Special Investigatory Committee Report

06/09/2025

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Committee Overview & Purpose

Appoint a special committee to investigate issues of conflict of interest and business practices of the Libertarian National Committee, comprised of Paul Darr, Steven Nekhaila, Ben Weir, Roman Garcia, Kathy Yeniscavich, Bill Redpath, Rich Bowen, and Doug Knebel.

Committee Chair and Secretary

Chair, Paul Darr
Secretary, Ben Weir

Committee Potential Conflicts of Interest

Paul Darr: None to report.
Steven Nekhaila: None to report.
Ben Weir: None to report.
Roman Garcia: None to report.
Bill Redpath: None to report.
Rich Bowen: None to report.
Doug Knebel: None to report.
Kathy Yeniscavich: Assisting with the Kennedy Victory Fund as a volunteer.

Independence of Special Investigative Committee

Pursuant to D.C. Code § 29-411.05(f), each member of the Special Investigative Committee (SIC) that produced the following report is independent, because no member had a material interest in the outcome of the matters investigated, and no member had a material relationship with a person that has such an interest. Additionally, when the SIC was established and when it issued this report, each member of the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) was independent in that no LNC member had a material interest in the outcome of the matters investigated or a material relationship with a person who had such an interest. The SIC undertook a diligent, thorough and exhaustive investigation of the matters within its purview, conducted a reasonable inquiry of the facts and evidence obtained, and reached the findings and conclusions set forth below based upon a good faith determination as to the best interests of the LNC.

Executive Overview

The SIC was established by the LNC to examine allegations of misconduct, undisclosed conflicts of interest, and potential legal violations involving former Chair Angela McArdle. The investigation focused primarily on two entities: Freedom Calls, LLC and Swing Vote Strategist (SVS)—both with apparent ties to McArdle's domestic partner, Austin Padgett—as well as McArdle's involvement in organizing the Rescue the Republic (RTR) rally.

Interviews were conducted with Hannah Kennedy, Matt Hudson, Drew Hreha, Michael Heise, Carrie Eiler, Todd Hagopian, Jake Porter, Matthew Sanders, and Adrian Malagon. In addition, the SIC reviewed hundreds of documents and followed up with interviewees as required.

Requests for interviews were declined or unanswered by Angela McArdle, Austin Padgett, Luke Troxell, and Matthew Butts. Their refusal to participate is noted for the record, but is not treated by the Committee as an admission of wrongdoing.

Key Findings

1. Conflicted Transactions with Freedom Calls, LLC
    - McArdle engaged Freedom Calls—a Delaware LLC apparently owned by Padgett—for call center services, without LNC knowledge or approval.
    - McArdle failed to disclose this financial conflict, did not execute a proper written contract, and bypassed required legal counsel review.
    - LNC made payments to Freedom Calls totaling $49,600 over the course of a year. An audit found that the return on investment was highly negative, with only $2,468.57 raised, rendering the transaction grossly inefficient and outside of industry norms.
    - McArdle directly approved for payment four of the 14 invoices submitted for Freedom Calls LLC, with the remainder approved by the Executive Director. The SIC found no evidence that the Executive Director was involved in hiring Freedom Calls LLC, was aware that Padgett owned Freedom Calls, or that she acted in an

improper manner

2. Concealment and Deception
    - Freedom Calls' Delaware registration and W-9 form were used to obscure Padgett's ownership.
    - McArdle gave misleading or false statements to LNC members, instructed removal of Padgett from her conflict disclosures, and referred to him as a "volunteer liaison."
    - There was no clear evidence that Freedom Calls provided services of professional quality.

3. Undisclosed Financial Interest in Swing Vote Strategist (SVS)
    - SVS was another Delaware LLC created by Padgett and used to funnel $32,000 in payments to McArdle from the Kennedy Victory Fund (KVF), where she was assisting with affiliate onboarding.
    - These payments were not disclosed as required under LNC policy. McArdle misled LNC members about the recipient and nature of the services rendered.
    - Despite resigning as LNC Chair, McArdle continued communicating on behalf of the Party using her official title of LNC Chair, including after her resignation.

4. Improper Use of Party Resources for Rescue the Republic Rally
    - McArdle formed Rescue the West, a nonprofit that organized the RTR rally. She used her title and Party email resources to promote the event.
    - McArdle failed to submit communications for proper review and approval, potentially misleading members into believing the event was officially sanctioned by the LNC.
    - The rally included speakers, messaging and imagery closely aligned with Donald Trump, which further undermined Party neutrality.

Conclusions

- McArdle appears to have repeatedly violated LNC internal policies, DC nonprofit law, and basic fiduciary duties.
- McArdle engaged in apparently intentional concealment, failed to disclose financial conflicts of interest, and misused donor funds without delivering fair market value to the Party.
- The LNC acted appropriately by terminating these contracts, forming the SIC, and accepting McArdle's resignation.

Recommendations

- Stronger enforcement and awareness of conflict of interest policies.
- Improvement of policies concerning review of contracts.
- Increased transparency and documentation requirements for Party expenditures.

- Structural reforms to prevent unilateral control of staff or resources by any single officer.
- Recommendation that the LNC send a cease-and-desist letter to McArdle demanding she cease using the LNC Chair title.
- Recommendation that the LNC adopt a resolution finding Angela McArdle unfit to serve as an officer of the Libertarian Party in the future.
- Recommendation that the LNC adopt a resolution declaring that the LNC shall not contract with Angela McArdle, Austin Padgett or any corporation or entity closely held or controlled by either one.
- The SIC has concluded that while the LNC may have valid claims for restitution, pursuing legal action is not advisable due to the high cost relative to potential recovery. Therefore, the SIC recommends against using general funds for litigation. However, if members wish to pursue the matter and secure sufficient dedicated donations or a *pro bono* attorney, the LNC could reconsider.

Timeline of Events

07/26/2023	McArdle signs contract retaining Padgett as an independent contractor fundraiser
08/09/2023	McArdle assumed Executive Director responsibilities without board vote
08/19-08/20/2023	Motion to terminate Padgett's contract tabled at LNC Meeting
08/30/2023	Padgett's contract adopted retroactively at LNC follow-up meeting
10/01/2023	LNC adopts Policy Manual language on hiring conflicted interest parties
11/03/2023	Padgett's contract extended until 10/26/23 by LNC email ballot
01/08/2024	Domain registered, www.freedomcalls.net created
01/12/2024	Padgett forms and registers Freedom Calls LLC in Delaware
01/25/2024	Date of Freedom Calls offer letter to LNC
02/09/2024	Last payment to Padgett for independent contract work Freedom Calls W-9 signed by unidentified individual with illegible signature First payment to Freedom Calls
06/21/2024	Hannah Kennedy hired as Interim Executive Director
07/11/2024	Executive Committee votes to participate in Joint Fundraising Committee
07/13/2024	McArdle signs Joint Fundraising Agreement (JFA) with Team Kennedy (Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. campaign)
08/24/2024	Ford discloses Libertarian Mutual Aid PAC as a potential conflict
09/09/2024	Email on Rescue the Republic rally sent to APRC for approval
09/11/2024	McArdle tells APRC that RTR rally email will be rewritten and resubmitted
09/16/2024	Ford registers Libertarian Mutual Aid PAC with FEC
09/23/2024	Email regarding Rescue the Republic rally sent to LP membership

09/24/2024	Swing Vote Strategist formed and registered in Delaware by Padgett
09/28/2024	Rage Against the War Machine rally held in Washington, DC
09/29/2024	Rescue the Republic rally held in Washington, DC
10/11/2024	McArdle registers Libertarian Unity PAC with FEC
10/18/2024	McArdle discloses Libertarian Unity PAC and RTR as potential conflicts
12/05/2024	Porter posts on X inquiring about ownership of SVS
12/16/2024	Porter posts on X showing SVS used address previously used by McArdle
12/30/2024	LNC learns of Swing Vote Strategist ownership from Porter X Post
01/21/2025	LNC learns of Freedom Calls ownership from Porter Substack and X Post
	Six LNC members email McArdle requesting information regarding Freedom Calls or resignation
	Internal board email discussion about Freedom Calls
01/22/2025	Last Freedom Calls payment sent
	LNC Email Ballot initiated to terminate the Freedom Calls contract
	Eleven LNC members send follow-up email to McArdle about Freedom Calls
01/23/2025	McArdle signs JFA extending end date to 06/01/25
01/23/2025	LNC Email Ballot initiated to form an Investigative Committee
	Kathy Yeniscavich talks to McArdle about resignation
01/24/2025	McArdle resignation
01/25/2025	LNC Email Ballot initiated to accept McArdle resignation
01/29/2025	LNC Email Ballot to terminate the Freedom Calls transactions passed
01/30/2025	Kennedy email to Freedom Calls returned as undeliverable
	LNC Email Ballot to form an Investigative Committee passed
02/01/2025	LNC Email Ballot to accept McArdle resignation passed

02/02/2025	Steven Nekhaila elected Chair, Paul Darr elected Vice Chair, at LNC electronic meeting
02/11/2025	Nekhaila sends termination to Freedom Calls by email and registered mail
02/13/2025	Nekhaila email to Freedom Calls returned as undeliverable
06/01/2025	End date of JFA

Findings on Conflicting Interest Transactions

FINDING 1: The Freedom Calls transactions should be considered void or voidable as McArdle appears to have knowingly violated internal procedures by failing to: 1) disclose the conflicting interest with her domestic partner, 2) request pre-approval by the LNC board, 3) enter into a written contract and seek Counsel review and approval, and 4) conduct prudent oversight to ensure a reasonable return on investment. As such, these transactions appear to be void or voidable under DC Code § 29-406.70 (providing that a non-profit corporation's contract in which an officer or director has a financial interest is not automatically void or voidable if the conflict is disclosed and the corporation's governing body votes in good faith to authorize the contract, or if the contract is fair to the corporation at the time it is authorized).

> **FINDING 1a**: McArdle entered into undisclosed conflicting interest transactions with Freedom Calls, LLC, a sole proprietor corporation apparently owned or controlled by her domestic partner Padgett.
>
> **FINDING 1b:** Upon learning of the conflicting interest transactions, the LNC performed its fiduciary duties by taking immediate action to terminate payments to Freedom Calls and obtain a full account of the facts through an internal investigation.
>
> **FINDING 1c:** The transactions with Freedom Calls violated internal policies, namely Policy Manual Section 1.06(3), which requires conflicting interest transactions to be approved by the Board, contracts to be in writing, and contracts over $25,000 to be approved by Counsel. These policies are designed to ensure strong fiscal stewardship and the responsible use of donor funds.
>
> (1) McArdle appears to have knowingly violated a provision which requires a contract or arrangement for financial remuneration with a party closely related to an LNC member to be disclosed prior to execution and approved by either a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee or majority vote of the LNC.
>
> (2) All written contracts and modifications are required to be in writing to document the nature of the products or services to be provided and the terms and conditions with respect to the amount of compensation, reimbursement or other consideration to be paid. No written contract was provided to the Special Investigative Committee in response to multiple requests, and it appears that no written contract was executed between Freedom Calls and the LNC.
>
> (3) All contracts of more than one (1) year in duration or for more than $25,000 shall be reviewed and approved by Counsel prior to signing by the Chair. LNC Counsel was not consulted regarding Freedom Calls LLC.

FINDING 1d: The transactions with Freedom Calls LLC were not disclosed or approved by the LNC and appear to be void or voidable pursuant to DC Code § 29-406.70, because they were not duly authorized by the LNC and because they were not fair to the LNC.

FINDING 1e: Freedom Calls LLC was included in the 2025 budget passed by the LNC; accordingly, McArdle appears to have had every intention of continuing the transactions.

FINDING 2: In addition to failing to disclose the potential conflict, failing to seek board approval and failing to obtain Counsel's review and approval of a contract, McArdle and/or Padgett engaged in affirmative acts that concealed the ownership of Freedom Calls LLC, including:

(1) Registering the LLC in Delaware, a state that does not publicly provide the identity of incorporators.

(2) Instructing the LP Secretary to remove Padgett from McArdle's list of potential conflicts.

(3) Withholding information when asked by staff or LNC members about Freedom Calls LLC.

(4) Referring to Padgett as a volunteer liaison with Freedom Calls LLC.

(5) Limiting written documentation about the transactions.

