



Final Audit Report of the Commission on the Office and Professional Employees International Union – Voice of the Electorate

January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008

Why the Audit Was Done

Federal law permits the Commission to conduct audits and field investigations of any political committee that is required to file reports under the Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act). The Commission generally conducts such audits when a committee appears not to have met the threshold requirements for substantial compliance with the Act.¹ The audit determines whether the committee complied with the limitations, prohibitions and disclosure requirements of the Act.

Future Action

The Commission may initiate an enforcement action, at a later time, with respect to the matter discussed in this report.

About the Committee (p. 2)

The Office and Professional Employees International Union – Voice of the Electorate is a separate segregated fund of the Office and Professional Employees International Union headquartered in Washington, DC. For more information, see chart on the Committee Organization, p. 2.

Financial Activity (p. 2)

• Receipts	
○ Contributions from Individuals	\$456,043
○ Offsets to Operating Expenditures	1,000
○ Refunds from Federal Candidates	2,567
○ Other Receipts	4,064
Total Receipts	\$463,674
• Disbursements	
○ Operating Expenditures	\$ 69,086
○ Contributions to Federal Candidates	323,500
○ Other Disbursements	126,156
Total Disbursements	\$518,742

Finding and Recommendation (p. 3)

Misstatement of Financial Activity – Increased Activity

¹ 2 U.S.C. §438(b).

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Part I

Background

Authority for Audit

This report is based on an audit of the Office and Professional Employees International Union – Voice of the Electorate (OP-VOTE), undertaken by the Audit Division of the Federal Election Commission (the Commission) in accordance with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act). The Audit Division conducted the audit pursuant to 2 U.S.C. §438(b), which permits the Commission to conduct audits and field investigations of any political committee that is required to file a report under 2 U.S.C. §434. Prior to conducting any audit under this subsection, the Commission must perform an internal review of reports filed by selected committees to determine if the reports filed by a particular committee meet the threshold requirements for substantial compliance with the Act. 2 U.S.C. §438(b).

Scope of Audit

Following Commission approved procedures, the Audit staff evaluated various risk factors and as a result, this audit examined:

1. The disclosure of individual contributors' occupation and name of employer.
2. The consistency between reported figures and bank records.
3. The completeness of records.
4. Other committee operations necessary to the review.

Audit Hearing

OP-VOTE declined the opportunity for a hearing before the Commission on the matter presented in this report.

Part II

Overview of Committee

Committee Organization

Important Dates	
• Date of Registration	July 28, 1976
• Audit Coverage	January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008
Headquarters	
	Washington, DC
Bank Information	
• Bank Depositories	Two
• Bank Accounts	Five
Treasurer	
• Treasurer When Audit Was Conducted	Mary Mahoney
• Treasurer During Period Covered by Audit	Nancy Wohlforth
Management Information	
• Attended FEC Campaign Finance Seminar	Yes
• Who Handled Accounting and Recordkeeping Tasks	Paid Staff

Overview of Financial Activity (Audited Amounts)

Cash on hand @ January 1, 2007	\$311,759
o Contributions from Individuals	456,043
o Offsets to Operating Expenditures	1,000
o Refunds from Federal Candidates	2,567
o Other Receipts	4,064
Total Receipts	\$463,674
o Operating Expenditures	69,086
o Contributions to Federal Candidates	323,500
o Other Disbursements	126,156
Total Disbursements	\$518,742
Cash on hand @ December 31, 2008	\$256,691

Part III

Summary

Commission Finding

Misstatement of Financial Activity – Increased Activity

On its reports as originally filed with the Commission, OP-VOTE underreported disbursements by \$171,938 for calendar years 2007 and 2008. In response to a discussion at the exit conference, OP-VOTE provided a detailed explanation of how the initial underreporting occurred as well as steps taken to eliminate future reporting problems. In response to the interim audit report, Counsel for OP-VOTE again stated that OP-VOTE has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, improved procedures. The Commission approved this finding. (For more detail, see p. 4)

Part IV

Commission Finding

Misstatement of Financial Activity – Increased Activity

Summary

On its reports as originally filed with the Commission, OP-VOTE underreported disbursements by \$171,938 for calendar years 2007 and 2008. In response to a discussion at the exit conference, OP-VOTE provided a detailed explanation of how the initial underreporting occurred as well as steps taken to eliminate future reporting problems. In response to the interim audit report, Counsel for OP-VOTE again stated that OP-VOTE has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, improved procedures. The Commission approved this finding.

Legal Standard

Contents of Reports. Each report must disclose:

- The amount of cash on hand at the beginning and end of the reporting period;
- The total amount of receipts for the reporting period and for the calendar year;
- The total amount of disbursements for the reporting period and for the calendar year; and
- Certain transactions that require itemization on Schedule A (Itemized Receipts) or Schedule B (Itemized Disbursements). 2 U.S.C. §434(b) (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5).

Facts and Analysis

A. Facts

The original disclosure reports filed by OP-VOTE with the Commission for calendar years 2007 and 2008 underreported disbursements by \$171,938. A major portion of the underreporting (\$151,000) occurred during the Post-General reporting period for 2008 (October 16, to November 24, 2008). OP-VOTE discovered the problem, and on its own initiative, filed amended reports which materially corrected the underreporting.

B. Interim Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

This matter was discussed at the exit conference. In response, Counsel stated that the person in charge of filing reports was on maternity leave from August 2008 to mid-October 2008, and returned on a part-time basis. She returned to full time on January 5, 2009. The Post-General report was compiled and filed by a part-time employee transitioning back to full-time status, and another newly hired but inexperienced employee. Counsel believed that the error was the result of the lack of clear assignment of responsibilities to, and oversight of, part-time and new employees. In addition, Counsel stated that OP-VOTE is currently reviewing their accounting, reporting, internal control, and oversight policies so that they may be brought into accord with the Commission's regulations and Best Practices for Committee Management guidelines. OP-VOTE is also procuring on-line reporting software, which will have many built-in

safeguards and compliance checks, to replace its current software. The Audit staff recommended that OP-VOTE provide any additional information or comments that it considered relevant to this matter.

C. Committee Response to the Interim Audit Report

In response, Counsel again stated that OP-VOTE has implemented or is in the process of implementing the improved procedures described above.

D. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report acknowledged OP-VOTE's efforts to revise its reporting procedures.

Commission Conclusion

The Commission approved this finding.