



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HAMILTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
HAMILTON COUNTY

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Republican Executive Committee
Hamilton County
700 Walnut Street Suite 300
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, to which the Hamilton County Republican Executive Committee, Hamilton County, Ohio (the Committee), agreed, solely to assist the Committee in evaluating its compliance with certain requirements included in Ohio Rev. Code Sections 3517.1012, 3517.13(X)(1), 2(b), (3)(a), and (4), 3517.17, and 3517.18, for the year ended December 31, 2007. The Committee is responsible for complying with these requirements. We followed the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' attestation standards for agreed-upon procedures engagements. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the Committee. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

Cash Receipts

1. We inquired of the Committee whether they deposited all gifts from corporations, labor organizations and all gifts restricted to operations into the same fund into which they deposit amounts received from the State Tax Commissioner. Management informed us they received no such gifts.
2. We footed each *Statement of Political Party Restricted Fund Deposits* Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.17 requires (Deposit Form 31-CC), filed for 2007. We noted no computational errors.
3. We compared bank deposits reflected in 2007 restricted fund bank statements to total deposits recorded in Deposit Forms 31-CC filed for 2007. The bank deposit amounts agreed to the deposits recorded in the Form.
4. We scanned the Committee's 2007 bank statements and noted they reflected four quarterly payments received from the State Tax Commissioner pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code 3517.17(A). The Deposit Form 31-CC reported the sum of these payments without exception.
5. We scanned other recorded 2007 receipts for evidence that a corporation or labor organization may have exceeded the \$10,000 annual gift limit Ohio Rev. Code 3517.13(X)(3)(a) imposes. We found no evidence that any corporation or labor organization exceeded this limit.

Cash Reconciliation

1. We recomputed the mathematical accuracy of the December 31, 2007 reconciliation for the bank account used for receipts and disbursements restricted pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.1012(A). We found no computational errors.
2. We agreed the bank balance on the reconciliation to the bank statement balance as of December 31, 2007. The balances agreed.

Cash Disbursements

1. We footed each *Statement of Political Party Restricted Fund Disbursements* Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.17 requires (Disbursement Form 31-M), filed for 2007. We noted no computational errors.
2. Per Ohio Rev. Code 3517.13(X)(1), we scanned Disbursement Form 31-M filed for 2007 and inquired of management whether they transferred any cash from the restricted fund to any other political party account into which contributions may be made or from which contributions or expenditures may be made. We found no evidence of prohibited transfers.
3. We compared the amounts on other disbursements reflected in 2007 restricted fund bank statements to disbursement amounts reported on Disbursement Forms 31-M filed for 2007. We found no discrepancies.
4. For each disbursement on Disbursement Form 31-M filed for 2007, we traced the payee and amount to payee invoices. The payees and amounts recorded on Disbursement Forms 31-M agreed to the payees and invoices.
5. We scanned the payee for each 2007 disbursement for evidence that it might represent a contribution or campaign-related disbursement, both of which Ohio Rev. Code 3517.13(X)(2)(b) prohibit. We noted one possible exception; see number 8 below.
6. We compared the signature on 2007 withdrawals to the list of authorized signatories the Committee provided to us. The signatory on all withdrawals was an approved signatory.
7. We scanned each 2007 restricted fund disbursement recorded on Form 31-M for evidence that it represented a transfer from the restricted fund to any other state or county political party, which Ohio Rev. Code 3517(X)(4) prohibits. We found no evidence of any transfers.
8. We compared the purpose of each disbursement we selected in step 4 above listed on 2007 Disbursement Forms 31-M to the purpose listed on the vendor invoice and to the purposes Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.18 (A)(3) permits.

On February 17, 2007 a payment was made to the Queen City Club in the amount of \$778.96. The payment was for a private room charge (\$94.80), club parking (\$95), hor d'oeuvres (\$306.72), and an open bar (\$282.44) for an executive committee meeting. There was no evidence the disbursements were for operating and maintenance costs for party headquarters, voter registration programs, administration of party fundraising drives, or voter registration drives. As a result the disbursements were not for a purpose Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.18(A) permits. In addition, the Auditor of State explained in Bulletin 2003-005 that the Auditor does not view the expenditure of public funds to purchase alcoholic beverages as a proper purpose and will issue findings for recovery for expenditures as manifestly arbitrary and incorrect.

In accordance with the foregoing facts and pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.28 a Finding for Recovery for public money illegally expended is hereby issued against the Hamilton County Republican Party in the amount of \$778.96, and in favor of the restricted funds of the Hamilton County Republican Party. The Republican Party's political campaign fund reimbursed the restricted fund for the expenditure.

9. Per Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.11(4), we inquired of the County Board of Elections if the county political parties filed the statements required by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. The Hamilton County Republican Party did not file their required statements with their respective board of elections. We recommend the Hamilton County Republican Party file the forms as required by the above statute.

We were not engaged to, and did not examine each *Statement of Political Party Restricted Fund Deposits* and *Statement of Political Party Restricted Fund Disbursements* filed for 2007, the objective of which would have been to opine on compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that we would have reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Secretary of State of Ohio and for the Republican Executive Committee and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone else.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

August 5, 2008



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Auditor of State

REPUBLICAN PARTY

HAMILTON COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
SEPTEMBER 11, 2008**