(6) Allowing Freedom Calls LLC to complete the W-9 in a manner that concealed the owner by failing to identify Padgett as the sole incorporator, in violation of IRS instructions.

(7) Listing an incorrect website address on invoices.

FINDING 3: McArdle approved payment for four of the 14 Freedom Calls invoices submitted to the LNC, with the remainder approved by the Executive Director. The SIC found no evidence that the Executive Director was aware that Padgett owned Freedom Calls or that she acted in an improper manner

FINDING 4: The LNC did not receive fair value from the Freedom Calls LLC transactions.

Finding 4a: A total of 13,738 calls raised $2,468.57 over the course of 366 days.

Finding 4b: There was no proper stipulation of terms in the Freedom Calls offer letter (the only written documentation of Freedom Calls' engagement by the LNC).

Finding 4c: The initial agreement and subsequent relationship between Freedom Calls LLC and the LNC does not appear to have been negotiated and executed by objective parties operating at arms-length.

Finding 4d: An issue in which pre-recorded voicemail messages to iPhone users are received as unintelligible or incomplete persist to current day although identified in February 2024.

Finding 4e: Freedom Calls LLC agents used SMS templates that misrepresented themselves as LNC staff for months after such staff were no longer employed.

Finding 4f: McArdle used Freedom Calls LLC agents, using Libertarian Party resources, to make 361 calls and send SMS messages for the Mises Caucus to increase membership and attendance at the Libertarian Party of California Annual Convention when it was originally scheduled for February 2025.

FINDING 5: McArdle violated Policy Manual Section 1.07(2) by failing to disclose her paid work for the Kennedy Victory Fund, through Swing Vote Strategist LLC, as a potential conflict of interest.

FINDING 6: McArdle continued to represent herself as being LNC Chair after resignation in at least six emails regarding the Kennedy Victory Fund.

FINDING 7: McArdle and Ford complied with Policy Manual Section 1.07(2) and properly disclosed the Libertarian Unity and Libertarian Mutual Aid PACs as potential conflicts of interest.

FINDING 8: McArdle violated Policy Manual Section 1.07(2) by failing to timely disclose the Rescue the Republic rally as a potential conflict of interest, as disclosure occurred nearly weeks after the rally was held.

FINDING 9: McArdle violated Policy Manual Section 1.07(2) for failing to disclose her Rescue the West non-profit and sponsor of the Rescue the Republic rally, as a potential conflict of interest.

FINDING 10: McArdle did not follow through obtaining a contract addendum from a contractor to address a potential conflict of interest.

FINDING 11: McArdle hired her neighbor to do contract work for the LNC without disclosing the relationship or considering other candidates.

Introduction

I. Freedom Calls, LLC

A. Background

During early July 2023, McArdle discussed with the Employment Policy and Compensation Committee ("EPCC") her intent to hire up to three short-term contractors to conduct fundraising activities on a commission-only basis, while conducting a search to hire a fundraiser.[1] While, at the time, McArdle had the authority to execute such contracts, the EPCC was consulted.[2] The EPCC assisted by drafting a commission-only boilerplate contract. Potential fundraising contractors were discussed, including three who did not work out for various reasons. McArdle also suggested her domestic partner, Austin Padgett, stating that he had experience fundraising for start-ups. The members of the EPCC expressed no concern given that this was to be a commission-only contract. At McArdle's request, Nekhaila and Yeniscavich interviewed Padgett. He detailed his fundraising experience and suggested new methods to acquire and utilize data to identify prospective first-time donors. During the call with Yeniscavich, Padgett requested monthly compensation plus commission. Yeniscavich advised McArdle and the EPCC about Padgett's compensation request, as the request for monthly compensation was a surprise. While some additional discussion took place, McArdle executed a 90-day contract with Padgett on 07/26/2023, modifying payment terms to include both monthly compensation and commission.[3] The EPCC learned the full terms of the contract when they received a signed copy on 08/07/2023.

In a lengthy email to the LNC dated 07/29/2023, McArdle disclosed several hires, including Padgett, and her decision to temporarily assume the responsibilities of Executive Director.

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[1] During the 2022-2024 term, the EPCC consisted of Steven Nekhaila, Dustin Nanna, and Kathy Yeniscavich. Nekhaila served as Chair.

[2] Although EPCCs in terms prior to 2022-2024 considered its purview to include staff and contractors, McArdle interpreted the Policy Manual to limit the EPCC's authority to matters related to staff. While McArdle often sought the EPCCs advice on hiring contractors and assistance in drafting contracts, she had full authority to execute, administer, and modify contracts.

[3] During McArdle's terms as Chair, she signed all contractor contracts, in consultation with the Executive Director. However, at the time McArdle signed the contract, the former Executive Director had announced her resignation and stated at the time she was unaware of the hire.

Outlook

Confidential: New Staff & 90 Day Plan for Improvement (Staff & Strategy)

From Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>
Date Sat 7/29/2023 9:58 PM
To Andrew Watkins <vicechair@lp.org>; Secretary LNC <secretary@lp.org>; Todd Hagopian <treasurer@lp.org>; miguel.duque <miguel.duque@lp.org>; Becky Jones <becky.jones@lp.org>; Dave Benner <dave.benner@lp.org>; Martin Cowen <martin.cowen@lp.org>; Dustin Nanna <dustin.nanna@lp.org>; Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>; Adrian F Malagon <adrian.malagon@lp.org>; Joshua Clark <joshua.clark@lp.org>; Otto Dassing <otto.dassing@lp.org>; Will Hyman <willhyman@gmail.com>; Bill Redpath <bill.redpath@lp.org>; William Redpath <wredpath2@yahoo.com>; Mark Tuniewicz <mark.tuniewicz@lp.org>; Linnea Gabbard <linnea.gabbard@lp.org>; donavan.pantke <donavan.pantke@lp.org>; Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; Robley Hall <robley.hall@lp.org>

2 attachments (85 KB)
Angela's Editorial Calendar.pdf; 90 Day Plan.pdf;

Hello everyone,

We are in a brief period much needed change and staff fluctuation. Our executive director is leaving soon, and I am taking charge of staff operations for a period of 6 weeks to 2 months until things settle down, we have a clear idea of what processes we want in place, morale has improved, and we've established better culture. We are on the cusp of a great turn around with staff and I feel very good about it.

—----------

In the section of the email regarding the Padgett hire, McArdle stated:

Please welcome Austin Padgett

Austin has over 10 years experience in business development and sales in the ag tech and blockchain technologies sectors. Austin was recently VP of development at a successful ag-tech startup where he spearheaded outreach to C-Level executives at pharmaceutical and agricultural companies to secure funding for a major acquisition. His network of potential investors all lean libertarian and he has a relationship with Chris Rufer (our biggest active major donor) outside of the LP.

Austin is our short term Fundraising Contractor. Austin will be reaching out to potential major donors through his professional and personal network. He will also be helping us rebuild relationships with existing major donors and fine tuning some of our development processes. Austin has already begun outreach to the conscious capitalism network and the Austin TX crypto network. He has already given critical feedback on improvements to our affiliate program and begun to develop a social media revenue strategy.

Austin has a short window of time to help us until his next full-time start up commitment begins so he is on a three month contract.

—----------

McArdle did not reveal the nature of her relationship with Padgett in this email. In a series of emails over the next several days, multiple members of the LNC discussed the hires and her decision to assume Executive Director duties. Miquel Duque revealed the nature of McArdle's relationship with Padgett and questioned why it was not disclosed to the Board. At least two others objected to the Padgett hire as nepotism, and to McArdle assuming both Executive Director and Chair duties or expressed concern about these actions. Duque noticed a motion to terminate the work contract of Padgett at the 08/19/2023-08/20/2023 LNC Meeting. Prior to that meeting, McArdle's list of potential conflicts of interest was updated to include the Padgett hire and relationship. See LNC-Meeting_2023_08-19-20_FINAL, Appendix B.

Angela McArdle

- Domestic partner is short-term LPHQ contractor (Austin Padgett)
- Rage Against the War Machine, Secretary

McArdle also welcomed the new hires on the Public Business List on 08/09/2023, stating:

> Austin Padgett is our short term Fundraising Contractor. Austin will be reaching out to potential major donors through his professional and personal network. He will also be helping us rebuild relationships with existing major donors and fine tuning some of our development processes. Austin has over 10 years experience in business development and sales in the ag tech and blockchain technologies sectors - these are areas where we are ripe to expand our network.

Prior to the meeting Duque resigned and the motion to terminate the contract was made by Rich Bowen. The motion was discussed in Executive Session and tabled pending discussion with LNC Counsel and the EPCC. At the 08/30/2023 follow-up electronic meeting, the motion was removed from the table. A substitute motion passed approving the Padgett contract retroactively, provided it was not renewed past 10/26/2023, and directing the Policy Manual Committee to propose new language on hiring related parties at the following meeting. At the 10/01/2023 electronic meeting, the LNC adopted the following language:

> Any proposed contracts or agreements for financial remuneration with a closely related party (legal relative, domestic partner, business associate) to a sitting LNC member or staff member shall be disclosed to the LNC prior to execution and shall be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee or a majority vote of the LNC. This relation shall also be disclosed on the LNC's member's listing of potential conflicts of interest. See Policy Manual Section 1.06(3).[4]

See LNC-Meeting_2023-10-01_FINAL.

[4] The Policy Manual is a dynamic document that is frequently amended. The version in effect when McArdle entered into the conflicting interest transactions can be found at LNC_Policy_Manual-Adopted_thru_2023-10-01.pdf. The current Policy Manual can be found at LNC Minutes and Discussion - Libertarian Party.

In mid-October 2023, McArdle indicated that she wanted to extend Padgett's contract for an additional three months. She stated she had been unable to hire another fundraiser because of the time-consuming process of hiring the Director of Operations and that fundraising progress initiated by Padgett would be stalled without his continued work. An email ballot to renew the Padgett contract for three months from the original contract end date passed on 11/03/2023. Several LNC members indicated privately and publicly that they would not vote for a second extension to Padgett's contract, and that a fundraising solution needed to be identified before the new end date of 01/26/2024. No efforts were made to further renew the contract. LNC members believed Padgett was no longer working for the LNC effective 01/26/24 and several made public representations to that effect.

Padgett received $32,465.38 during the six-month contract.

Austin Padgett Payments

Date	Amount
8/17/2023	3,600.00
8/31/2023	3,240.00
9/15/2023	2,880.00
10/2/2023	2,400.00
10/16/2023	1,200.00
10/16/2023	1,200.00
10/31/2023	2,400.00
11/15/2023	3,120.00
12/1/2023	2,400.00
12/11/2023	305.38
12/12/2023	1,740.00
1/2/2024	3,180.00
1/16/2024	2,400.00
1/31/2024	2,400.00
	32,465.38

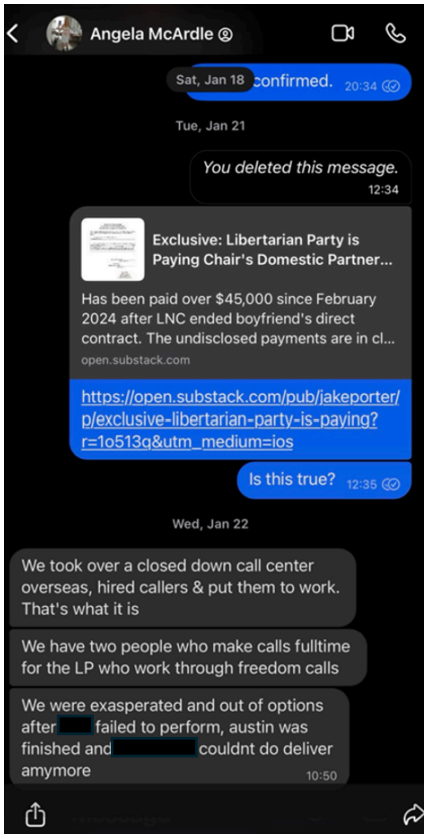
Nearly a year later, on 01/21/25, Jake Porter released a Substack article titled, "Exclusive: Libertarian Party is Paying Chair's Domestic Partner Through Undisclosed Hidden Delaware LLC" and posted on X showing documentation that Freedom Calls, LLC, a call center hired to make LNC fundraising calls, was an LLC formed and registered in Delaware by Austin Padgett, the Chair's domestic partner.

