



**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**





## Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

### REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Secretary of State of Ohio  
Dale Schwieterman and Owen Hall  
Republican Executive Committee  
Mercer County  
1328 Michael Avenue  
Celina, Ohio 45822

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, to which the Republican Executive Committee (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, 2005. 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. They informed us they did use this fund for all 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 2005. We noted no computational errors.
3. We compared bank deposits reflected in 2005 restricted fund bank statements to total deposits recorded in Deposit Forms 31-CC filed for 2005.
4. We confirmed amounts received from the State Tax Commissioner pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code 3517.17(A), and agreed them to amounts shown on Deposit Forms 31-CC filed for 2005. We found one exception.

**Ohio Rev. Code 3517.17(A)** states that each party treasurer receiving public moneys from the Ohio political party fund shall deposit those moneys into the party's restricted fund, and shall expend and maintain those moneys subject to the requirements of that section.

In August of 2005, the Mercer County Republican Party received \$80.53 of tax check off money and erroneously deposited the check into their executive account. The Mercer County Republican Party Executive Committee transferred the \$80.53 back into the restricted fund on September 6, 2006.

5. We scanned other recorded receipts for evidence that a corporation or labor organization may have exceeded the \$10,000 annual gift limit Ohio Rev. Code 3517(X)(3)(a) imposes. We found no evidence that any corporation or labor organization exceeded this limit.

6. Ohio Rev. Code 3517.1012 requires the Party to file Forms 31-CC electronically with the Secretary of State when the Committee receives gifts from corporations or labor organizations. The Party received money from corporations in 2005 and did not file electronically.

**Ohio Revised Code 3517.1012** states deposit and disbursement statements filed in accordance with this division by a county political party shall be filed by electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state at the times specified in division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of statements of contributions and expenditures if the county political party accepts gifts from a corporation or labor organization.

The Mercer County Republican Party had \$630 in corporate contributions in 2005 and failed to file their statement of contributions and expenditures electronically.

### **Cash Reconciliation**

1. We recomputed the mathematical accuracy of the December 31, 2005 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, 2005. 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 2005. We noted no computational errors.
2. Per Ohio Rev. Code 3517.13(X)(1), we scanned Disbursement Form 31-M 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 checks or other disbursements reflected in 2005 restricted fund bank statements to disbursement amounts reported on Disbursement Forms 31-M filed for 2005.
4. For each disbursement on Disbursement Forms 31-M filed for 2005, we traced the payee and amount to payee invoices and to the payee's name on canceled checks. The payees and amounts recorded on Disbursement Forms 31-M agreed to the payees and amounts on the canceled checks and invoices.
5. We scanned the payee for each disbursement for evidence that it might represent a contribution or campaign-related disbursement, both of which Ohio Rev. Code 3517(X)(2)(b) prohibit. We found no evidence that any restricted fund disbursements represented contributions or campaign-related disbursements.
6. We compared the signature on 2005 checks to the list of authorized signatories the Committee provided to us. The signatory on all checks we selected was an approved signatory. We compared the endorsement to the payee listed on the check without exception.

7. We scanned each 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 listed on Disbursement Forms 31-M, filed for 2005, to the purpose listed on the vendor invoice and to the purposes Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.18 permits. We found one exception: The Committee made a charitable contribution of \$484.20 to the Richardson Bretz Foundation in August 2005.

**Ohio Revised Code 3517.18** states a political party receiving moneys from the Ohio political party fund may expend the moneys only for the allowed purposes set by law.

The Mercer County Republican Party disbursed \$484.20 of tax check off money to a charity in 2005.

The Mercer County Republican Executive Committee reimbursed the Restricted Fund for \$484.20 on October 4, 2006.

9. Ohio Rev. Code 3517.1012 requires the Party to file Forms 31-M electronically with the Secretary of State when the Committee receives gifts from corporations or labor organizations. The Party received money from corporations in 2005 and did not file electronically.

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 2005, 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.



**BETTY MONTGOMERY**  
Auditor of State

October 11, 2006





**Auditor of State  
Betty Montgomery**

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**REPUBLICAN PARTY**

**MERCER 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  
OCTOBER 19, 2006**