candidate committee to file a supplemental filing in October 2014. Given facts described in this document, however, the Commission will take no further action and adopts the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. Candidate Ruben A. Rodriguez established a candidate committee to run for the 72nd district General Assembly seat on April 15, 2014.¹ The committee applied for a grant from the Citizens' Election Fund on July 14, 2014.² The committee received a grant totaling \$27,666 from the Citizens' Election Fund on October 14, 2014.³
2. The committee was required to file a report for the October 22, 2014 to October 28, 2014 time period. The committee failed to make that filing.
3. The Commission authorized the initiation of this enforcement matter based on the failure of the committee to file that report.
4. Following the initiation of this complaint, commission staff attempted on numerous times to contact the treasurer of the committee, Jessica Vazquez. Despite repeated attempts to contact her through the mail, via telephone, and via other electronic means, investigators were unable to communicate with Ms. Vazquez.
5. General Statutes § 9-606 (a) requires a treasurer, among other things, to make and report all expenditures of the committee and to keep internal records of each entry made on statements filed with the Commission.⁴

¹ See Registration by Candidate, SEEC Form 1 (Rec'd April 15, 2014) (establishing candidate committee to support Ruben A. Rodriguez's candidacy for the General Assembly seat representing 72nd district and naming Jessica Vazquez as treasurer).

² See Citizens' Election Program – Application for Grant, SEEC Form CEP 15 (Rec'd Sept. 25, 2014) (applying for grant from Citizens' Election Fund).

³ See Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement, SEEC Form 30 (Rec'd October 23, 2014) (reflecting payment of grant to committee on October 14, 2014).

⁴ See General Statutes § 9-606(a) (laying out responsibilities of treasurers under Connecticut's campaign finance statutes).


6. The general statutes require the campaign treasurer of a candidate committee to retain all financial documentation from the committee for at least four years from the date of the last report that the candidate committee was required to file.⁵
7. In addition, General Statutes § 9-623 authorizes the Commission to impose late-filing fees based on a treasurer's failure to file required reports.
8. Given the time that has elapsed since the alleged violations as well as the inability of investigators to find Ms. Vazquez, the Commission will dismiss this matter without prejudice to re-opening it should Ms. Vazquez be located.

⁵ See General Statutes § 9-607(f).

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Complaint will be dismissed without prejudice.

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2019 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.


Salvatore Bramante Vice Chair
By Order of the Commission

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