B. Board Action and Response:

The LNC Board was blindsided by this revelation and took multiple actions over the following two weeks in furtherance of their fiduciary duty to the organization. Immediately after reading the post on 01/21/25, several LNC members messaged Porter to ask if he had any other documentation. He provided a public records search which listed the 01/12/24 formation date but not the name of the person forming the LLC.

Executive Director Hannah Kennedy was immediately queried to obtain additional facts where it was learned that the only documents on file were a completed W-9, an IRS form used by independent contractors to provide Taxpayer Identification Numbers, and an offer letter from Freedom Calls. These documents were requested and shared with several board members.

Kennedy also stated that the only contact she had with Freedom Calls LLC was by email using the contact@freedomcalls.net address, and that McArdle or Padgett acted as intermediaries between staff and Freedom Calls LLC. Later, on 01/21/2025, Yeniscavich called McArdle who was in Washington, DC for the LP Inauguration Party and asked about her relationship to Freedom Calls LLC. McArdle stated she was severely ill and could not discuss the matter that day. That evening, Adrian Malagon organized a meeting with six other LNC members (Otto Dassing, Pat Ford, Adam Haman, Meredith Hays, Andrew Watkins, and Yeniscavich), and all but Watkins signed off on an email to McArdle requesting she take one of three actions by 12:00 pm EST the next day, 1) attend a Zoom meeting to address the allegations, 2) respond in writing to address the allegations, or 3) resign. There was no response to the email, although McArdle called Yeniscavich the morning of 01/22/2025. When asked for an explanation, McArdle stated that she and Padgett took over an out of business Filipino call center and acknowledged they registered Freedom Calls as an LLC in Delaware in January 2024. She also stated that Freedom Calls LLC had done the work of making calls and that the services were provided at a below market rate. Yeniscavich told McArdle that there would need to be an investigation and that she should resign. Yeniscavich asked for a copy of the contract with Freedom Calls LLC and McArdle agreed to provide it and whatever else was needed. McArdle stated that she would seek advice and get back to her. Malagon also contacted McArdle on 01/21/2025 to inquire about the validity of Porter’s post. She responded on 01/22/2025:



On the evening of 01/22/2025, Malagon held a follow-up meeting with ten other LNC members (Travis Bost, Andrew Chadderdon, Dassing, Ford, Haman, Hays, Jonathan McGee, Steven Nekhaila, Ben Weir, and Yeniscavich) and they sent a follow-up email to McArdle advising her that if an explanation or resignation was not forthcoming by 12:00 pm EST the next day, the following motion would be offered for co-sponsorship:

Resolved, that a committee comprised of Meredith Hays, Paul Darr, Bill Redpath, Andrew Chadderdon, and Steven Nekhaila be appointed by the Libertarian National Committee to investigate allegations of misconduct by our Chair, Angela McArdle, which, if true, cast doubt on her fitness to continue in office, and that the Committee be instructed, if it concludes that the allegations are well-founded, to report resolutions covering its recommendations.

McArdle did not respond.

On 01/22/2025, an email ballot was initiated to terminate the Freedom Calls LLC contract effective immediately, co-sponsored by Paul Darr, Haman, Hays, and Yeniscavich. Ballots are required to remain open for seven days or until all board members vote.

Simultaneously on 01/21/2025-1/22/2025, several LNC members (Darr, Caryn Ann Harlos, Nekhaila, Redpath, Keith Thompson) participated in an internal email thread initiated by Redpath inquiring of McArdle if anything in the Porter Substack was inaccurate. In response, McArdle

responded on 01/22/2025, “It's a call center that we took over that employs two people who make calls exclusively, full time for the LP.” Thompson inquired whether there was a close relationship with the employees or company and, if so, where he could find the minutes approving the contract as required by the Policy Manual. McArdle did not respond.

Yeniscavich and McArdle spoke briefly on 01/23/2025, and McArdle advised she needed more time.

On 01/23/2025, an email ballot was initiated to form an Investigative Committee, co-sponsored by Bost, Haman, Malagon, and Thompson.

On the morning of Friday, 01/24/2025, McArdle called Yeniscavich to advise that she would be resigning that day but needed some time to speak to Team Kennedy’s (“TK”) primary liaison with the LNC for the Kennedy Victory Fund. They also discussed timing and transition issues, and both agreed that it was in everyone’s best interest to have a smooth transition. Yeniscavich offered to facilitate the transition and again asked for the Freedom Calls LLC contract and McArdle again agreed to provide it. In the early morning hours of 01/25/2025, McArdle sent two resignation emails, one to the LNC internal list and one to the public list. In the internal email, McArdle stated that she was resigning to take a job and that it would take about two weeks to complete transition tasks. The public email expressed gratitude that she was able to help facilitate Ross Ulbricht’s pardon and stated that she would love to see Michael Heise or Josiah Baker elevated to the Board. Heise is the founder of the Mises Caucus and, at that time, a part-time LP consultant, and Baker is Chair of the Libertarian Party of Tennessee and a member of the Mises Caucus.

McArdle’s notice of resignation to LNC internal list:

Outlook

Notice of Resignation

From Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>
Date Fri 1/24/2025 11:27 PM
To LNC Board <lncboard@lp.org>

I will be moving into a new job soon that will be too demanding for me to stay on as Chair so I am resigning my position. It will take staff and me about two weeks to wind down my access to and CEO designation of all the payment processors and various accounts. I will work with the exec director so nothing is left hanging. I will also continue to work with Brian McWilliams next week to wrap up any news inquiries about Ross Ulbricht and election promises. I will still be in contact with Oliver and our law firm regarding our derivative suits.

Angela McArdle
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

McArdle's notice of resignation to Public List:

FW: Resignation, Thank You, and Timeline 1,030 views Subscribe

lnc-public_forward Jan 24, 2025, 11:30:19 PM
to lnc-p...@googlegroups.com

From: Angela McArdle <angela....@lp.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2025 6:30:10 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: lnc-public_forward <lnc-publi...@lp.org>
Subject: Resignation, Thank You, and Timeline

Hello Everyone,

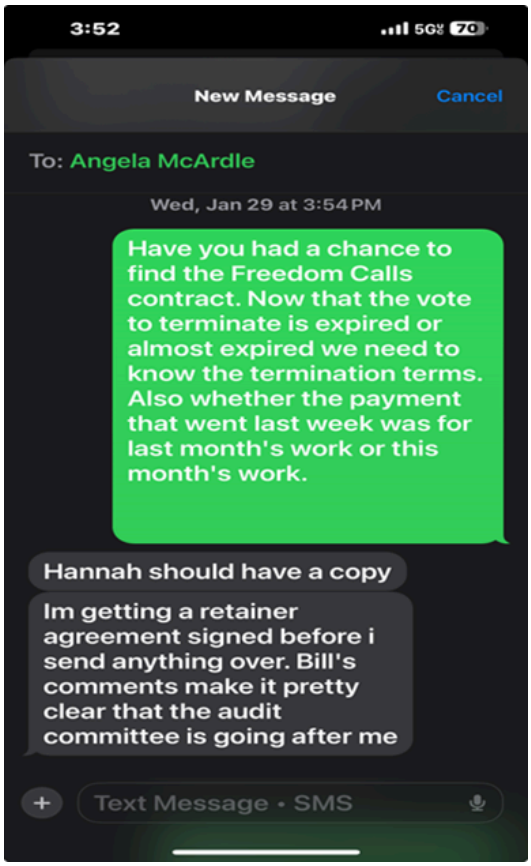
I am taking on a new opportunity soon that will make it impossible for me to stay on as Chair, so I am resigning. I'm very grateful that I was able to help facilitate Ross's full pardon and release from prison before I left, and I will have a longer statement soon about my experience as chair and gratitude for the people who helped me accomplish so much in my two terms. I will continue to work closely with staff over the next few weeks to make sure we have strong successorship, brand identity, and a political strategy for the coming year. I will continue to support Michael Heise with his fundraising efforts for as long as I can, and would love to see him or Josiah Baker, the TN Chair, elevated to the board to fill vacancies.

Thank you all!

Angela McArdle
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

On 1/25/2025, an email ballot was initiated to accept McArdle's resignation, co-sponsored by Bost, Darr, Haman, and Hays.

On 01/29/2025, the email ballot to terminate the Freedom Calls LLC contract effective immediately passed 15-0-0-1. Yeniscavich messaged McArdle asking for the contract for the third time. She stated that the LNC needed to know the contractual terms so that it could comply with the terms of termination. McArdle responded that Kennedy should have a copy. As discussed above, the only documents Kennedy could locate regarding Freedom Calls LLC were the W-9 and the offer letter. McArdle also stated that she is signing a retainer agreement with an attorney before sending any documents because comments from the LNC Treasurer, Bill Redpath, made it clear the committee is "going after" her.



McArdle appears to be referring to an internal email exchange in which Redpath was asked if he would recommend an investigation even though the Chair has resigned. He responded that it would still be worthwhile to determine if the LNC benefitted and consider if the LNC could recover any funds.

—----------

Outlook

Re: EMAIL BALLOT 20250123-02 FORM IC RE MCARDLE

From Bill Redpath <bill.redpath@lp.org>
Date Sun 1/26/2025 10:19 AM
To Caryn Ann Harlos <caryn.ann.harlos@lp.org>; Robert Vinson <robert.vinson@lp.org>; Andrew Watkins <andrew.watkins@lp.org>; Keith Thompson <keith.thompson@lp.org>; Dustin Nanna <dustin.nanna@lp.org>; Roman Garcia <roman.garcia@lp.org>
Cc LNC Board <lncboard@lp.org>

I think it would be still be worthwhile to have an Investigative Committee re: the Angela McArdle situation. I think a lot of people think that there is possibly more there than we currently know about. I think we also need to evaluate if and how much the LNC benefitted from the work of Freedom Calls LLC to consider how much money we might try to clawback from that organization to make the LNC whole. Bill Redpath

---

On 01/30/2025, the email ballot to form an Investigative Committee passed 14-0-0-2.

On 01/31/2025, Kennedy sent a notice of termination to the email address on file and previously used to contact Freedom Calls LLC, contact@freedomcalls.net. The email bounced back as undeliverable.

From: Microsoft Outlook
To: Freedom Calls
Subject: Undeliverable: Contract Termination Effective 1/30/25
Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 12:30:38 PM
Attachments: Contract Termination Effective 13025.msg

Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:
Freedom Calls (contact@freedomcalls.net) <mailto:contact@freedomcalls.net>
Your message couldn't be delivered. Despite repeated attempts to deliver your message, querying the Domain Name System (DNS) for the recipient's domain location information failed.
For more information and tips to fix this issue see this article: https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=389361.

On 02/01/2025, the email ballot to accept McArdle's resignation passed 11-0-0-5.

At the monthly electronic Special Meeting on 02/02/2025, the LNC elected a new Chair, Steven Nekhaila. The board also dismissed the prior Investigative Committee and appointed a new Special Investigative Committee ("SIC") to investigate issues of conflict of interest and business practices of the Libertarian National Committee, comprised of Darr, Nekhaila, Ben Weir, Ramon Garcia, Yeniscavich, Redpath, Bowen, and Doug Knebel.[5]

On 02/11/2024, Nekhaila sent notice by email and registered mail to Freedom Calls LLC that the contract had been terminated.

[5] The prior Investigative Committee was dismissed as such committees are based upon procedures found in Robert's Rules of Order. Since McArdle had resigned, that procedure was no longer applicable.

Re: Notice of Contract Termination

SN Steven Nekhaila

Reply Reply all Forward

To: contact@freedomcalls.net

Tue 2/11/2025 7:42 PM

Cc: oliverbhall; Paul Darr

Freedom Calls LLC
Registered Agent
2810 N. Church St. #588254
Wilmington, DE 19802
Email: contact@freedomcalls.net

Subject: **Notice of Contract Termination**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to inform you that on **January 29, 2025**, the Libertarian National Committee ("LNC") voted to cancel its contract with Freedom Calls LLC. This decision reflects the official position of the Committee, and as such, the LNC will no longer utilize or require any services outlined in our existing agreement.

Effective immediately, the LNC considers the contractual relationship with Freedom Calls LLC terminated. Please discontinue any performance of services under the former agreement and refrain from incurring additional costs on behalf of the LNC. Any outstanding financial obligations will be addressed in accordance with the terms of the original contract and any applicable legal requirements.

