

**GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION**<https://ethics.kansas.gov>

January 10, 2024

Benjamin Hodge
3917 W 84th, Apt D
Prairie Village, KS 66207**Re: Benjamin Hodge's \$16,940.00 Civil Liabilities Owed to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission**

Dear Benjamin Hodge,

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Below are five (5) civil penalties and two (2) civil fines that have been assessed against you totaling \$16,940.00. The civil liabilities are organized listed by your state campaign, your county campaign, then for your political action committee; within those categories, they are then chronologically organized.

In your capacity as Candidate for State Board of Education, the following two (2) civil penalties and one (1) civil fine are still outstanding. The total of these civil liabilities is \$5,490.00:

On January 29, 2021, an administrative order issued by the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission ("Commission") was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order assessed a \$250.00 penalty for the failure to file your Amended July 27, 2020, Receipts and Expenditures Report in a timely manner.

On March 25, 2021, an administrative order issued by the Commission was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order assessed a \$240.00 penalty for the failure to file your January 10, 2021, Receipts and Expenditures Report in a timely manner.

On May 3, 2021, the Commission's Report and Order for Complaint No. 700 was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order imposed a \$5,000.00 fine against you and found that you violated the Kansas Campaign Finance Act.

In your capacity as Candidate for County Commissioner, the following one (1) civil penalty and one (1) civil fine are still outstanding. The total of these civil liabilities is \$10,300.00:

On March 24, 2022, an administrative order issued by the Commission was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order assessed a \$300.00 penalty for the failure to file your January 10, 2022, Receipts and Expenditures Report in a timely manner.

On July 6, 2022, the Commission's Report and Order for Complaint No. 732 was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order imposed a \$10,000.00 fine against you and found that you violated the Kansas Campaign Finance Act.

In your capacity as Treasurer for Kansans for State & Local Reform, the following four (4) civil penalties are still outstanding. The total of these civil penalties is \$1,150.00:

On March 25, 2021, an administrative order issued by the Commission was mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The order assessed a \$250.00 penalty for the failure to file your January 10, 2021, Receipts and Expenditures Report in a timely manner.

On March 24, 2022, three (3) administrative orders issued by the Commission were mailed to you by certified mail, with signed return receipt requested, and by first-class mail. The orders each assessed \$300.00 penalties, for a total of \$900.00, for the failure to file your January 10, 2022, Receipts and Expenditures Report, failure to file your 2021 Political Action Committee Registration, and failure to file your Amended Statement of Organization in a timely manner.

On November 2, 2023, Mark Skoglund, Executive Director for the Commission, sent a letter by first class mail, reminding you of the obligation to pay the outstanding civil penalties. As of the date of this letter, the Commission has not received payment.

Please be advised that the Commission takes failure to pay assessed civil penalties seriously. In the absence of payment in full by February 9, 2024, the Commission intends to exercise any legal remedies available, including the State of Kansas Debt Setoff Program. If the Commission refers your debt to this program, the Kansas Department of Revenue will divert \$16,940.00 to the Commission from any money due you from the State of Kansas. Additionally, if you fail to pay by that date, your name will be posted on the Commission's website for failure to meet this financial responsibility. The Kansas Debt Setoff Program may also retain additional funds due to you from the state as payment for collection costs. Please be further advised that the Commission reserves and retains all its rights and remedies.

Further action to collect the civil penalty may be avoided by mailing a check or money order in the amount of \$16,940.00 made payable to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission so that receipt occurs by February 9, 2024.

Sincerely,



Kaitlyn R. Bull-Stewart

General Counsel