



**Portland
City Auditor**
Chief Deputy



November 14, 2024

David Angeli

Delivered electronically

david@angelilaw.com

Notice of Determination
Complaint No. 2024-09-RG

Dear David Angeli:

I. Introduction and Overview

On October 25, 2024, the Elections Division, within the Auditor's Office, received a complaint alleging that you and other individuals violated Portland's campaign finance law. (Ex. 1.) The complaint included a detailed spreadsheet of transactions, with information downloaded from the Oregon Elections System for Tracking and Reporting database ("ORESTAR").

Included in the complaint were two transactions that you allegedly made to Rene Gonzalez (referred to collectively with his campaign committee, Rene for Portland, as "Gonzalez") after December 7, 2023, which allegedly exceeded City Charter contribution limits.

After receiving the complaint, the Auditor's Office conducted an investigation, as detailed below. The Auditor's Office determines there was **no violation** of the City Charter's campaign finance regulations.

1221 SW Fourth Ave, Room 310
Portland, OR 97204
reed.brodersen@portlandoregon.gov
portland.gov/auditor
503-823-2767

II. The Auditor's Office conducted a complete investigation of this matter.

Under City Charter, the Auditor is required to take written complaints of campaign finance violations from any person. (Charter Section 3-305(c).) Upon receipt of a complaint, the Auditor is required, by law, to do the following: examine the complaint, make any investigation necessary, issue a notification of the complaint to every person who is an object of the complaint, accept written materials supporting or opposing the complaint, and render a decision on the complaint. (Charter Section 3-305(e).)

The Auditor's Office provided the complaint in this matter to you on October 28, 2024. The Auditor's Office received a response to the complaint from you on November 4, 2024 (Ex. 7.) The Auditor's Office finds as follows:

1. You contributed a total of \$350 to Rene for Portland from November 8, 2022, through October 25, 2024, based on the following transactions in ORESTAR and related findings:
 - a. On March 5, 2024, ORESTAR reflected a contribution of \$350 from you to Rene for Portland. (ORESTAR Transaction ID: 4808352). In your response, you stated this contribution was made by your wife, Courtney Angeli, with whom you share a joint checking account. (Ex. 7 at 1.) Essentially, the argument was that this transaction was erroneously recorded in ORESTAR by Gonzalez. You provided a copy of the check signed by Courtney Angeli to Rene for Portland, which included Courtney Angeli's name notated on the check's memo line. (Ex. 7 at 2.)
 - b. On April 7, 2024, you contributed \$350 to Rene for Portland. (ORESTAR Transaction ID: 4838654.) In the response, you confirmed you made this contribution and provided a copy of an email receipt dated April 7, 2024, listing your name as the donor to Rene for Portland. (Ex. 7 at 1, 3.)
 - c. On July 16, 2024, Rene for Portland issued you a refund in the amount of \$350. (ORESTAR Transaction ID: 4970537.) The refund was issued 101 days after your last contribution to Rene for Portland.

III. Determination

A. City Charter limits the amounts and sources of candidate contributions.

City Charter provides that a contributor can make and a candidate may receive only the following contributions:

- \$500 — adjusted by inflation to be \$579 for the current election cycle — from any individual or political committee other than a “Small Donor Committee”;
- Any amount from a qualified “Small Donor Committee”; and
- For candidates participating in the Small Donor Elections program (which Gonzalez is), any amount permitted by the Small Donor Elections program.¹

In addition, the Auditor’s Office does not consider a contribution that is refunded or declined within seven calendar days of receipt by a candidate or candidate committee in determining whether the contributor, candidate, or candidate committee has exceeded the limits set forth above.²

B. The Auditor’s Office attributes one of the contributions to wife, Courtney Angeli, and finds no violation of the City Charter’s campaign finance limits.

Based on your statements and additional evidence provided in your response, the Auditor’s Office determines you contributed a total of \$350 to Rene for Portland in the current election cycle and that this contribution was permissible. The Auditor’s Office finds the evidence supports your wife, Courtney Angeli, gave \$350 to Rene for Portland on March 5, 2024, and the Auditor’s Office attributes that contribution to them.

Under the rules of the Small Donor Elections program, a candidate can accept contributions of up to \$350 from individuals as either “allowable” or “matchable” contributions, in addition to seed money.³ Gonzalez reached his seed money limit on or around May 15, 2023, and the \$350 you gave was after this date. Therefore, the Auditor’s Office determines that the \$350 contribution you gave on April 7, 2024, was allowed as an “allowable” or “matchable” contribution under the Small Donor Elections program, and therefore allowed under City Charter regulations. Gonzalez’s refund on July 16, 2024, has no impact on the analysis as your contribution was within the limits under the Small Donor Elections program. The end result is a finding of **no violation**.

¹ City Charter Section 3-304.

² ARA 13.05(B).

³ City Code Section 2.16.040 F.

IV. Additional Authority and Appeals

This Notice of Determination is issued pursuant to the Auditor's authority under City Charter Section 3-305 (Implementation and Enforcement). That section sets forth the process for implementation and enforcement of the provisions of City Charter Article 3 (Campaign Finance in Candidate Elections), including the recipients' appeal rights. (See also Auditor's Office Administrative Rule 13.03(C) (requiring in part that decisions on complaints be in writing, identify whether a violation occurred, and state the basis for the decision).)

As described by City Charter Section 3-305(i) and Auditor's Office Administrative Rule ("ARA") [13.03\(D\)\(5\)-\(6\)](#), the complainant and the subjects of the complaint may seek judicial review of the decision in Multnomah County Circuit Court. In addition, the Auditor's Office may, on its own discretion or on request of an interested party, withdraw a decision for reconsideration within the earlier of 30 days from issuance of the decision or until the decision is appealed.

As set out in ARA 13.03(D)(6), decisions of the Auditor's Office can be appealed to the Circuit Court within the following timelines:

- For decisions that are not withdrawn for reconsideration, within 60 days from the issuance of a decision; and
- For decisions that are withdrawn for reconsideration, within 60 days from the issuance of the reissued decision.

Sincerely,



Reed Brodersen
Chief Deputy Auditor

CC: Seth Wooley, Complainant