

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) Final Order by Default
by the Constitution Party Clackamas County, Joseph H. Bitz,)
Treasurer, for the Second Pre-Election for the) Case No. L9019
November 7, 2006, General Election)

May 31, 2007

Constitution Party Clackamas County (004447)
Joseph H. Bitz, Treasurer
26805 S Bitz Rd
Mulino, OR 97042

Dear Mr. Bitz:

This is a Final Order by Default issued by the Secretary of State (secretary) for your failure to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the November 7, 2006, General Election.

On April 12, 2007, the secretary notified the Constitution Party Clackamas County (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; however, no request for a hearing was received by the secretary within the time permitted in the notice. Accordingly, after consideration of the records and files of the secretary regarding this matter, the secretary 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 October 13, 2006. The statement reported Joseph H. Bitz as the treasurer and 26805 S Bitz Rd, Mulino, OR 97042 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 26, 2006.
3. The secretary sent the committee a notice that it had failed to file a timely report on October 27, 2006. The notice was sent by first class mail to the treasurer at the above-referenced address.

4. The secretary received the report on October 31, 2006, which is three business days after the date on which the report was due.
5. The committee reported no contributions or expenditures during the accounting period for the report.
6. On April 12, 2007, 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 \$50.00 and allowed the committee 20 days to request a hearing. The notice sent by certified mail was received and signed for by Joseph H. Bitz on April 13, 2007.
7. The committee did not request a public hearing or submit notarized testimony in lieu of a public hearing.
8. The secretary has record of one previous late filing during the two-year period beginning September 15, 2005.

ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Joseph H. Bitz, Treasurer, failed to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the November 7, 2006, General Election.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Treasurer Joseph H. Bitz's failure to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the November 7, 2006, General Election violated ORS 260.073.

By statute, a maximum \$10,000 civil penalty may be imposed for this violation. The *2006 Campaign Finance Manual*, which contains a penalty calculation matrix on pages 104–106, is designated in OAR 165-012-0005 as the procedure manual for Oregon campaign finance regulations.

Under the penalty matrix, the maximum statutory penalty of \$10,000 is reduced to 3% of the total contributions or total expenditures—whichever is greater—for each business day the report was late as this is the second late violation by the treasurer.

Although the committee reported no activity during the accounting period for the late report, the penalty matrix sets a minimum penalty of \$50.00 for a candidate's or treasurer's second late violation.

ORDER

It is ordered that a penalty of \$50.00 is assessed. If your payment is not received within 60 days from the date of service noted below, this Order will be sent to our accounting division for collection and may be subsequently sent to the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Please refer to case number L9019 when mailing your payment.

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.

Nancy Ferry, Compliance Specialist

DATE of Service: _____