

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Complaint by Benjamin Wiles  
Town of Storrs

File No. 2016-092

**AGREEMENT CONTAINING A CONSENT ORDER**

This Agreement by and between William Jenkins, Town of Chaplin, State of Connecticut, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, and the undersigned authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission, is entered into in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-177 (c) and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 9-7b-54. In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. Benjamin Wiles filed a complaint on November 14, 2016, alleging that the Mark Sargent candidate committee had failed to report the expenses incurred or contributions received related to a fundraising event that it held at a Storrs restaurant. According to the complaint, the committee did not report the October 11, 2016 event in the committee's relevant periodic campaign disclosure report. The commission docketed and investigated the complaint.
2. Mark Sargent established his candidate committee to run for the 54<sup>th</sup> district state senate seat on February 23, 2016, naming William E. Reimer the committee's treasurer and Anthony Patrone the committee's deputy treasurer.<sup>1</sup> Sargent replaced the original treasurer, Reimer, with William Jenkins on September 29, 2016.<sup>2</sup> The candidate committee, with Jenkins as treasurer, signed up to participate in the Citizens' Election Program.<sup>3</sup> Although it remained registered as a participating candidate committee, the committee never applied for a grant from the Citizens' Election Fund. The committee reported a total of \$4,055 in monetary receipts and was dissolved in 2017.<sup>4</sup>
3. A post to the candidate's Facebook page on October 6, 2016 invited individuals to an event on October 11, 2016 at Huskies Restaurant and Bar in Storrs. Transactions related

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<sup>1</sup> See Registration by Candidate - SEEC Form 1, *Mark Sargent for State Representative* (February 23, 2016) (creating candidate committee and appointing William E. Reimer as committee's treasurer and Anthony Patrone as his deputy).

<sup>2</sup> See Registration by Candidate - SEEC Form 1, *Mark Sargent for State Representative* (September 29, 2016) (amending candidate committee's leadership by appointing William Jenkins to position of treasurer).

<sup>3</sup> See Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits and Other Citizens' Election Program Requirements – SEEC Form CEP 10, *Mark Sargent for State Representative* (September 29, 2016) (evinced intent of candidate, treasurer and deputy treasurer to participate in Citizens' Election Program).

<sup>4</sup> See Itemized Campaign Finance Disclosure Statement – SEEC Form 30, *Mark Sargent for State Representative* (February 25, 2016) (terminating committee).

to that event, however, did not appear in the committee's periodic campaign finance disclosure form. The candidate committee reported neither contributions received from individuals attending nor expenditures made to pay for the event.

4. After this complaint was filed, however, Respondent amended the committee's campaign finance disclosure statements to reflect expenses incurred from the event.<sup>5</sup> Respondent stated this event was planned and organized by the candidate and that he as treasurer had no knowledge that this event was occurring.
5. General Statutes § 9-606 requires treasurers for committees organized under Connecticut's campaign finance statutes to report on behalf of the committee all contributions received as well as all expenditures made or incurred.<sup>6</sup> General Statutes § 9-608 requires treasurers to provide an itemized accounting of each contribution received as well as each expenditure made.<sup>7</sup>
6. Respondent admits all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and Order entered into after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission.
7. Respondent waives:
  - a) Any further procedural steps;
  - b) The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated; and
  - c) All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Order entered into pursuant to this Agreement.
8. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement will be submitted to the Commission for consideration at its next meeting and, if the Commission does not accept it, it is withdrawn and may not be used as an admission by the Respondent in any subsequent hearing, if the same becomes necessary.

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<sup>5</sup> See SEEC Form 30 – First Weekly Supplemental Filing General Election – Amendment – *Mark Sargent for State Representative* (Feb. 25, 2017) (reflecting \$60 incurred but not paid to Huskie's Restaurant & Bar)

<sup>6</sup> See General Statutes § 9-606.

<sup>7</sup> See General Statutes § 9-608.

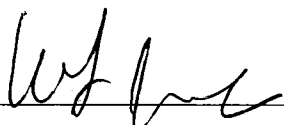
**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Respondent William Jenkins shall henceforth inform candidates of their responsibility to notify him of any expenditures that they may incur to promote their candidacy and shall reflect those expenditures on the committee's campaign finance disclosure statements. According to the resolution of SEEC File No. 2017-071, Mr. Jenkins is currently prohibited from serving as a treasurer for a period of five years, which began on February 14, 2018. That prohibition remains in effect until February 13, 2023.

The Respondent

For the State of Connecticut

By:



William L. Jenkins  
63 Ridge Road  
Chaplin, CT 06235

By:



Michael J. Brandi, Esq.  
Executive Director and General Counsel and  
Authorized Representative of the  
State Elections Enforcement Commission  
20 Trinity St., Suite 101  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dated:

9/8/20

Dated:

9/16/2020

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of Sept., 2020 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.



Commissioner Salvatore Bramante, Vice  
By Order of the Commission Chair