

Wayne, Jonathan

From: Dib9@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 7:09 PM
To: Wayne, Jonathan
Cc: Lavin, Paul; Demeritt, Martha; roy@strategicadvocacy.com; andrew@mainesenategop.com
Subject: Complaint against Maine Democratic Party & Senate Democratic Campaign Comm.

Jonathan:

This e-mail is a complaint against the Maine Democratic Party and the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee that I am filing on behalf of the Maine Senate Republican Victory Fund. It appears that the Maine Democratic Party has not made timely reporting of their independent expenditures for Senate candidates.

On 10/26, the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee contributed \$30,000 to Victory 2006, whose address is the same as the Maine Democratic Party. There is no PAC registered as "Victory 2006" so I believe that the contribution was to the Maine Democratic Party.

On 10/28, the Maine Democratic Party filed an Independent Expenditure report in three Senate districts. The total cost was \$10,834. This report is Independent Expenditure #48 on the Ethics Commission website.

On 10/31, the Maine Democratic Party filed an Independent Expenditure report in three Senate districts. The total cost was \$18,163. This report is Independent Expenditure #71 on the Ethics Commission website.

These expenditures add up to \$28,997. An amount very close to the contribution made by the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee on 10/26. This gives the appearance that the contribution was made with specific expenditures in mind. If the expenditures were planned on 10/26, they should have been reported on 10/26.

Even more damning is the reason given for late reporting on the 10/31 -- "late design with corrections not approved until 30th." This indicates that the expenditure was in the works before 10/30. It should have been reported when the designer was told to work on the design, not when the final approval was given.

Some of these expenditures involve candidates who are Clean Elections candidates. The Democrats' actions have had the effect of delaying the release of matching funds, which makes it more difficult for the affected candidates to spend the money effectively. It appears that this was a deliberate scheme to delay release of matching funds.

We are also concerned because the latest filing by the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee shows a balance of \$56,000. It is hard to believe that they do not have plans for this money with less than a week to go before the election. We anticipate more late independent expenditures -- expenditures that are likely already in the works.

In contrast, the Maine Republican Party filed independent expenditure reports yesterday for all expenditures planned in Senate races. We believe we are required to report any expenditures that are planned and in the works. Any additional expenditures will be the result of new money just raised this week.

I would appreciate your timely attention to this matter.

Dan Billings