



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

Agenda

Meeting of January 5, 2006

9:00 a.m., Commission Offices, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine

ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. Ratification of minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting

2. Discussion of Proposed Meeting Dates

For consideration by the Commission members, the staff proposes meetings on the following dates:

February 8

March 8

April 12

April 26

A meeting in the latter half of April may be necessary to discuss candidates' requests for public financing under the Maine Clean Election Act.

3. Request for Waiver of Penalty/Monthly Lobbyist Report

Michael Belliveau of the Environmental Health Strategy Center filed a monthly lobbyist report due November 15, 2005 one day late. The statutory penalty is \$100. Through a November 28, 2005 letter, he requests a waiver of the penalty because he mistakenly believed that he had filed the report on time. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends assessing the statutory penalty of \$100.*

4. Request for Waiver of Penalty/PAC Campaign Finance Report

The Cheaper, Safer Power PAC was required to file a campaign finance report on October 11, 2005 and filed the report on November 16, 2005. The PAC has had no financial activity in some time, and the Commission staff has recommended to the treasurer that he close the PAC. The treasurer requests a waiver of the penalty because he has been in Orlando and Dallas helping victims of Hurricane Katrina. In the past year, the PAC has filed reports late *five* times. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends assessing a penalty of \$75, because of the PAC's track record of late reports and because filing a PAC report on-line with no activity takes one or two minutes.*

5. Commission Determination on Recommended Penalties and Repayment of Public Funds/Julia St. James, Sarah Trundy, Dan Rogers, and Jessica Larlee

Julia St. James and Sarah Trundy were Maine Clean Election Act candidates in the 2004 elections. They were assisted by consultants Dan Rogers and Jessica Larlee. The staff of the Commission recommends that the Commission assess the following total penalties for violations of financial reporting, record-keeping, and other requirements:

- penalties of \$12,000 against Julia St. James;
- penalties of \$12,500 against Daniel Rogers;
- penalties of \$5,500 against Jessica Larlee; and
- penalties of \$500 against Sarah Trundy.

The violations are described in a audit report prepared by the Commission staff. In addition, the staff recommends: that the Commission require Ms. St. James to repay \$11,088.15 in Maine Clean Election Act funds; that the Commission assess a penalty of \$5,000 against Mr. Rogers for designing, printing, and mailing literature in the 2004 special legislative election in Biddeford that did not include required disclosure; and that these matters be referred to the State Attorney General's Office for consideration whether a criminal investigation and prosecution are merited.

6. Report on Maine Clean Election Act

The staff wishes to discuss some logistical issues regarding publishing a report on the operation of the Maine Clean Election Act.

Other

Miscellaneous as needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

If necessary.

ADJOURNMENT