

BEFORE THE ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION

Randy Ruedrich,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 25-22-CD
	)	
Louise Stutes,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

ORDER APPROVING CONSENT AGREEMENT

Randy Ruedrich filed a complaint against Representative Louise Stutes alleging that she committed numerous violations including the following:

- Overfunding her Future Campaign Account (FCA) in 2020
- Failing to accurately disclose contributors in 2022
- Failing to properly describe expenditures to an advertising agency in 2022 and 2024
- Improperly reimbursing herself for campaign related and non-campaign related expenditures in 2024
- Improperly using campaign funds for legislative business in 2024
- Failing to disclose and accurately report contributions and expenditures in 2024¹

¹ Complaint, *Ruedrich v. Stutes*, Case No. 25-22-CD (October 27, 2025), <https://aws.state.ak.us/ApocReports/paper/Download.aspx?ID=27298>.

Rep. Stutes acknowledged these violations and indicated she would take full responsibility for them.² Alaska Public Offices Commission staff investigated and entered into a consent agreement with Rep. Stutes to resolve the complaint.

Consistent with her response to the complaint, in the proposed consent agreement, Rep. Stutes once again acknowledges the asserted violations. She admits she initially overfunded her FCA in 2020 by \$3,744.50.³ Although she corrected this mistake in her year end report, that corrected report was filed 13 days late and the correction occurred after the expiration of the deadline for disbursement of the funds.

She also admitted failing to disclose contributors in 2022. During that reporting period, Rep. Stutes reported various contributions from Democracy Engine, LLC and identified it as a PAC in her 30-day general report and 7-day general report. However, Democracy Engine, LLC is an online donation platform, not a PAC. As a result, Rep. Stutes should have disclosed individual contributors who donated through the platform on her reports. She agreed to file amended reports with full information on all contributors within 10 days of the Commission's approval of this Consent agreement.

Her next admitted violation concerned failing to properly describe expenditures to Hackney Communications in her 2022 7-day general and in her 2022 and 2024 year-end reports. Staff found and Rep. Stutes agreed that Hackney Communications was an

² Complaint Response, *Ruedrich v. Stutes*, Case No. 25-22-CD (December 5, 2025), <https://aws.state.ak.us/ApocReports/Paper/Download.aspx?ID=27820>.

³ The Consent Agreement also cited staff's finding that Rep. Stutes corrected this error by transferring \$3,744.50 from her FCA to her public office expense term account ("POET") in compliance with AS 15.13.116(a)(8).

advertising or consulting business for which candidates must disclose in detail all services rendered, including the name of each business from which campaign goods or services were purchased or subcontracted or media advertising placed.⁴ She again agreed to file amended reports with the full information required by 2 AAC 50.321(d) on all contributors within 10 days of the Commission's approval of this consent agreement.

She also admitted she improperly reimbursed herself for campaign and non-campaign related expenditures in 2024 which were identified on her 30-day general, 7-day general and year-end reports. The reimbursements violated both AS 15.13.078 and 2 AAC 50.321(d). The total reimbursements were \$6,879.48.⁵ She is required to reimburse her campaign this amount.

Rep. Stutes also improperly used campaign funds for legislative business in 2024 and as a result, her 2024 year-end report was incorrect. The total amount of campaign funds used was \$7,019.96 and she is required to reimburse her campaign this amount.⁶

Finally, Rep. Stutes acknowledges she failed to accurately report contributions and expenditures in her 2024 year-start report, 30-day primary report, 7-day primary report, 30-day general report and 7-day general report. Staff noted some errors were minor, but others reflected several thousand dollars in unreported campaign income. Staff calculated the

⁴ 2 AAC 50.321(d).

⁵ The Proposed Consent Agreement requires a total reimbursement of \$6,849.48 on page 7. This total is incorrect and is modified as noted to the correct total of \$6,879.48, an increase of \$30.00.

⁶ Rep. Stutes acknowledged during the Commission's hearing on the Consent Agreement that the reimbursements to her campaign in the amounts of \$6,879.48 and \$7,019.96 would come from her personally. The total reimbursement is \$13,899.44.

maximum penalty for failure to file complete and accurate year-start, 30-day, year-end, and 7-day reports at \$264,350.00.⁷ Staff applied mitigating factors and reduced the maximum penalty by 99% for an assessed penalty of \$2,643.50. We find the mitigation is appropriate under the circumstances given that Rep. Stutes is already required to personally reimburse her campaign \$13,899.44. We also agree that some penalties are warranted due to the serious lapses of accountability and unintended errors.

We conclude that the agreement “is in the public interest and consistent with controlling law” based on the supporting evidence and reasons identified in the agreement.⁸

We adopt staff’s factual finding and legal conclusions with the following amendments:

- a. The amount Rep. Stutes is required to reimburse her campaign for improperly reimbursing herself for campaign related and non-campaign related expenses in 2024 is \$6,879.48.
- b. Per Rep. Stutes’ agreement during the hearing, she shall personally reimburse her campaign in the total amount of \$13,899.44 from personal funds.⁹
- c. Per Rep. Stutes’ agreement during the hearing, she will file amended reports as identified in the Consent Agreement within 10 days of the Commission’s order approving the consent agreement.

⁷ See AS 15.13.390(a)(1) and 2 AAC 50.855(b)(5).

⁸ 2 AAC 50.885(b).

⁹ Although we would normally disregard *de minimis* errors that are in Rep. Stutes’ favor in the calculation of a penalty, we will not do so for the reimbursement since it is not a penalty.

We incorporate the agreement's remaining factual findings and legal conclusions in this order by reference and approve the agreement as amended herein in full.

This is a final Commission order. It may be appealed to the superior court within 30 days from the date of this order.¹⁰ A request for the Commission to reconsider this order must be filed within 15 days from the date this order is delivered or mailed.¹¹

Dated: August 11, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION¹²

Certificate of Service:

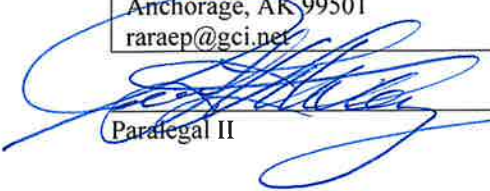
I hereby certify that on this date, I served, by **certified mail, US mail, and email** a true and correct copy of the foregoing in this proceeding on the following:

Rep. Louise Stutes
2230 Monashka Way
Kodiak, AK 99615
stutes@gci.net
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Randy Ruedrich
1513 W. 13th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501
raraep@gci.net

and by **email** to:

Heather Hebdon
Executive Director
Alaska Public Offices Commission
heather.hebdon@alaska.gov


Paralegal II

8-11-26
Date

¹⁰ AS 15.13.380(g); AS 44.62.560; Alaska R. App. P. 602.

¹¹ 2 AAC 50.891(g); AS 44.62.540.

¹² Commissioners, Eric Feige, Lanette Blodgett, Dan LaSota, Richard Stillie, and Walt Monegan participated in this matter. The decision was made on a 5-0 vote.