

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF ELECTIONS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AUDIT

ORLAND A. CORREA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AUDIT



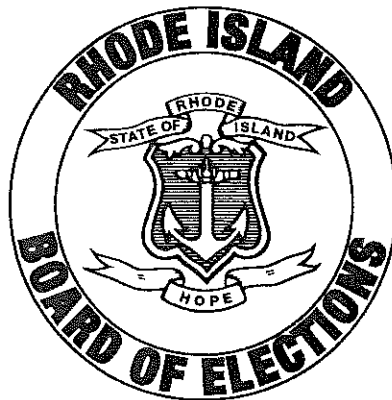
Audit Conducted By: Richard E. Thornton, Director of Campaign Finance

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Orlando A. Correa

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Orlando A. Correa

INTRODUCTION

Audit Authority

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Law §17-25-5(a)(8), the Board of Elections is authorized to perform any duties that are necessary to implement the provisions of Chapter 25 of Title 17. Without limiting the generality of this provision, the Board is authorized and empowered to: Conduct compliance reviews and audits of campaign accounts as necessary, and in a manner consistent with the provisions of Chapter 25, Title 17.

Audit Purpose

Campaign Finance audits assist the Board of Elections with enforcement of campaign finance laws, provides a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of those laws and the campaign finance reporting process, verifies the accuracy and propriety of campaign finance receipts and validity and legality of campaign finance expenses and helps provide timely and accurate information to the public.

Campaign Finance audits assist and encourage candidate compliance with campaign finance reporting laws and promotes candidate accountability and integrity.

Orlando A. Correa

Scope: Review campaign finance reports and supporting documentation for the period January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Methodology: Review Contributions:

- Compare contributions received to bank statement deposits
- Compare contributions received to contributions reported on campaign finance reports
- Verify there are no prohibited contributions
- Verify contributions do not exceed aggregate annual limit

Review Expenditures:

- Compare expenditures made to bank statement checks/debits
- Compare expenditures made to expenditures reported on campaign finance reports
- Verify there are no prohibited uses of campaign funds
- Verify campaign expenditures are valid and legal.

History: In August 2021, the Board of Elections ("Board") initiated an audit of the campaign account of Orlando A. Correa ("Correa") pursuant to R.I.G.L. §17-25-5(a), due to Correa's failure to submit a copy of his 2020 campaign bank account statement pursuant to R.I.G.L. §17-25-11(c)(2) and failure to file three (3) campaign finance reports, required pursuant to R.I.G.L. §17-25-11(c)(1).

On September 22, 2021, the Board received via subpoena served upon the bank of Correa's campaign account, campaign depository account bank statements for the period January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Findings: The following are Findings of campaign finance violations discovered during the Audit Review of Correa's campaign account and supporting documentation:

Orlando A. Correa

Contributions:

- No campaign contributions were received or deposited during the scope of the audit.

Expenditures:

- \$1,071.11 in expenditures, representing twelve (12) transactions, were not disclosed on campaign finance reports in violation of R.I.G.L. §17-25-11.
- \$1,025.11 was withdrawn as money orders from the campaign bank account on 5/17/2021 to close the account; but not expended as political donations until 9/28/2021.

Summary: The Audit Review of Correa's campaign account and supporting documentation for the period January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 demonstrates:

- Twelve (12) expenditures were not disclosed on campaign finance reports.
- Campaign funds were withdrawn as money orders (cash equivalent) to close the campaign bank account, but not expended as political donations for more than four (4) months.
- Three (3) campaign finance reports were not filed.
- A copy of the 2020 campaign bank account statement was not submitted by Correa.

Auditee Response:

- Correa acknowledges he failed to file three (3) campaign finance reports and submit a copy of his 2020 campaign bank account statement. Correa also acknowledges withdrawing \$1,025.11 on 5/17/2021 to close his campaign bank account, but not expending the funds for political donations for more than four months.

Action:

Consent Order (to follow)

State of Rhode Island
Board of Elections

CONSENT ORDER

In Re: Orlando A. Correa

Orlando A. Correa ("Correa") hereby agrees to the entry of this Order and to each term and condition set forth herein:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Correa has been subject to the reporting requirements set forth in Title 17, Chapter 25 of the General Laws, pertaining to campaign contributions and expenditures.
2. In August 2021, the Board of Elections ("Board") initiated an audit of the campaign account of Correa due to Correa's failure to submit a copy of his 2020 campaign bank account statement in violation of R.I.G.L. §17-25-11(c)(2) and failure to file three (3) campaign finance reports in violation of R.I.G.L. §17-25-11(c)(1).
3. The Board conducted a full review of campaign finance reports, supporting documentation and bank records obtained via subpoena to verify the accuracy and propriety of campaign receipts and expenditures. The review determined the following:
 - Twelve (12) expenditures were not disclosed on campaign finance reports.
 - Campaign funds were withdrawn as money orders (cash equivalent) to close the campaign bank account, but not expended as political donations for more than four (4) months.
 - Three (3) campaign finance reports were not filed.
 - A copy of the 2020 campaign bank account statement was not submitted by Correa.
4. Correa hereby acknowledges that he violated several provisions of Title 17, Chapter 25; and authorized the Board to complete his campaign finance reporting and dissolve his account on his behalf.
5. Correa hereby waives his right to any further hearing before the Board, and his right to bring any legal challenge before any state or federal court and expressly

consents to a finding by the Board that his actions, as more fully described above, violate the reporting and compliance requirements of Title 17, Chapter 25.

6. Correa further consents to the entry of this Order and the imposition of a fine by the Board pursuant to R.I.G.L. §17-25-13(b), in the amount of \$600.00 to be paid personally by him; for violations of Title 17, Chapter 25.
7. Correa hereby agrees to make the following payment of fine to the Board:
 - 1) \$600.00 fine to be paid personally by Orlando A. Correa within sixty (60) days of the date the Consent Order is so entered.
8. Correa agrees to make the payment described above on or before the Due Date. In the event Correa fails to make the payment by the corresponding Due Date, the Board shall notify Correa both by U.S. Mail First Class and electronically at the residence and email address set forth below ("Delinquency Notice"). Correa shall be afforded ten (10) calendar days from the date of the Delinquency Notice to make the overdue payment. In the event the aforesaid payment is not made within the ten (10) day notice period, Correa agrees that the fine shall increase to \$1,200.00 which shall immediately become due and payable to the Board and that the Board shall refer the unpaid debt to the Department of Revenue-Central Collections Unit for collection. Correa consents to the personal jurisdiction and entry of this Order as a final judgment and waives any and all defenses that he may have to its enforcement.

The fines contained herein relate only to the violations identified in this Order and do not cover any violations not listed.

I, Orlando A. Correa, agree to each and every term set forth above and further agree to the entry of this Order.

Orlando A. Correa
Orlando A. Correa

Nov 01 2021
Date

So entered this 2nd day of November, 2021.

Diane Mederos
Diane Mederos, Chairwoman