

STATE OF COLORADO  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
1700 BROADWAY #550  
DENVER, COLORADO 80290

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BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF STATE, COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER

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AHO Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

ED Case No. 2025-09

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In the Matter of

ELECTIONS DIVISION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

Complainant,

vs.

CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE,

Respondents.

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### **COMPLAINT**

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Pursuant to § 1-45-111.7, C.R.S. (2024), the Elections Division of the Secretary of State files this complaint against the Custer County Republican Central Committee (the “Committee” or “Respondent”).

### **BACKGROUND**

1. To provide voters with information about the sources of financial support for political candidates and committees, and to prevent the circumvention of campaign finance regulations, Colorado requires political party committees, like Respondent, to accurately report their contributions received, accurately report whether contributions are made in cash, and report the occupation and employer for contributors who donate more than one hundred dollars.

2. Here, the Committee failed to accurately report several contributions, leading to confusion and inaccurate reports.

3. Accordingly, the Elections Division brings this action for appropriate relief.

### **PARTIES**

4. Complainant is the Elections Division (“Division”) of the Colorado Secretary of State.

5. Respondent is the Custer County Republican Central Committee, a political party committee registered with the Colorado Secretary of State, ID # 20095618901.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6. The Division has jurisdiction under § 1-45-111.7.

7. The Division files this complaint with a hearing officer consistent with § 1-45-111.7(5)(a)(IV).

8. This complaint is timely filed within thirty days of the Division’s May 30, 2025, Notice of Investigation, according to § 1-45-111.7(5)(a)(IV).

9. Venue is proper before the hearing officer under § 1-45-111.7(5).

### **ALLEGATIONS**

10. The Custer County Republican Central Committee is a political party committee registered with the Colorado Secretary of State. Its purpose is “to support the Republican party.”

11. On March 5, 2025, the Elections Division filed a complaint under section 1-45-111.7(7) against the Committee. Based on a review of the Committee’s October 15, 2025, Report of Contributions and Expenditures, the complaint identified nine contributions the Committee said were cash contributions, but that exceed the \$100 cap on cash contributions. *See Colo. Const. art. XXVIII, § 3(10).*

12. The complaint also identified five contributions of more than \$100 for which the contributor’s occupation, employer, or address was missing. *See § 1-45-108(1)(a)(I), (II), C.R.S. (2024).*

13. During its review and investigation of the complaint, the Division corresponded with the Committee. The Committee also provided the Division with documentary evidence, including receipts and payment ledgers.

14. Based on that correspondence, the Division determined that the Committee had not accepted any cash contributions over \$100, but had instead made reporting errors with regards to the nine contributions identified in the complaint.

15. For example, one \$200 cash contribution was listed as coming from a single contributor, but was actually two separate \$100 cash contributions on behalf of a husband and wife.

16. Based on its review of this information and evidence, the Division determined that the Committee had violated Colorado campaign finance law by:

- a. Inaccurately reporting the amount of nine contributions;
- b. Inaccurately reporting twelve contributions as from someone other than who made those contributions;
- c. Incorrectly reporting one contribution made by check as a cash contribution over \$100;
- d. Incorrectly reporting the amount of one contribution; and
- e. Failing to identify the occupation and employer for three contributors.

17. The Committee has since updated its Reports to correct these inaccuracies and provide the required information, but did not do so in advance of the November 2024 general election.

### **COLORADO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW**

18. Under Colorado law, candidate committees “shall report to the appropriate officer their contributions received, including the name and address of each person who has contributed twenty dollars or more.” § 1-45-108(1)(a)(I), C.R.S. (2024).

19. “[I]n the case of contributions made to a . . . political party, the disclosure required by this section shall also include the occupation and employer of each person who

has made a contribution of one hundred dollars or more to such . . . party.” § 1-45-108(1)(a)(II), C.R.S. (2024).

**CLAIM ONE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRIBUTION**  
**( § 1-45-108(1)(a)(I), C.R.S. (2024))**

20. All preceding allegations are incorporated.

21. On its October 15, 2024 Report of Contributions and Expenditures, the Committee failed to provide required information for several contributions.

22. The Committee also listed inaccurate information, including misidentifying various contributors and the amounts of some contributions.

23. The Committee has since added the required information and corrected the inaccuracies.

24. The Division is entitled to relief under Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution and the Fair Campaign Practices Act, § 1-45-101 et seq.

**CLAIM TWO**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRIBUTION**  
**( § 1-45-108(1)(a)(II), C.R.S. (2024))**

25. All preceding allegations are incorporated.

26. On its October 15, 2024 Report of Contributions and Expenditures, the Committee failed to identify the occupation and employer of three contributors who made contributions of one hundred dollars or more.

27. The Committee has since amended its Report to add this information.

28. The Division is entitled to relief under Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution and the Fair Campaign Practices Act, § 1-45-101 et seq.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the Elections Division prays for judgment and relief as follows:

1. Penalties as set out under 8 CCR 1505-6, Rule 23.4.3.
2. Such other relief as the Hearing Officer may deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025

PHILIP J. WEISER  
Attorney General

/s/ Peter G. Baumann

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PETER G. BAUMANN\*  
Senior Assistant Attorney General, No 51620  
Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center  
1300 Broadway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Telephone: 720-508-6152  
Fax: 720-508-6041  
[peter.baumann@coag.gov](mailto:peter.baumann@coag.gov)  
\*Counsel of Record

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that I will cause the foregoing to be served this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025, by email and/or U.S. mail, addressed as follows:

Custer County Republican Central Committee  
C/O Registered Agent Andrew Scott Zeller  
PO Box 1608  
Westcliffe CO 81252

[andrewszeller@gmail.com](mailto:andrewszeller@gmail.com)

*Respondent*

/s/ Peter G. Baumann