



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

February 10, 2011

The attached audit report was completed and prepared for release prior to the commencement of Auditor Yost's term of office on January 10, 2011. Reports completed prior to that date contain the signature of former Auditor Taylor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert R. Hinkle".

Robert R. Hinkle, CPA, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Ohio Secretary of State
Ohio Republican Party
211 South Fifth Street
Columbus, OH 43215

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, to which the Ohio Republican Party (the Party) agreed, solely to assist the Party 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, 2009. The Party is responsible for complying with these requirements. We followed the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' attestation standards for agreed-upon procedures engagements and applicable attestation engagement standards included in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the Party. 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 with management to determine 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 deposited all such gifts received during 2009 into the same fund used to deposit amounts received from the State Tax Commissioner.
2. We footed each *Statement of Political Party Restricted Fund Deposits* (Form 31-CC) Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.17 requires filed for 2009, and agreed the total deposits to the *Ohio Campaign Finance Report* (OCFR, Form 30-A). We noted no computational errors.
3. We compared bank deposits reflected in the 2009 restricted fund bank statements to total deposits recorded on Forms 31-CC filed for 2009. The bank deposit amounts agreed to the deposits recorded in the Form.
4. We scanned the Party's 2009 bank statements and noted they reflected four quarterly payments received from the State Tax Commissioner pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code 3517.17(A). We agreed the sum of these four payments received to the amount reported on Forms 31-CC. The Forms 31-CC reported the sum of these four payments without exception.
5. We scanned other recorded 2009 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, except as identified on the following page.

- The Party recorded a \$20,191 amount as a contribution in its Form 31-CC on July 27, 2009. This recorded transaction to the Ohio Republican Party Restricted Fund exceeded the \$10,000 limit by \$10,191. Management of the Party stated the \$20,191 was given to the Party by one company to pay off the remaining balance of a lease with another company. The Party deposited and expended the \$20,191 within four days to complete the transaction. In addition, there was no other activity within the Restricted Fund during this four-day time period.

Official's Response

As we discussed at our conference of January 5, 2011, this transaction reflects a lease incentive payment provided by a vendor in order to enter into an equipment lease transaction. I have provided a letter from the vendor's Sales Manager further explaining the transaction. As we discussed, it is common in the industry for a new vendor to buy out the existing term of a lease in order to obtain the business. Typically, this buy out is amortized by the vendor over the life of the new lease. The vendor in question has not been a contributor to the Ohio Republican Party as further evidence of the non-contributory nature of the deposit. The amount reported as a contribution would more appropriately be reflected as Other Income. If necessary, we will amend our report online with the Secretary of State to reclassify the \$20,191.00 as Other Income rather than a contribution.

Auditor's Conclusion

We evaluated the explanation and the vendor letter provided by the Ohio Republican Party. We agree the transaction in question would have been more appropriately reflected as Other Income. We recommend the Party amend the related reports filed with the Secretary of State.

6. Ohio Rev. Code 3517.1012 requires the Party to file Forms 31-CC electronically with the Secretary of State when the Party receives gifts from corporations or labor organizations. We viewed Forms 31-CC submitted for 2009 on the Secretary of State's website.

Cash Reconciliation

1. We recomputed the mathematical accuracy of the December 31, 2009, 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, 2009. The balances agreed.
3. We agreed the book balance on the reconciliation to the Party's internal ledger and the OCFR (Form 30-A) as of December 31, 2009. The balances agreed.
4. We agreed reconciling items appearing on the reconciliation to canceled checks, deposit slips, or other documentation, without exception. We determined that the dates and amounts on those documents support that those items were proper reconciling items and were recorded in the proper amounts on the reconciliation as of December 31, 2009.

Cash Disbursements

1. We footed each *Statement of Political Party Restricted Fund Disbursements* (Form 31-M) Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.17 requires filed for 2009 and agreed the total disbursements to the OCFR (Form 30-A). We noted no computational errors.
2. Per Ohio Rev. Code 3517.13(X)(1), we scanned Forms 31-M filed for 2009 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. Using nonstatistical sampling, we selected 25 checks or other disbursements reflected in 2009 restricted fund bank statements and compared amounts to the disbursement amounts reported on Forms 31-M filed for 2009. We found no exceptions.
4. Using nonstatistical sampling, we selected 25 disbursements on Forms 31-M filed for 2009 and we traced the payee and amount to payee invoices and to the payee's name on canceled checks. The payees and amounts recorded on Forms 31-M agreed to the payees and amounts on the canceled checks and invoices.
5. We scanned the payee for each 2009 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 found no evidence that any restricted fund disbursements represented contributions or campaign-related disbursements.
6. For the items selected in step 3, we compared the signature on the canceled checks to the list of authorized signatories the Party 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 2009 restricted fund disbursement recorded on Forms 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. For the items selected in step 3, we compared the purpose of the disbursements to the purpose listed on the vendor invoice and to the purposes Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.18 permits. We found no instances where the purpose described on the invoice violated the restrictions of Ohio Rev. Code Section 3517.18.
9. Ohio Rev. Code 3517.1012 requires the Party to file Forms 31-M electronically with the Secretary of State when the Party receives gifts from corporations or labor organizations. We viewed Form 31-M submitted for 2009 on the Secretary of State's website.

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 2009, 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 Ohio Republican Party and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone else.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

January 5, 2011



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

OHIO REPUBLICAN PARTY

FRANKLIN 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
FEBRUARY 10, 2011