

BILL BRADBURY  
SECRETARY OF STATE



ELECTIONS DIVISION  
JOHN LINDBACK  
DIRECTOR  
141 STATE CAPITOL  
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722  
ELECTIONS—(503) 986-1518

BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON

In the matter of a Late Contribution and Expenditure Report )  
by the Curry County Democratic Central Committee, ) Final Order  
Florence Lichtig, Treasurer, for the Second Pre-Election for )  
the November 2, 2004, General Election ) Case No. L7989  
)

April 1, 2005

Curry County Democratic Central Committee (000302)  
Florence Lichtig, Treasurer  
PO Box 1267  
Port Orford, OR 97465

Dear Ms. Lichtig:

This is a Final Order issued by the Secretary of State (secretary) for your failure to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the November 2, 2004, General Election.

On February 7, 2005, the secretary notified the Curry County Democratic Central Committee (committee), pursuant to ORS 260.232(2), that it had failed to file the report and that the secretary may impose a civil penalty. An opportunity for a hearing was provided in that notice. The committee submitted written testimony in the form of a notarized statement in lieu of a personal appearance at a public hearing. Accordingly, after consideration of the applicable law and evidence presented, Jennifer Hertel, Hearings Officer with the Elections Division, is entering the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The committee's Statement of Organization (SEL 221), applicable during the reporting period, was filed with the secretary on March 2, 2004. The statement reported Florence Lichtig as the treasurer and PO Box 1267, Port Orford, OR 97465 as the address to which all committee correspondence was to be sent.
2. The committee was required to file a second pre-election report with the secretary on October 21, 2004.
3. The secretary sent the committee a notice that it had failed to file a timely report on October 22, 2004. The notice was sent by first class mail to the treasurer at the above-referenced address.

4. The secretary received the report on October 22, 2004, which is one business day after the date on which the report was due.
5. The committee reported total contributions of \$521.25 and total expenditures of \$2,147.56 during the accounting period for the report.
6. On February 7, 2005, the secretary sent the committee a Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty. The notice was sent by both certified and first class mail to the treasurer at the above-referenced address. The notice proposed a civil penalty of \$21.48 and allowed the committee 20 days to request a hearing. The notice sent by certified mail was received and signed for by Martha Lane on February 8, 2005.
7. On February 11, 2005, the secretary received a notarized letter from Florence Lichtig in lieu of a public hearing.
8. The letter—attached as Exhibit A—was reviewed, considered, and made part of the record.
9. The secretary has record of no previous late filings during the two-year period beginning September 15, 2003.

#### ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Florence Lichtig, Treasurer, failed to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the November 2, 2004, General Election.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Treasurer Florence Lichtig's failure to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the November 2, 2004, General Election violated ORS 260.073.

After reviewing and considering the evidence and information on file in this office, the hearings officer finds that there has been a violation of Oregon election law. However, no civil penalty will be assessed because the lateness of the report was the direct result of the failure of a professional delivery service to deliver documents in the time guaranteed for delivery by written receipt of the service provider.

The treasurer, Florence Lichtig, explains in her testimony that she mailed the report via United States Postal Service Express Mail, which guaranteed overnight delivery. In addition to the notarized testimony, Ms. Lichtig also provided a copy of the receipt showing purchase of the overnight service and proof of delivery in Salem. As guaranteed, the report was delivered in Salem on October 21, 2004, and was signed for by Mechelle Nieuwendorp at the Department of Administrative Services. However, it was not received in the office of the Elections Division for processing until October 22, 2004, which is why it was recorded as one day late.

A reduction or waiver of the penalty will be considered only if one of five clearly defined mitigating circumstances is present. These mitigating circumstances are defined on page 97 of the *2004 Campaign Finance Manual* and in the proposed penalty notice. The burden rests with the party requesting the waiver of the proposed civil penalty to demonstrate that one of the listed circumstances applies and caused the lateness of insufficiency of the report. One of these circumstances is "the direct result of failure of a professional delivery service to deliver documents in the time guaranteed for delivery by written receipt of the service provider..."

#### ORDER

The lateness was the direct result of failure of a professional delivery service to deliver documents in the time guaranteed for delivery by written receipt of the service provider. Therefore, no penalty will be assessed for this violation.

#### RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

You have the right to appeal this Order to the Oregon Court of Appeals pursuant to ORS 183.482. To appeal you must file a petition for judicial review with the Court of Appeals within 60 days from the day this Order was served to you. Because this Order was mailed to you, the date of service is the day it was *mailed*, not the day you received it. If you do not file a petition for judicial review within the 60-day time period, you will lose your right to appeal.

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Jennifer Hertel, Compliance Specialist

DATE of Service: \_\_\_\_\_