If you have any questions or need further clarification regarding this termination, please direct all communications in writing to my attention at the address below or via the contact information provided.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Steven Nekhaila
Chairman, Libertarian National Committee (LNC)
1444 Duke St
Alexandria, VA 22314
(305) 393-6412
Steven.Nekhaila@lp.org

On 02/13/2024, the email again bounced back as undeliverable.

C. Investigation

Formation Documents

The Certificate of Formation for Freedom Calls LLC demonstrates that Padgett formed the corporation in Delaware on 01/12/2024, with a registered agent at 8 The Green, Dover, Delaware, 19901.

STATE OF DELAWARE
CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION
OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The undersigned authorized person, desiring to form a limited liability company pursuant to the Limited Liability Company Act of the State of Delaware, hereby certifies as follows:

1. The name of the limited liability company is Freedom Calls LLC.

2. The Registered Office of the limited liability company in the State of Delaware is located at 8 The Grn, Suite A (street), in the City of Dover, Zip Code 19901. The name of the Registered Agent at such address upon whom process against this limited liability company may be served is DELAWARE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS LLC.

By: /s/ Austin Padgett
Authorized Person

Austin Padgett
Name:Customer Name
Print or Type

State of Delaware
Secretary of State
Division of Corporations
Delivered 04:06 PM 01/12/2024
FILED 04:06 PM 01/12/2024
SR 20240114026 - File Number 2934551

A public records search with the Delaware Division of Corporations confirms the registration date.

Division of Corporations - Filing https://icis.corp.delaware.gov/ecorp/entitysearch/Name..

Delaware.gov Governor | General Assembly | Courts | Elected Officials | State Agencies

Department of State: Division of Corporations

Allowable Characters

HOME

Entity Details

THIS IS NOT A STATEMENT OF GOOD STANDING

File Number:	**2934551**	Incorporation Date / Formation Date:	**1/12/2024** (mm/dd/yyyy)
Entity Name:	**FREEDOM CALLS LLC**		
Entity Kind:	**Limited Liability Company**	Entity Type:	**General**
Residency:	**Domestic**	State:	**DELAWARE**

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Name:	**DELAWARE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, LLC**		
Address:	**8 THE GREEN,SUITE A**		
City:	**DOVER**	County:	**Kent**
State:	**DE**	Postal Code:	**19901**
Phone:			

Additional Information is available for a fee. You can retrieve Status for a fee of $10.00 or more detailed information including current franchise tax assessment, current filing history and more for a fee of $20.00.

Would you like ○ Status ○ Status,Tax & History Information

Submit

View Search Results New Entity Search

Offer Letter

The offer letter dated 01/25/2024 from Freedom Calls LLC is the only documentation the SIC obtained that describes the services to be provided. The letter lacks the appearance and detail expected from an established firm offering professional services, as it lacks specific terms regarding the services to be provided and provides no contact information for Freedom Calls LLC, last name of the writer, or signature.

FREEDOM CALLS LLC

January 25, 2024

Dear Libertarian National Committee:

We are excited to work closely with you on fundraising and donor retention. We'd like to propose this special offer for you:

We'd like to offer you a discounted rate for full time calls. For $4200 per month (an $800 discount from our full time monthly plan), we'll have two dedicated callers doing a combined total of 40 hours of call work per week for you.

Freedom Calls will dedicate the same two team members to your account so they can become familiarized with your organization and its members. We will log straight into your call software so you can maintain control of your data and oversee our progress. We'll do weekly check-ins with you to ensure quality control.

We'll also offer you a two week trial period at this rate. We'll invoice you on February 9th for $2100. As discussed, we will start training with your fundraising contractor Friday (tomorrow) morning at 10:00 a.m.

We'd also love to offer you additional services in the future, like canvassing, web design and email marketing services for your clients.

All The Best,

Peter and the Freedom Calls Team

No contract was provided to the SIC by McArdle in response to multiple requests. Absent further information from McArdle, it appears the offer letter is the document considered by McArdle to be the contract when she stated that Kennedy should have a copy.

The document, however, is not a contract. It does not include the required elements of a contract such as specific terms defining the services to be provided, a date of service, termination terms, obligations of each party, legalities, and jurisdiction, and it lacks signatures from both parties to signify acceptance of the terms.

Payment terms state:

> We'd like to offer you a discounted rate for full time calls. For $4200 per month (an $800 discount from our full time monthly plan), we'll have two dedicated callers doing a combined total of 40 hours of call work per week for you.

A comparison of payments to the terms in the offer letter demonstrates that all terms were not described in writing. Kennedy advised that Freedom Calls LLC provided a $200 per month discount for invoices paid by the 20th of the month, explaining why the payment for ten of the 12 months was $4,000 instead of $4,200 as described in the offer letter. Further, the description of services in the offer letter does not include Discord services though Freedom Calls LLC submitted an invoice for a one-time Discord Promotions Consulting Fee.

The Freedom Calls LLC W-9

The W-9, signed 02/09/2024, the date of the first payment to Freedom Calls LLC, raises additional questions.

Form **W-9**
(Rev. October 2018)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

▶ Go to *www.irs.gov/FormW9* for instructions and the latest information.

Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.

Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.

1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.
Freedom Calls LLC

2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above

3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only **one** of the following seven boxes.

[x] Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC ☐ C Corporation ☐ S Corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ Trust/estate

☐ Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶

Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is **not** disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.

☐ Other (see instructions) ▶

4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3):

Exempt payee code (if any)

Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any)

(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)

5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions.
2810 N Church St #588254,

Requester's name and address (optional)

6 City, state, and ZIP code
Wilmington, Delaware 19802

7 List account number(s) here (optional)

Part I **Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)**

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number
☐☐☐ – ☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐

or

Employer identification number
[redacted]

Part II **Certification**

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here **Signature of U.S. person ▶** P Cee **Date ▶** 2/9/2024

First, the form is completed incorrectly. The form indicates that the tax classification for Freedom Calls LLC is Individual/sole proprietor/or single-member LLC. Since this entity was created as an LLC, the selection of this tax classification indicates it is a single-member LLC. However, the name on Line 1 is Freedom Calls LLC.

The form's instructions for Line 1 state:

b. **Sole proprietor or single-member LLC.** Enter your individual name as shown on your 1040/1040A/1040EZ on line 1. You may enter your business, trade, or "doing business as" (DBA) name on line 2.

Pursuant to the IRS instructions, a single-member LLC is treated as a disregarded entity and activity should be reported on the owner's federal tax return, unless it files IRS Form 8832 electing to be treated as a corporation.

IRS File Pay Refunds Credits & Deductions Forms & Instructions

Single member limited liability companies

Individuals

Businesses and self-employed

Business tax account

Employer ID numbers

Business taxes

Business structures

Operating a business

Self-employed

Small business

Industries and professions

Small business events

Online learning

Large business

A Limited Liability Company (LLC) is an entity created by state statute. Depending on elections made by the LLC and the number of members, the IRS will treat an LLC either as a corporation, partnership, or as part of the owner's tax return (a "disregarded entity"). A domestic LLC with at least two members is classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes unless it files Form 8832 and elects to be treated as a corporation. For income tax purposes, an LLC with only one member is treated as an entity disregarded as separate from its owner, unless it files Form 8832 and affirmatively elects to be treated as a corporation. However, for purposes of employment tax and certain excise taxes, an LLC with only one member is still considered a separate entity.

Owner of single-member LLC

If a single-member LLC does not elect to be treated as a corporation, the LLC is a "disregarded entity," and the LLC's activities should be reflected on its owner's federal tax return. If the owner is an individual, the activities of the LLC will generally be reflected on:

- Form 1040 or 1040-SR Schedule C, Profit or Loss from Business (Sole Proprietorship)
- Form 1040 or 1040-SR Schedule E, Supplemental Income or Loss
- Form 1040 or 1040-SR Schedule F, Profit or Loss from Farming

An individual owner of a single-member LLC that operates a trade or business is subject to the tax on net earnings from self employment in the same manner as a sole proprietorship.

The form's instructions for Line 1 provide further guidance related to disregarded entities:

e. **Disregarded entity.** For U.S. federal tax purposes, an entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner is treated as a "disregarded entity." See Regulations section 301.7701-2(c)(2)(iii). Enter the owner's name on line 1. The name of the entity entered on line 1 should never be a disregarded entity. The name on line 1 should be the name shown on the income tax return on which the income should be reported. For example, if a foreign LLC that is treated as a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes has a single owner that is a U.S. person, the U.S. owner's name is required to be provided on line 1. If the direct owner of the entity is also a disregarded entity, enter the first owner that is not disregarded for federal tax purposes. Enter the disregarded entity's name on line 2, "Business name/disregarded entity name." If the owner of the disregarded entity is a foreign person, the owner must complete an appropriate Form W-8 instead of a Form W-9. This is the case even if the foreign person has a U.S. TIN.

And

What Name and Number To Give the Requester

For this type of account:	Give name and SSN of:
1. Individual	The individual
2. Two or more individuals (joint account) other than an account maintained by an FFI	The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account[1]
3. Two or more U.S. persons (joint account maintained by an FFI)	Each holder of the account
4. Custodial account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)	The minor[2]
5. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee)	The grantor-trustee[1]
b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law	The actual owner[1]
6. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual	The owner[3]
7. Grantor trust filing under Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 1 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(A))	The grantor*
For this type of account:	**Give name and EIN of:**
8. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual	The owner
9. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust	Legal entity[4]
10. Corporation or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832 or Form 2553	The corporation
11. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization	The organization
12. Partnership or multi-member LLC	The partnership
13. A broker or registered nominee	The broker or nominee
14. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments	The public entity
15. Grantor trust filing under the Form 1041 Filing Method or the Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 2 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(B))	The trust

[1] List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

[2] Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

[3] You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or DBA name on the "Business name/disregarded entity" name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

[4] List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.) Also see *Special rules for partnerships,* earlier.

***Note:** The grantor also must provide a Form W-9 to trustee of trust.

Note: If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

Accordingly, unless the LLC filed Form 8832, which is unlikely, the owner's name should be on Line 1 and Freedom Calls LLC on Line 2, and the owner's EIN or social security number should be given. It appears as if Padgett is the owner, based upon his representation as an Authorized

Person on the Certificate of Formation of an LLC filed with the Delaware Secretary of State. The LNC submitted a 1099 in reliance on the information on Freedom Calls LLC's W-9, which now appears to be incorrect. While the LNC does not appear to have an obligation to confirm the accuracy of information on a W-9 it receives, the W-9 instructions state that the party who completes the form does.

In addition, the signature certification in Part II is illegible. This section certifies under the penalty of perjury that the Taxpayer Identification Number in Part I and FACTA codes, if any, are correct, and that the signatory is not subject to backup withholding tax and is a US Citizen. Although the identity of the person who signed the form and the identity of the person the signature is intended to represent are unknown, the signature does not bear any reasonable resemblance to Padgett's signature, based on a comparison of that signature and the signature Padgett signed on the W-9 he submitted as an LNC contractor.

Signature on Freedom Calls LLC W-9:

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding becau
you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	**Signature of U.S. person ▶**	**Date ▶** 2/9/2024

Padgett's signature on W-9 for contractor work:

Form **W-9**
(Rev. October 2018)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

▶ Go to *www.irs.gov/FormW9* for instructions and the latest information.

Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.

1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.

Austin Bratton Padgett

Padgett should have signed the W-9 using his own signature, and it appears he either did not or disguised his signature.

