



# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF ELECTIONS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AUDIT

ALEXANDER HOFFMAN

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE AUDIT**



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

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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# Alexander Hoffman

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# **Alexander Hoffman**

## **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.

# Alexander Hoffman

**Scope:** Review campaign finance reports and supporting documentation for the period September 1, 2019 through September 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:** Alexander Hoffman (“Hoffman”), a Democrat, registered with the RI Board of Elections (“Board”) on September 25, 2019 to run for State Senate, but did not file a declaration of candidacy for the 2020 election.

In August 2021, the Board initiated an audit of the campaign account of Hoffman pursuant to R.I.G.L. §17-25-5(a), due to his 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 five (5) campaign finance reports, required pursuant to R.I.G.L. §17-25-11(c)(1).

On September 16, 2021, the Board received via subpoena served upon the bank of Hoffman’s campaign account, campaign depository account bank statements for the period September 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021.

Hoffman did not respond to the Findings of the audit, so on December 16, 2021, the Board voted to authorize the service of a subpoena upon Hoffman to compel production of his campaign bank account statements.

## Alexander Hoffman

On December 28, 2021, Hoffman was successfully served with the subpoena by a constable and on January 31, 2022, Hoffman produced the campaign bank account statements as so ordered at the Board.

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

### Contributions:

- \$231.43 deposited into the campaign bank account, but not reported on campaign finance reports; unable to identify the sources of funds deposited.
- \$15.00 reported on campaign finance reports, but not deposited into the campaign bank account.

### Expenditures:

- \$724.29 in expenditures, representing sixteen (16) transactions, were made from the campaign bank account, but not disclosed on campaign finance reports.

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

- \$231.43 deposited into the campaign bank account, but not reported on campaign finance reports; unable to identify the sources of funds deposited, in violation of R.I.G.L. §17-25-11.
- \$724.29 in expenditures, representing sixteen (16) transactions, were made from the campaign bank account, but not disclosed on campaign finance reports, in violation of R.I.G.L. §17-25-11.
- Five (5) campaign finance reports remain unfiled, in violation of R.I.G.L. §17-25-11(c)(1)
- A copy of the 2020 campaign bank account statement was not submitted, in violation of R.I.G.L. §17-25-11(c)(2).

**Auditee Response:** Hoffman did not believe he had to file campaign finance reports since he decided not to run for public office.

**Action:** Consent Order (to follow)

State of Rhode Island  
Board of Elections

CONSENT ORDER

In Re: Alexander Hoffman

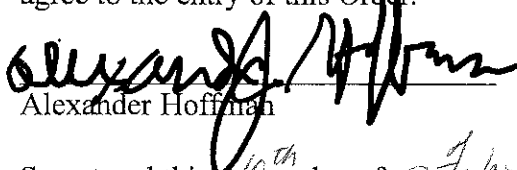
Alexander Hoffman ("Hoffman") hereby agrees to the entry of this Order and to each term and condition set forth herein:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Hoffman 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 Hoffman due to his 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 five (5) 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 two (2) subpoenas to verify the accuracy and propriety of campaign receipts and expenditures. The review determined the following:
  - \$231.43 was deposited into the campaign bank account, but not reported on campaign finance reports. The source of the contributions could not be determined;
  - \$15.00 in contributions were reported on campaign finance reports, but not deposited into the campaign bank account;
  - \$724.29 in campaign expenditures, representing sixteen (16) transactions, were made from the campaign account but not disclosed on campaign finance reports;
  - Five (5) campaign finance reports were not filed.
  - A copy of Hoffman's 2020 campaign bank account statement was not submitted.
4. Hoffman 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.

5. Hoffman 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 her actions, as more fully described above, violate the reporting and compliance requirements of Title 17, Chapter 25.
6. Hoffman 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 \$1,000.00 to be paid personally by him; for violations of Title 17, Chapter 25, and to reimburse the Board for the cost associated with the service of a subpoena by a constable, in the amount of \$60.00 to be paid personally by him.
7. Hoffman hereby agrees to make the following payments for reimbursement and fine to the Board:
  - 1) \$60.00 reimbursement to be paid personally by Alexander Hoffman within thirty (30) days of the date the Consent Order is so entered; and
  - 2) \$1,000.00 fine to be paid personally by Alexander Hoffman by December 31, 2022.
8. Hoffman agrees to make the payment described above on or before the Due Date. In the event Hoffman fails to make the payment by the corresponding Due Date, the Board shall notify Hoffman both by U.S. Mail First Class and electronically at the residence and email address set forth below ("Delinquency Notice"). Hoffman 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, Hoffman agrees that the fine shall increase to \$2,000.00 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. Hoffman 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, Alexander Hoffman, agree to each and every term set forth above and further agree to the entry of this Order.

  
Alexander Hoffman

2-5-2022  
Date

So entered this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

  
Diane Mederos, Chairwoman