

by Davidgeri on Wed, 11 Jan at 12:26 PM via Email

Written comment on proposed inflation adjustments

External Email

Dear PDC,

I am the chair of one of the smallest county LPO's in the state, the San Juan County Democrats. We used to do full PDC reporting, but a number of circumstances led us to change to mini-reporting at the beginning of 2021. Our longtime treasurer was stepping down, the new person did not have the same level of expertise so we needed an easier system than full reporting, and we just don't have that many transactions.

Unfortunately for us, the maximum allowed to be spent with mini-reporting is \$5,000. This limit has been in place for 15 years, and what can be bought with \$5,000 is considerably less than 15 years ago. Our main expenditure in an election year is the printing and mailing of an endorsement postcard that we send to all the people in our county. Because of the increase in printing and postage costs, this came out to about \$4,300 this past year, which is almost all of our budget.

The other main event we would like to participate in is the county fair. We had to send in a \$200 deposit, but when we looked at how much we would be spending on the postcard, we didn't want to take a chance on going over the limit, so we chose not to participate, and we had to forfeit \$100 of the deposit. This was an election year, and therefore we would normally have participated in the fair. We received some criticism from members who were frustrated that they saw a booth for the Republicans but not for us.

We normally try to reimburse our officers for attending state meetings if they request it, but we also ran out of money for that.

It turned out that the printing ended up costing about \$200 more than the estimate we had been provided. Since the printing was already done, we had to pay the bill, but this put us over the limit.

Therefore, I would like to request that PDC consider raising the maximum for mini-reporting to at least \$7,000, and perhaps \$7,500. If mini-reporting is designed for small LPOs like mine, then it should allow enough to be spent to cover reasonable expenses for a small LPO.

Sincerely,
David Turnoy

PS. The above is the testimony I provided last month at a PDC hearing. Once I became aware of our exceeding the maximum, I contacted PDC to let you know about our problem, and I have been working with one of your administrators to try to remedy the situation. Apparently Glen Morgan or one of his associates witnessed the meeting, upon which he immediately filed a complaint with the PDC against the San Juan County Democrats, painting us in a really negative light. Because we were already working with the PDC, his complaint really adds nothing, it simply gives him a chance to go after another Democratic LPO, which seems to be his business. If the PDC wants to encourage local party organizations to be active in the politics of the state, it would seem to make very good sense to increase the maximum spending level for mini-reporting to keep up with inflation so that small organizations like mine can continue to function in a responsible manner without running the risk of violating PDC regulations, especially when we have every intention of staying within the allowable limits.

Thank you for reading my comment, and thank you for being willing to consider adjusting the mini-reporting maximum and other relevant factors due to inflation.