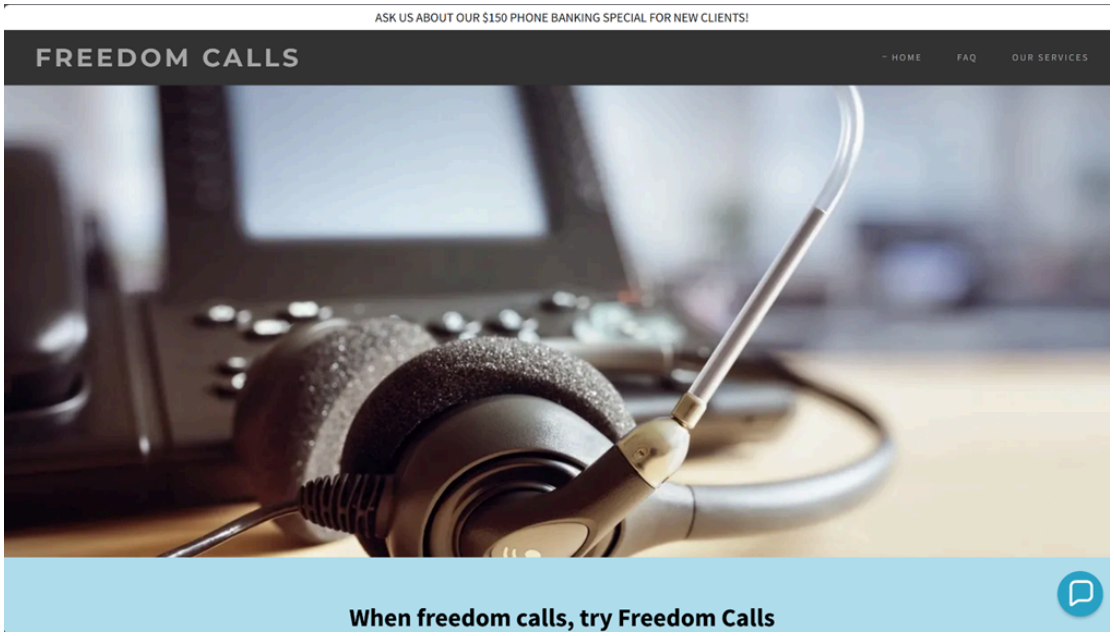
Freedom Calls LLC Website

The website freedomcalls.net was created on 01/08/2024, four days before Freedom Calls LLC was formed in Delaware. The domain was registered with GoDaddy.

Domain Information

Name	FREEDOMCALLS.NET
Registry Domain ID	2844202190_DOMAIN_NET-VRSN
Registered On	2024-01-08T05:05:36Z
Expires On	2026-01-08T05:05:36Z
Updated On	2025-01-09T16:45:28Z
Domain Status	client delete prohibited client renew prohibited client transfer prohibited client update prohibited
Name Servers	NS65.DOMAINCONTROL.COM NS66.DOMAINCONTROL.COM

The site does not contain standard elements of a professional website, including contact information and ownership. It is very basic and impersonal. While, in addition to phone banking, it lists canvassing, website design, and email marketing services, it appears to have been constructed solely for the LNC transactions. Contact can purportedly only be made by completing the Contact Us form.



Interactions with Freedom Calls LLC

No LNC board members were aware that Freedom Calls LLC was owned by Padgett before the Porter announcement. Some board members were aware that Freedom Calls LLC was purportedly a call center hired by the LNC. A few made inquiries about Freedom Calls LLC and were told by McArdle that it was making fundraising and membership calls, and that Padgett was helping as a volunteer to liaise with them.

Staff were also aware that Freedom Calls LLC was a purported call center, but no staff were aware that Padgett owned Freedom Calls LLC. Some knew that Freedom Calls LLC was making calls through Kixie, the LNC's auto dialing and texting software. No one, including Kennedy, had direct contact with anyone representing themselves as an employee of Freedom Calls LLC. Kennedy was serving as Operations Director in January 2024, when the relationship with Freedom Calls LLC began. McArdle, serving as both Executive Director and LNC Chair, unilaterally engaged Freedom Calls LLC and directed Kennedy to have the LNC's outsourced accounting firm set-up payments based on an offer letter from Freedom Calls LLC. When appointed Interim Executive Director in June 2024, Kennedy became aware that Freedom Calls LLC had not been provided updated call lists in a few months. It was incumbent upon staff to direct call lists to Freedom Calls LLC on a rolling basis so that they would have fresh prospective donors to contact. It was Kennedy's understanding that the former Director of Fundraising, Luke Troxell, generated and uploaded lists in Kixie for everyone making calls, including Freedom Calls LLC, until he left due to funding cuts on 03/24/2024. It did not appear as if additional lists had been generated or uploaded since his departure. Kennedy asked McArdle how she could facilitate getting updated lists to Freedom Calls LLC. She was directed

to Padgett, who showed her the Kixie software and stated he would get in touch with Freedom Calls LLC regarding the call list issue. The resolution was that Padgett through McArdle would request call lists from Kennedy. In or around September 2024, there were unsuccessful attempts to set up a meeting between LP contractor Michael Heise and Freedom Calls LLC to discuss projects and upcoming campaigns that Freedom Calls LLC could pitch in donor calls.

Two former staff members, Troxell and Matthew Butts, who utilized Kixie on a regular basis, and whose period of employment overlapped both Padgett's time as a contractor and the first three months of the Freedom Calls LLC transactions, declined to be interviewed. While there is no evidence they were aware of Padgett's ownership of Freedom Calls LLC, they may have information that would have been useful to the investigation.

Violation of Internal Procedures

Transactions with Freedom Calls LLC violated internal procedures designed to ensure strong fiscal stewardship and responsible use of donor funds.

Internal procedures are important as they ensure compliance with laws and regulations, consistency across the organization, communication of responsibilities, and accountability to donors. Leaders who disregard such policies set a bad example for staff and contractors, undermine trust in the organization, and damage the reputation of the organization with donors.

(1) Policy Manual Section 1.06(3) requires a contract or arrangement for financial remuneration with a closely related party to an LNC member be disclosed prior to execution and approved by either a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee or majority vote of the LNC. This provision was adopted as a direct result of McArdle's July 2023 hiring of her domestic partner, without the knowledge or approval of the LNC, to ensure a similar situation would not happen again. McArdle knew or should have known of this provision, as she presided over the 10/1/2023 meeting in which the provision was debated and passed. McArdle also knew or should have known the LNC would not approve another extension of Padgett's contract as an independent contractor.

Not only did McArdle fail to disclose the Freedom Calls LLC conflict, on 08/07/2024, she instructed the LNC Secretary to remove Padgett from her list of potential conflicts even though he was the incorporator and sole proprietor of Freedom Calls LLC.

AM Angela McArdle

Reply Reply all Forward

To: LP Secretary; Adrian Malagon; Adam Haman; Steven Nekhaila; **LNC Business; +2 others**

Wed 8/7/2024 12:43 PM

Please remove Mr. Padgett's position. He is no longer a contractor and his past position is not a conflict.

Angela McArdle
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

These actions give rise to the appearance of an intentional violation of an internal policy that was adopted by the board due to McArdle's previous hiring of Padgett. It also appears to intentionally mislead the LNC and membership by stating there is no longer a conflict related to Padgett.

(2) Policy Manual Section 1.06(3) also requires the following:

All contracts or modifications thereto shall be in writing and shall document the nature of the products or services to be provided and the terms and conditions with respect to the amount of compensation/reimbursement or other consideration to be paid.

As discussed above, the SIC found no written contract between the LNC and Freedom Calls LLC. An offer letter from Freedom Calls LLC is the only written description of services to be performed, and it does not contain the required elements of a contract. If additional documentation exists, McArdle has not provided it despite multiple requests.

(3) Section 1.06(3) further requires all contracts of more than one (1) year in duration or for more than $25,000 to be reviewed and approved by Counsel prior to signing by the Chair. The Freedom Calls LLC transactions meet both the duration and amount criteria and required Counsel review. LNC Counsel, Oliver Hall, was not consulted about Freedom Calls LLC nor was he asked to review any documents. Accordingly, these transactions violated this policy.

OH Oliver Hall<oliverbhall@gmail.com>

To: Kathy Yeniscavich

Cc: Steven Nekhaila; Paul Darr

Tue 4/22/2025 8:22 AM

Good morning,

I have never seen an offer letter or a contract relating to Freedom Calls LLC. I believe the first I heard of the firm was when the Jake Porter article identifying it was published. I was never consulted about this matter until the LNC asked me about the appropriate steps to terminate the contract.

Code of the District of Columbia

The transactions with Freedom Calls LLC appear to be void or voidable pursuant to DC Code § 29-406.70. That provision states that a contract or transaction in which an officer of a non-profit corporation has a financial interest shall not be void or voidable solely for that reason if:

> 1) The material facts of the relationship or interest and as to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the board of directors and the board in good faith authorizes the contract or transaction by the affirmative vote of a majority of disinterested directors even though the disinterested directors are less than a quorum;
>
> 2) the material facts as to the relationship or interest of the member, director, or officer and as to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the members entitled to vote thereon, if any, and the contract or transaction is specifically approved in good faith by vote of those members; or
>
> 3) the contract or transaction is fair as to the corporation as of the time it is authorized, approved, or ratified by the board of directors of the members.
>
> See: https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/code/sections/29-406.70

During the August 2023 meeting, the LNC discussed the statute and there was concern that the Padgett independent contractor contract executed 07/23/2023, without prior knowledge and vote of the LNC, was void. This presented a potential problem as Padgett had worked for three weeks under a possibly void contract. After consulting with Counsel, the LNC retroactively approved the contract.

The same concerns are an issue with the Freedom Calls LLC transactions, except on a larger scale, as Freedom Calls LLC was paid for a year without the LNC's knowledge of the conflicting interest or approval of a written contract. The material facts of the relationship and interest of McArdle as to the contract were not disclosed and the matter was never brought before the LNC. Based upon a plain reading of the statute, it appears the transactions were void or voidable.[6]

2025 Budget

[6] The transactions also appear to be void or voidable not only based on the conflict but because they did not provide a fair value to the LNC, as described below in the section assessing value of Freedom Calls LLC transactions to the LNC.

Freedom Calls LLC was included in the 2025 budget passed by the LNC, for $4,000 per month, in General Fundraising Expenses 7000-10.[7] Accordingly, McArdle apparently had every intention of continuing the Freedom Calls LLC transactions throughout the year without disclosure to the Board. It is likely that these transactions would have continued but for the disclosures in the Porter Substack.

Concealment of Ownership of Freedom Calls LLC

Not only did McArdle fail to disclose any potential conflict, fail to request Counsel's review and approval of the Freedom Calls LLC contract, and fail to seek the LNC's prior approval, but she also took actions that actively concealed Padgett's actual relationship with Freedom Calls LLC from staff and LNC members.

(1) The LLC was formed in Delaware, a state which is known for its privacy as it does not list formation information on its website. The only information publicly available is the date of formation and registered agent. Additional steps and fees are required to obtain status, tax assessments, and annual filings. To obtain the Certificate of Formation, Porter worked with an attorney who used a third-party filing service.

(2) McArdle instructed the LP Secretary to remove Padgett from her list of potential conflicts, as discussed above.

(3) During the year that the LNC was paying Freedom Calls LLC, McArdle withheld ownership information when asked about Freedom Calls LLC by LNC members and staff. Accordingly, no current staff, contractors, or LNC members were aware Padgett was Freedom Calls LLC's incorporator and sole proprietor. McArdle also never corrected LNC members who publicly stated that Padgett was no longer receiving donor funds.

(4) McArdle referred to Padgett as a volunteer liaison with Freedom Calls LLC, misleading LNC members and staff. When staff needed to talk to Freedom Calls LLC, they were directed to Padgett who stated he would coordinate with Freedom Calls LLC.

(5) McArdle ensured there were few written details about the arrangement. As a paralegal who has written other contracts, she knew or should have known of the legal insufficiency of the offer letter as a contract.

(6) McArdle allowed Freedom Calls LLC to submit a W-9 that did not disclose the owner of the LLC, contrary to IRS instructions, and which is signed with an illegible signature that bears no reasonable resemblance to that of Padgett, Freedom Calls LLC's sole proprietor.

[7] Total budgeted funds for 2025 in the General Fundraising line is $68,000.

(7) Freedom Calls LLC's invoice heading contained an incorrect website domain. See discussion below.

Invoices and Payments

Between 02/09/2024 and 01/22/2025, the LNC made 14 payments to Freedom Calls LLC totalling $49,600.

Date	Service	Amount
2/9/2024	Jan/Feb	2,100
2/21/2024	Feb	100
2/28/2024	Feb	3,000
3/25/2024	Mar	4,200
4/26/2024	April	0
5/2/2024	May	4,000
5/28/2024	May	4,200
6/25/2024	June	4,000
7/26/2024	July	4,000
8/21/2024	Aug	4,000
9/23/2024	Sept	4,000
10/23/2024	Oct	4,000
11/21/2024	Nov	4,000
12/20/2024	Dec	4,000
1/22/2025	Jan	4,000
		49,600

A payment for $4,000 on 04/26/2024 failed and was paid on 5/2/2024 as demonstrated by Melio, the LNC's payment processor.:

Freedom Calls LLC	4,000	4/26/2024	4/29/2024	Bank accou	ACH		Failed

---

McArdle did not respond to requests for an interview or production of documents, and accordingly, it could not be determined if Padgett's single member LLC paid employees.

