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United Democrats of Kansas
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Dear Campaign Treasurers,

As a former campaign treasurer who recently experienced firsthand the challenges and potential consequences of this important role, I agreed to share my story and offer some cautionary guidance to others who serve in this role.

As the treasurer for the Kansas Democratic Party (KDP) from 2010-15, I was responsible for reviewing and signing finance reports that were compiled by the KDP staff and reviewed by a compliance consultant. I relied on the information provided as I believed it was complete and accurate. However, treasurers are the legally responsible party for compliance with Kansas Ethics Rules and Regulations. Errors in finance reports can expose you to fines or other actions by the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission (KGEC).

Treasurers are held to a high standard of responsibility, regardless of whether or not you prepare the report yourself. It is essential to have access to bank records and actively participate in the completion of the report yourself or diligently check the report if it is provided by a third party. Additionally, you must ensure that any succeeding treasurer has all the records that you had access to.

If you cannot adequately confirm the accuracy of a campaign finance report, you should insist on getting complete information or consider resigning.

I hope my experience can alert other treasurers to avoid a similar situation and potential fines. Make accuracy and completeness the highest priority in your reporting to stay in compliance with KGEC Rules and Regulations.

Sincerely,



Matt Watkins