NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Settlement Agreement

This Settlement Agreement is between the North Carolina State Board of Elections ("State Board") and the Friends of Mark Robinson [STA-082R4C-C-001] ("Committee").

This matter arises from a State Board examination of reports filed on behalf of the Committee for July 1, 2019, through December 31, 2020. The examination found reason to believe the Committee accepted contributions and made expenditures in violation of Article 22A of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Prohibited transactions are documented in the September 23, 2024, Compliance Examination Memorandum. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 163-278.34(b), a political committee that intentionally makes or accepts a contribution or makes an unlawful expenditure in violation of Article 22A is subject to civil penalties and forfeiture of the unlawful amount received.

The State Board and Friends of Mark Robinson seek to expeditiously resolve this matter through informal procedures and have reached the following settlement:

1. Payment. The Committee agrees to pay $35,065.52 to the State Board of Elections.

   Payment shall be made by check payable to the NC State Board of Elections. Please note "Settlement Payment" in the memo line of the check. The Committee shall mail payment to:

   NC State Board of Elections
   P.O. Box 27255
   Raleigh, NC 27611-7255

   Proceeds shall be paid to the NC Civil Penalties and Forfeiture Fund consistent with N.C.G.S. § 163-278.34(e).

2. Release. In consideration for the Committee's full payment, the State Board shall release the Committee from any civil penalty or forfeiture, and the costs of investigation, assessment, and collection under N.C.G.S. § 163-278.34(b) related to the prohibited transactions documented in the September 23, 2024, Compliance Examination Memorandum.

3. Amended Reports. Friends of Mark Robinson has provided public records to disclose and clarify contributions received and expenditures made in 2019 and 2020. The Committee will not be required to file amended reports for 2019 and 2020.

4. Noncompliance. The Parties agree that if the Committee fails to make a payment in accordance with this Agreement by December 31, 2024, the State Board may revoke this Agreement and pursue a penalty or civil remedy as authorized under N.C.G.S. § 163-278.34 to enforce Article 22A.

5. Other violations. Nothing in this Agreement shall restrict the right of the State Board to take any enforcement action with regards to unrelated matters, including but not limited to, the imposition of civil penalties under N.C.G.S. § 163-278.34.

6. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the Parties with respect to this subject matter of this Agreement.

7. Modification. Any modification to this Agreement shall take effect only upon written agreement executed by all Parties.

8. Binding Effect. Each of the persons executing this Agreement on behalf of the Parties represents and warrants that he or she is fully authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of his or her respective party, and to legally bind such party to its terms and conditions.

9. Execution and Effective Date. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original instrument and all of which together shall constitute one and the same Agreement. Facsimile or photocopied signatures shall be considered as valid signatures as of the date hereof. This Agreement shall become effective upon the date in which the last signatory affixes his or her signature to the Agreement.

10. Acknowledgements. Each of the persons executing this Agreement acknowledge that they have carefully read this Agreement in its entirety, conferred with their attorney or had the opportunity to confer with an attorney, fully understand the contents of the Agreement, and consent to the settlement of claims on the terms set forth herein.

Ginger Kelley
Treasurer
Friends of Mark Robinson

12/02/2024
Date

Karen Brinson Bell
Executive Director
North Carolina State Board of Elections

12/6/2024
Date