When the LNC learned about the ownership of Freedom Calls LLC, it also learned that a payment was in process for 01/22/25.[8] The LNC had no authority to stop the payment until the conclusion of the ballot to terminate the contract, which expired on 01/29/25, and at that point the payment had been delivered to Freedom Calls

But for one exception described below, Freedom Calls LLC submitted monthly invoices from the freedomcalls.net email address to the attention of McArdle and the LNC's external accounting firm. The address on the invoices is 2810 N. Church St. #588254, Wilmington, Delaware, a LegalZoom virtual mail business. Payments were sent to Bluevine, a business banking platform. Banking services are provided to Bluevine by Coastal Community Bank, located in Everett, Washington. An incorrect website address for Freedom Calls LLC is on the header of each of the invoices submitted to the LNC for payment. Instead of the correct domain added of freedomcalls.net, the invoices list freedomcalls.com, which directs to Consumer Cellular. See screenshot of an invoice below.

At the time the payments began, McArdle had been serving as both the LNC Chair and Executive Director since August 2024, without a board vote. Accordingly, she unilaterally hired Freedom Calls LLC. Further, four out of the 14 invoices submitted by Freedom Calls were approved for payment by McArdle. Payment approvals are processed through Melio. Invoices are forwarded to the external accounting firm and entered into Melio. An authorized "approver" goes into the Melio account, reviews the invoices, and clicks approve to trigger a payment. (At this time both McArdle and Kennedy, who was serving as Director of Operations, had approval authority). A report from Melio demonstrates that McArdle approved the first payment on 02/09/2024, and three others dated 02/28/2024, 03/25/2024, and 05/28/2024. The remainder of the invoices were approved by Kennedy.[9] At the time, Kennedy had no reason to deny the invoices. The SIC found no evidence that Kennedy was involved in hiring Freedom Calls LLC, was aware that Padgett owned Freedom calls, or that she acted in an improper manner.

[8] Subsequent review revealed that the payment was for January 2025 as Freedom Calls routinely invoiced for the month that they provided services. Per Kixie, Freedom Calls made only 74 calls in January and did not provide fair value to the LNC. See section below assessing value of Freedom Calls LLC transactions to the LNC.

[9] LNC's external accounting firm advised that the notation, "Bill synced from Melio" occurs when the approver also enters the invoice. In such cases the approver field is blank since it was the approver entering the invoice. The first invoice with the processing note was on 08/21/24. At that point Kennedy had been promoted to Interim Executive Director and had assumed some bookkeeping functions. The SIC confirmed that Kennedy entered and approved the invoices dated 08/21/2024, 09/23/2024, 10/23/2024, 11/21/2024, 12/20/2024, and 01/22/2025.

Vendor Company Name	Invoice Number	Payment Amount (USD)	Collection Date	Delivery Date	Note To Self	Memo To Vendor	Payment Status	Scheduled By	Approved By
Freedom Calls LLC	1	2,100	2/9/2024	2/14/2024		#001	Paid	Amber Roehrborn	Angela McArdle
Freedom Calls LLC	2	100	2/21/2024	2/26/2024		#002	Paid	Hannah Kennedy	
Freedom Calls LLC	3	3,000	2/28/2024	2/28/2024		#003	Paid	Amber Roehrborn	Angela McArdle
Freedom Calls LLC	4	4,200	3/25/2024	3/26/2024		#004	Paid	Amber Roehrborn	Angela McArdle
Freedom Calls LLC	5	4,000	5/2/2024	5/3/2024		#005	Paid	Amber Roehrborn	Hannah Kennedy
Freedom Calls LLC	6	4,200	5/28/2024	5/29/2024		#006	Paid	Brock Burgess	Angela McArdle
Freedom Calls LLC		4,000	6/25/2024	6/26/2024			Paid	Hannah Kennedy	
FreedomCalls	6	4,000	7/26/2024	7/31/2024		Inv 006	Paid	Brock Burgess	Hannah Kennedy
Freedom Calls LLC		4,000	8/21/2024	8/21/2024	Bill synced from Melio.		Paid	Brock Burgess	Hannah Kennedy
Freedom Calls LLC		4,000	9/23/2024	9/23/2024	Bill synced from Melio.		Paid	Brock Burgess	
Freedom Calls LLC		4,000	10/23/2024	10/23/2024	Bill synced from Melio.		Paid	Brock Burgess	
Freedom Calls LLC		4,000	11/21/2024	11/21/2024	Bill synced from Melio.		Paid	Brock Burgess	
Freedom Calls LLC		4,000	12/20/2024	12/20/2024	Bill synced from Melio.		Paid	Brock Burgess	
Freedom Calls LLC		4,000	1/22/2025	1/22/2025	Bill synced from Melio.		Paid	Brock Burgess	

The exception to the submittal process is that the invoice dated 02/16/2024 was sent to Kennedy from McArdle's lp.org email address. The services are described as a one-time Discord Promotions Consulting Fee.

Cover email for invoice:

Outlook

Freedom Call Discord Fee

From Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>
Date Fri 2024-02-16 2:56 PM
To Hannah Kennedy <hannah.kennedy@lp.org>

1 attachment (56 KB)
LNC Invoice 002 2.15.24.pdf;

Invoice attached to email:

FREEDOM CALLS LLC
2810 N Church St #588254, Wilmington, DE 19802 | freedomcalls.com

Date:Feb 15, 2024

To: Libertarian National Committee 1444 Duke St. Alexandria, VA 22314
Attn: Angela, Accounting

Invoice No. 002

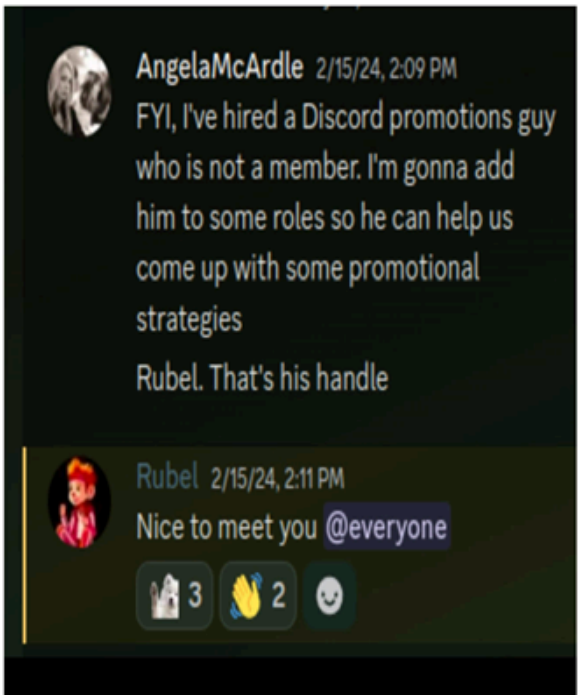
Service	Cost	Total
Discord Promotion Consulting (one time fee)	$100	$100

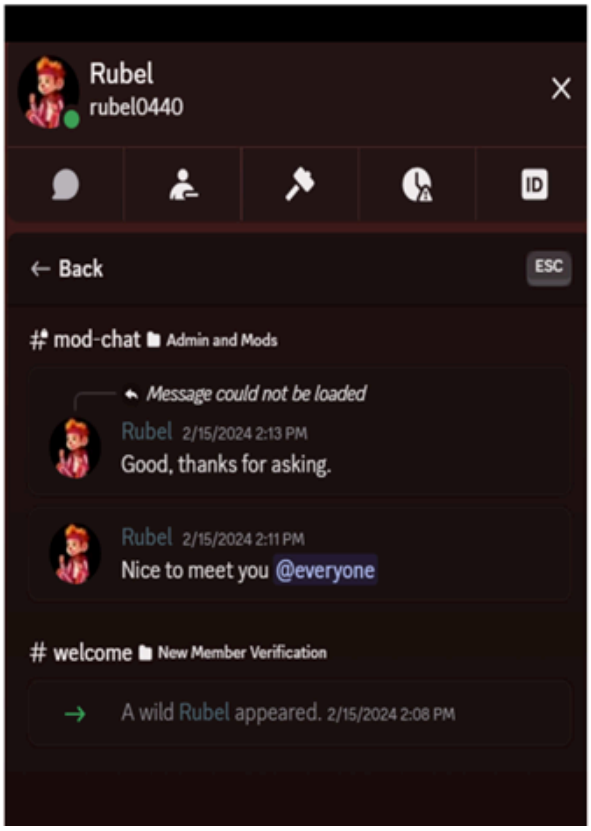
Please remit via ACH:

Bank Name: Blue Vine
Bank Account No. [redacted]
Routing No. [redacted]

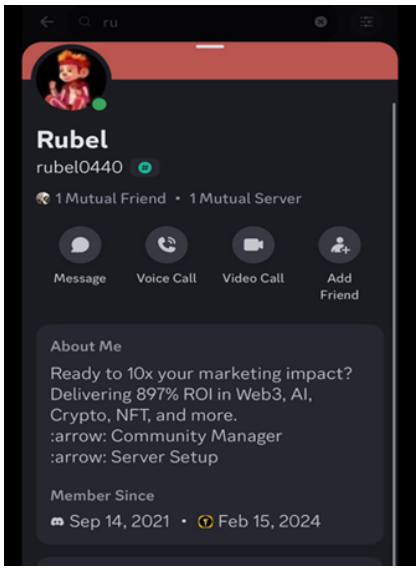
Thank you!

However, it is not known what, if any, Discord services were provided by Freedom Calls LLC. It is likely that the invoice is related to a message of the same date from McArdle to an LP Discord server chat for administrators and moderators. It states that she hired a Discord promotions guy who is not a member.





According to a moderator, these are the only two interactions the administrator-moderator team had with “Rubel”, and they are unaware of any promotional strategies, discussions or actions. Rubel’s identity is unknown, but this person is still in the LP Discord although they are not a member. Rubel’s Discord profile:



Assessment of Value to the LNC

Overview:

On 03/07/2025, Malagon participated in a Zoom call with Executive Director Kennedy and a Kixie Powercall representative for the purposes of learning about the intricacies of the Kixie software in use by the LNC for a fundraising project Nekhaila had tasked Malagon to organize and spearhead.

During that call, Malagon discovered Kixie's capabilities and, incidentally, the data that had been saved throughout former McArdle's Freedom Calls LLC project. To ensure the data was properly retrieved and uncorrupted, Malagon immediately informed Nekhaila about certain discrepancies he had witnessed during the tutorial. Nekhaila proceeded to secure Kixie login information for Malagon and requested that, due to his professional acumen and familiarity with dialing software, he do a full audit of the Kixie data for the SIC.

The phone call and Short Message Service (SMS) data were audited by Malagon and disseminated in full over the course of two weeks. The raw data was summarized in detail via an Excel spreadsheet and presented to the SIC on 03/17/2025 (phone calls) and 03/24/2025 (SMS). On 04/26/2025, Nekhaila asked Malagon to break the data down further and write a detailed section for the SIC report that revealed his findings and provided his professional assessment.

General Findings:

The findings and conclusions set forth below are based on the objective raw data that was analyzed and categorized for the benefit of the average reader. The Freedom Calls LLC agreement, detailed below, resulted in a total of 13,738 calls and raised approximately $2,468.57 over the course of 366 days. Under an arm's-length transaction, a fundraising contractor would be expected to complete approximately 52,000 calls during that time frame and raise at the very least as much as they were getting paid. The LNC paid Freedom Calls LLC $49,600, resulting in a net loss of approximately $47,131.43. This was an overpayment of at least $34,000 when compared to the industry standard. As such, the LNC did not receive fair market value for its agreement with Freedom Calls LLC.

Agreement Structure:

There was no proper stipulation of terms in the Freedom Calls LLC offer letter that apparently represents the only written document identifying any relationship between Freedom Calls LLC and the LNC. The letter only claimed that 40 hours of work product would be provided between two Freedom Call LLC agents, that they would use the LNC's software (i.e., Kixie) so that their progress could be overseen, that they would initiate weekly check-ins, and that there would be a "two-week trial period." The loosely laid out terms pose several problems, not to mention their lack of basic execution.

First, “40 hours of call work” is an unorthodox way to structure any agreement of this kind. Typically, an agreement would stipulate the number of calls that would be provided, either by day, week, or month, since that would be the most important metric to the hiring organization. A project such as this relies heavily on numbers, with a higher call volume statistically indicating a higher return on investment. Forty one-hour calls per week (a theoretical possibility based on the agreement as structured) are meaningless if the generated revenue is less than what is being paid out or, worse, nonexistent. The caller needs to be incentivized to reach a particular established metric, whether through a commission structure or work product, if for no other reason than to retain the agreement.

Second, it was theoretically possible to oversee progress, but this was clearly not done. For example, only 823 calls were made over the course of the “two-week trial period” and with no quantifiable return on investment—an objectively insufficient result. The continuation of the Freedom Calls LLC agreement despite their inadequate performance during the trial period gives rise to the appearance that the agreement was to be maintained regardless of the results.

Third, despite Freedom Calls LLC’s promise in its offer letter to do “weekly check-ins with you to ensure quality control,” the SIC found no records of any one-on-ones or emails with any direct report to assess basic performance, pitch structure, urgency, dials, overcoming objections, pain points, etc.

The vagueness and insufficiency of the terms in the Freedom Calls LLC offer letter and Freedom Calls LLC’s failure to perform necessarily resulted in a transaction that failed to provide the LNC with fair market value. On its face, the initial agreement and subsequent relationship between Freedom Calls LLC and the LNC does not appear to have been negotiated and executed by objective parties operating at arms-length. This is especially troubling during a time of financial crisis for the LNC, as it would be unwise to proceed without seeking input from knowledgeable individuals unless their interests conflicted with those of the organization. This was not done.

<u>Kixie Audit Legend and Basic Information:</u>

Below is an explanation of some of the terms, methodology, and basic information used and uncovered in breaking down the raw data, which should shed light on the charts below.

- The Kixie call and SMS audit time frame is from 01/28/2024 (the date of the first known call after the agreement was sent) to 01/29/2025 (the date the agreement termination motion passed).
- The call totals are broken down by weeks within particular months in which at least two Freedom Calls LLC agents were allegedly making calls and sending messages. The weeks start on Sunday and end on Saturday because the agreement and first calls began on Sunday, 01/28/2024.

- The primary focus was on outbound calls (i.e., calls made). Inbound calls (i.e., calls received) are of little consequence, although those that were shown as “answered” in the system are included in the call totals. There were approximately 200 total inbound calls received by Freedom Calls LLC agents. The occasional return voicemail was left for whichever respective agent did not answer. The system records showed no evidence of an agent returning any missed calls.
- “Account” refers to the name of the account that made the call or sent the SMS.
- "User" refers to the Freedom Calls LLC agent actually making the call or sending the SMS.
- The Kixie audit only reflects calls made by Freedom Calls LLC agents or associates: Peter, Angie, and Ella.[10] (Last names for the three Filipino agents were never provided and remain unknown as of the writing of this report.)
- “Total Average Calls Per Hour” was determined by dividing the “Total Calls Made/Answered” (including the answered inbound calls) during that timeframe by the number of hours that were allegedly worked per the agreement for that time frame. The agreement alleged 40 hours of “full-time” work per week split between two agents.
- Inbound calls were very sporadic and minimal. Therefore, it was decided not to break them down by week, but rather by caller and by month.
- The “Payment” row denotes the rendered payment according to the invoices and bank statements for the alleged work product from the previous payment cycle. The total amount rendered to Freedom Calls LLC from the agreement’s start date in January of 2024 and its termination in January of 2025 was $49,600.
- Kixie’s “Answered” outbound status merely signifies the successful call to a valid phone number. It does not mean that a conversation took place or even that a voicemail was left, which is why that record was omitted in this report. Instead, the report provides a chart that displays “Call Duration,” which is the duration from the start of the phone ring to the end of the call. This procedure is the only way to somewhat estimate how many conversations with prospects actually took place since the dispositions were manually applied and are problematic in their own right (this will be addressed later).
- The grand total of Freedom Calls LLC dials was 13,738 between four agents (interchanged) over the course of one leap year and one day (367 days).

<u>Kixie Audit Data (Calls):</u>

The charts below break down the total calls made per week as follows:

[10] As described above, the offer letter was unsigned but the typed closing was, “Peter and the Freedom Calls Team.”

Special Investigatory Committee Report - 06/09/2025

January 2024 - February 2024					
Account: Luke Troxell / User: "Peter"	**Calls**		**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 01/28/2024 - 02/03/2024:	342		342	342	8.55
"Peter" Total Calls Made/Answered:	342		342		
Total Calls Made/Answered:	**342**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	8.55				
January 2024 Payment:	**$0.00**				

February 2024 - March 2024					
Account: Luke Troxell / User: "Peter"	**Calls**	*Account: Austin Padgett / User: "Ella"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 02/04/2024 - 02/10/2024:	59	Week of 02/04/2024 - 02/10/2024:	422	481	12.025
Week of 02/11/2024 - 02/17/2024:	165	Week of 02/11/2024 - 02/17/2024:	380	545	13.625
Week of 02/18/2024 - 02/24/2024:	61	Week of 02/18/2024 - 02/24/2024:	221	282	7.05
Week of 02/25/2024 - 03/02/2024:	66	Week of 02/25/2024 - 03/02/2024:	206	272	6.8
Inbound Calls Answered:	0	Inbound Calls Answered:	9	9	N/A
"Peter" Total Calls Made/Answered:	351	"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	1238		
Total Calls Made/Answered:	**1,589**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	9.931				
February 2024 Payment:	**$5,200.00**				

March 2024					
Account: Luke Troxell / User: "Peter"	**Calls**	*Account: Austin Padgett / User: "Ella"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 03/03/2024 - 03/09/2024:	118	Week of 03/03/2024 - 03/09/2024:	466	584	14.6
Week of 03/10/2024 - 03/16/2024:	162	Week of 03/10/2024 - 03/16/2024:	223	385	9.625
Week of 03/17/2024 - 03/23/2024:	316	Week of 03/17/2024 - 03/23/2024:	181	497	12.425
Week of 03/24/2024 - 03/30/2024:	390	Week of 03/24/2024 - 03/30/2024:	138	528	13.2
Inbound Calls Answered:	1	Inbound Calls Answered:	4	5	N/A
"Peter" Total Calls Made/Answered:	987	"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	1012		
Total Calls Made/Answered:	**1,999**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	12.494				
March 2024 Payment:	**$4,200.00**				

March 2024 - April 2024					
Account: Luke Troxell / User: "Peter"	**Calls**	*Account: Austin Padgett / User: "Ella"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 03/31/2024 - 04/06/2024:	231	Week of 03/31/2024 - 04/06/2024:	67	298	7.45
Week of 04/07/2024 - 04/13/2024:	212	Week of 04/07/2024 - 04/13/2024:	64	276	6.9
Week of 04/14/2024 - 04/20/2024:	220	Week of 04/14/2024 - 04/20/2024:	271	491	12.275
Week of 04/21/2024 - 04/27/2024:	163	Week of 04/21/2024 - 04/27/2024:	211	374	9.35
Inbound Calls Answered:	0	Inbound Calls Answered:	1	1	N/A
"Peter" Total Calls Made/Answered:	826	"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	614		
Total Calls Made/Answered:	**1,440**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	9				
April 2024 Payment:	**$4,000.00**				

April 2024 - May 2024					
Account: Luke Troxell / User: "Peter"	**Calls**	*Account: Austin Padgett / User: "Ella"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 04/28/2024 - 05/04/2024:	232	Week of 04/28/2024 - 05/04/2024:	70	302	7.55
Week of 05/05/2024 - 05/11/2024:	145	Week of 05/05/2024 - 05/11/2024:	341	486	12.15
Week of 05/12/2024 - 05/18/2024:	142	Week of 05/12/2024 - 05/18/2024:	613	755	18.875
Week of 05/19/2024 - 05/25/2024:	168	Week of 05/19/2024 - 05/25/2024:	607	775	19.375
Inbound Calls Answered:	0	Inbound Calls Answered:	1	1	N/A
"Peter" Total Calls Made/Answered:	687	"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	1632		
Total Calls Made/Answered:	**2,319**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	14.494				
May 2024 Payment:	**$4,200.00**				

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May 2024 - June 2024					
Account: Luke Troxell / User: "Peter"	**Calls**	*Account: Austin Padgett / User: "Ella"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 05/26/2024 - 06/01/2024:	248	Week of 05/26/2024 - 06/01/2024:	261	509	12.725
Week of 06/02/2024 - 06/08/2024:	147	Week of 06/02/2024 - 06/08/2024:	428	575	14.375
Week of 06/09/2024 - 06/15/2024:	100	Week of 06/09/2024 - 06/15/2024:	117	217	5.425
Week of 06/16/2024 - 06/22/2024:	25	Week of 06/16/2024 - 06/22/2024:	57	82	2.05
Week of 06/23/2025 - 06/29/2024:	0	Week of 06/23/2025 - 06/29/2024:	235	235	5.875
Inbound Calls Answered:	1	Inbound Calls Answered:	0	1	N/A
"Peter" Total Calls Made/Answered:	521	"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	1098		
Total Outbound Calls Made:	**1,619**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	**8.095**				
June 2024 Payment:	**$4,000.00**				

July 2024 - August 2024					
Account: Austin Padgett / User: "Ella"	**Calls**	*Account: Matthew Butts / User: "Angie"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 07/28/2024 - 08/03/2024:	144	Week of 07/28/2024 - 08/03/2024:	236	380	9.5
Week of 08/04/2024 - 08/10/2024:	101	Week of 08/04/2024 - 08/10/2024:	147	248	6.2
Week of 08/11/2024 - 08/17/2024:	64	Week of 08/11/2024 - 08/17/2024:	113	177	4.425
Week of 08/18/2024 - 08/24/2024:	0	Week of 08/18/2024 - 08/24/2024:	0	0	0
Week of 08/25/2024 - 08/31/2024:	0	Week of 08/25/2024 - 08/31/2024:	0	0	0
Account: FreedomCalls One / User: "Ella"		*Account: FreedomCalls Two / User: "Angie"*			
Week of 07/28/2024 - 08/03/2024:	0	Week of 07/28/2024 - 08/03/2024:	0	0	0
Week of 08/04/2024 - 08/10/2024:	0	Week of 08/04/2024 - 08/10/2024:	0	0	0
Week of 08/11/2024 - 08/17/2024:	0	Week of 08/11/2024 - 08/17/2024:	0	0	0
Week of 08/18/2024 - 08/24/2024:	1	Week of 08/18/2024 - 08/24/2024:	178	179	4.475
Week of 08/25/2024 - 08/31/2024:	0	Week of 08/25/2024 - 08/31/2024:	79	79	1.975
"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	310	"Angie" Total Calls Made/Answered:	753		
Total Outbound Calls Made:	**1,063**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	**5.315**				
August 2024 Payment:	**$4,000.00**				

September 2024 - October 2024					
Account: FreedomCalls One / User: "Ella"	**Calls**	*Account: FreedomCalls Two / User: "Angie"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 09/01/2024 - 09/07/2024:	39	Week of 09/01/2024 - 09/07/2024:	100	139	3.475
Week of 09/08/2024 - 09/14/2024:	19	Week of 09/08/2024 - 09/14/2024:	137	156	3.9
Week of 09/15/2024 - 09/21/2024:	26	Week of 09/15/2024 - 09/21/2024:	133	159	3.975
Week of 09/22/2024 - 09/28/2024:	51	Week of 09/22/2024 - 09/28/2024:	96	147	3.675
Week of 09/29/2024 - 10/05/2024:	18	Week of 09/29/2024 - 10/05/2024:	46	64	1.6
"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	153	"Angie" Total Calls Made/Answered:	512		
Total Outbound Calls Made:	**665**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	**3.325**				
September 2024 Payment:	**$4,000.00**				

October 2024 - November 2024					
Account: FreedomCalls One / User: "Ella"	**Calls**	*Account: FreedomCalls Two / User: "Angie"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 10/06/2024 - 10/12/2024:	18	Week of 10/06/2024 - 10/12/2024:	77	95	2.375
Week of 10/13/2024 - 10/19/2024:	13	Week of 10/13/2024 - 10/19/2024:	74	87	2.175
Week of 10/20/2024 - 10/26/2024:	0	Week of 10/20/2024 - 10/26/2024:	25	25	0.625
Week of 10/27/2024 - 11/02/2024:	0	Week of 10/27/2024 - 11/02/2024:	12	12	0.3
"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	31	"Angie" Total Calls Made/Answered:	188		
Total Outbound Calls Made:	**219**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	**1.369**				
October 2024 Payment:	**$4,000.00**				

November 2024					
Account: FreedomCalls One / User: "Ella"	**Calls**	*Account: FreedomCalls Two / User: "Angie"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 11/03/2024 - 11/09/2024:	29	Week of 11/03/2024 - 11/09/2024:	1	30	0.75
Week of 11/10/2024 - 11/16/2024:	101	Week of 11/10/2024 - 11/16/2024:	0	101	2.525
Week of 11/17/2024 - 11/23/2024:	87	Week of 11/17/2024 - 11/23/2024:	419	506	12.65
Week of 11/24/2024 - 11/30/2024:	321	Week of 11/24/2024 - 11/30/2024:	76	397	9.925
"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	538	"Angie" Total Calls Made/Answered:	496		
Total Outbound Calls Made:	**1,034**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	6.462				
November 2024 Payment:	**$4,000.00**				

January 2025 - February 2025					
Account: FreedomCalls One / User: "Ella"	**Calls**	*Account: FreedomCalls Two / User: "Angie"*	**Calls**	**Total**	**Avg. Calls Per Hr.**
Week of 01/05/2025 - 01/11/2025:	0	Week of 01/05/2025 - 01/11/2025:	27	27	0.675
Week of 01/12/2025 - 01/18/2025:	2	Week of 01/12/2025 - 01/18/2025:	45	47	1.175
Week of 01/19/2025 - 01/25/2025:	0	Week of 01/19/2025 - 01/25/2025:	0	0	0
Week of 01/26/2025 - 02/01/2025:	0	Week of 01/26/2025 - 02/01/2025:	0	0	0
"Ella" Total Calls Made/Answered:	2	"Angie" Total Calls Made/Answered:	72		
Total Outbound Calls Made:	**74**				
Total Average Calls Per Hour:	0.462				
January 2024 Payment:	**$4,000.00**				

The chart below breaks down each user's "Call Duration" into five distinct time segments. Calls logged at over 5 minutes mean a conversation probably took place; the same can likely be said for calls that were logged as being 2:00 minutes to 4 minutes and 59 seconds in length. Calls logged between 1 minute and 1 minute and 59 seconds are very questionable. Many of those numbers seemingly went through a Google Virtual Assistant, which keeps the caller on the phone longer than usual, even if the call ultimately gets sent to voicemail. The same applies to landlines called without an answering machine. In that instance, that phone will continue to ring until the caller hangs up. A generous estimate would be to assume that around 30-40% of the calls resulted in some kind of conversation (probably negative). Calls logged as having lasted less than a minute almost certainly all went to voicemail. The only other possibilities are a bad number or the prospect picking up and hanging up immediately.

Call Duration	Over 5 Mins.	Btw. 2:00 - 4:59 Mins.	Btw. 1:00 -1:59 Mins.	Btw. 30 Secs. - 00:59 Secs.	Under 30 Secs.
Account: Luke Troxell / User: "Peter"	1	36	129	1,483	2,062
Account: Austin Padgett / User: "Ella"	7	192	520	3,041	2,452
Account: Matthew Butts / User: "Angie"	6	60	127	493	275
Account: FreedomCalls One / User: "Ella"	2	16	51	452	513
Account: FreedomCalls Two / User: "Angie"	3	44	100	775	898
Call Duration Totals:	**19**	**348**	**927**	**6,244**	**6,200**

<u>Dispositions and Definitions:</u>

A call disposition is an internal shorthand label or code assigned when using dial software, usually customizable, which is used to describe the outcome of a call. Its basic purpose is to track what happened during or as a result of the call. The context, tests, and SMS messages found in Kixie led to the identification of the following dispositions and assigned definitions:

- Bad Number: Nothing indicates that this disposition is correct (i.e., nothing suggests that these are bad numbers apart from being marked as such).
- Do Not Call: Seems to be one of the most accurate dispositions. Most prospects appear to desire removal from the call list.
- Donated: This disposition is misleading. It appears to signify that prospects claimed that they had already renewed their membership; these are not actual donations as a result of the caller reaching out.
- Interested: This seems to be the most incorrectly used disposition. The calls with this disposition do not indicate that the prospect is willing to donate; they only show that the prospect was open to receiving a text and visiting the website. Many of the calls resulted in no answers or hang-ups, as indicated by the call duration.
- No Call Outcome: This disposition seems to be one of the most frequently used, but there appears to be no clear rationale for its usage. It may be an automatic disposition assigned to the prospect if one is not manually entered by the agent.
- No Voicemail Left: Seems to be an automatic disposition assigned when the prospect calls back and does not leave the agent a voicemail (e.g., missed inbound calls).
- Not Interested: This option appears to be one of the most accurate, as prospects express their lack of interest regardless of the call's purpose.
- Note: This disposition is unclear. Based on context, it appears that notes were made in Zoho, but that's problematic since there should have been notes made for all prospects.
- Voicemail: If the prospect didn't answer, the system sent a pre-recorded voicemail, but the status remained "Answered." The system registers all valid numbers as "Answered," so it's unclear if the system automatically assigns the status once it goes to voicemail.
- Voicemail Left: Seems to be an automatic disposition assigned when the prospect calls back and leaves the agent a VM (e.g., missed inbound calls).

There is no way to properly assess definitions, as previously mentioned. Dispositions seem to have been wrongly assigned or false, making them useless for assessing what actually happened, so there was no point in providing the number of times each was used.

Pre-Recorded Voicemail Issues

A fundraiser for lifetime members in Miami, Florida, was being planned for late March 2024 by Luke Troxell, the LNC Fundraising Director at the time. LNC contractor Matthew Butts was using Kixie a few months prior to that to call members and promote the event. Malagon received one of those calls in late February 2024, resulting in a voicemail. The voicemail appeared to convey only a partial message and included a significant amount of silence.

Malagon called Butts back when he realized what had happened to make him aware of the problem. Malagon informed him that the use of an automated voicemail feature could potentially exacerbate the problem. Butts notified Padgett, who was reportedly volunteering for LNC fundraising projects, while Malagon also notified McArdle out of an abundance of caution. Butts assured Malagon a day or so later that the issue had been resolved. Malagon's suggestion to all parties at the time was to abandon the pre-recorded voicemail feature and commit to leaving live voicemails in real time to ensure nothing went wrong and to make the message more personal. His suggestions were noted but ultimately ignored. This issue prompted Malagon to offer his assistance to McArdle and any callers attempting to fundraise, but that too was ignored at the time. A few weeks later, however, McArdle had Butts schedule a training session with Malagon, which will be discussed below.

As previously mentioned, on 03/07/2025, Malagon participated in a Zoom call with a Kixie Powercall representative for the purposes of learning about the intricacies of Kixie. During that demonstration, he learned that the pre-recorded voicemail issues from over a year before were ongoing but exclusive to iPhone owners. Any iPhone-owning prospect who received a pre-recorded message from a Freedom Calls LLC agent likely heard an unintelligible message, assuming there was any sound at all.

Kixie Audit Data SMS:

Custom SMS templates were sent to a fair number of the prospects called, but not all. The discrepancy in this number versus the call number could be a mix of "bad numbers" and landlines. Breaking down the number of individual SMS templates sent would not provide any particular value to this report, but a total number of SMS messages per agent can be found below, along with the templates used.

Outbound Texts	**Total**
Account: Luke Troxell / User: "Peter"	5,680
Account: Austin Padgett / User: "Ella"	620
Account: Matthew Butts / User: "Angie"	716
Account: FreedomCalls One / User: "Ella"	516
Account: FreedomCalls Two / User: "Angie"	1,525
Outbound Text Total:	**9,057**

Freedom Calls LLC agents used a total of 14 outbound SMS templates (copied and pasted below as sent from the system):

- Text #1: Thank you for donating to the Libertarian Party. We are working on an initiative to provide a "campaign in a box" for candidates which includes: access to door knocking

software, automated campaign websites, and education. All free and accessible in one place.

- Text #2: Hey there! This is Luke Troxell from the Libertarian Party, and I'm calling to personally invite you to our exclusive Lifetime Member Banquet happening on March 23rd in Islamorada, Florida. The event will include gourmet seafood, laughter-inducing comedy, and an open bar. For more info and to reserve your spot, go to lp.org/banquet Trust me, this is an adventure you won't want to miss. Looking forward to seeing you there!
- Text #3: Urgent: The Libertarian Party is at a critical point in securing ballot access across all 50 states. Time is crucial, and your support is essential. It's a pivotal moment to champion liberty and choice nationally. Visit http://lp.org/ballot-access now. Immediate action can impact several states facing deadlines. Thanks for your commitment in this vital time!
- Text #4: Hey there, so Glad to connect with you. Your membership with the Libertarian Party has expired. You can renew your membership here: https://lp.org/join?source=LT24
- Text #5: Hey there, so sorry I missed you. This is Luke Troxell with the Libertarian Party, and I wanted to let you know your membership has expired. Membership, first and foremost, allows us to do things like secure ballot access for our presidential candidate and directly fund Libertarians in winnable races. You can renew your membership here: https://lp.org/join?source=LT24
- Text #6: Angie from the Libertarian Party. It was great talking with you. You can renew your membership today at https://lp.org/join?source=MB24. After, check out what's new with the LP here: https://news.lp.org/lp-year-in-review/
- Text #7: Austin from the Libertarian Party. It was great talking with you. You can renew your membership today at https://lp.org/join?source=AP24 . After, check out what's new with the LP here: https://news.lp.org/lp-year-in-review/
- Text #8: Hey there, sorry I missed you. This is Matthew from the Libertarian Party. We noticed your membership expired. Your support is vital for advancing liberty. You can renew your membership today at https://lp.org/join?source=MB24 and you can check out what's new in the LP here: https://news.lp.org/lp-year-in-review/
- Text #9: Hey there! This is Matthew Butts from the Libertarian Party, and I'm calling to personally invite you to our exclusive Lifetime Member Banquet happening on March 23rd in Islamorada, Florida. The event will include gourmet seafood, laughter-inducing comedy, and an open bar. For more info and to reserve your spot, go to lp.org/banquet Trust me, this is an adventure you won't want to miss. Looking forward to seeing you there!

- Text #10: Matthew from the Libertarian Party. It was great talking with you. You can renew your membership today at https://lp.org/join?source=MB24 . After, check out what's new with the LP here: https://news.lp.org/lp-year-in-review/

- Text #11: Thank you for donating to the Libertarian Party. We are working on an initiative to provide a "campaign in a box" for candidates which includes: access to door knocking software, automated campaign websites, and education. All free and accessible in one place. This scalable and effective support is the best value you will find in a political donation. If you'd like to see us maximize our candidate support on the 2024 budget please donate here. https://my.lp.org/contribute/candidate-support-fund/ If you want to use or know how to use Voter Gravity the door knocking software, you may send an email request to votergravity@lp.org

- Text #12: Join the Libertarian National Committee and the Chase Oliver Campaign in beautiful Miami for a fundraising evening filled with Spanish tapas and fine wines! When: Saturday, August 24th, 7 PM Eastern Where: Madrid Tapas y Vinos, 525 NW 42nd Ave, Miami, FL 33126 There is a suggested $50 donation for the event. https://my.lp.org/wp-json/civicrm/v3/url?u=31708&qid=42078555

- Text #13: What: California LP Convention When: February 22-23, 2025 Where: Embassy Suites, 1345 Treat Boulevard, Walnut Creek CA 94597 If you're interested to attend, please respond by answering the ff: 1. Are you interested in running for a position on the state excom? 2. Do you have transportation? Can you pay for hotel room? Visit https://ca.lp.org/2025-convention/ to get more information. Thank you. Have a great day!

- Text # 14: What: California LP Convention When: February 22-23, 2025 Where: Embassy Suites, 1345 Treat Boulevard, Walnut Creek CA 94597 To be eligible to vote at the state convention, you must do the following before Sunday, Nov 24: Become an LPCA $25 member (ca.lp.org/join). Sign the Pledge (checkbox on the membership page) Be registered Libertarian. (https://registertovote.ca.gov/) Change your voter registration at sos.ca.gov

Regarding the SMS templates mentioned above, there are several important points to consider.

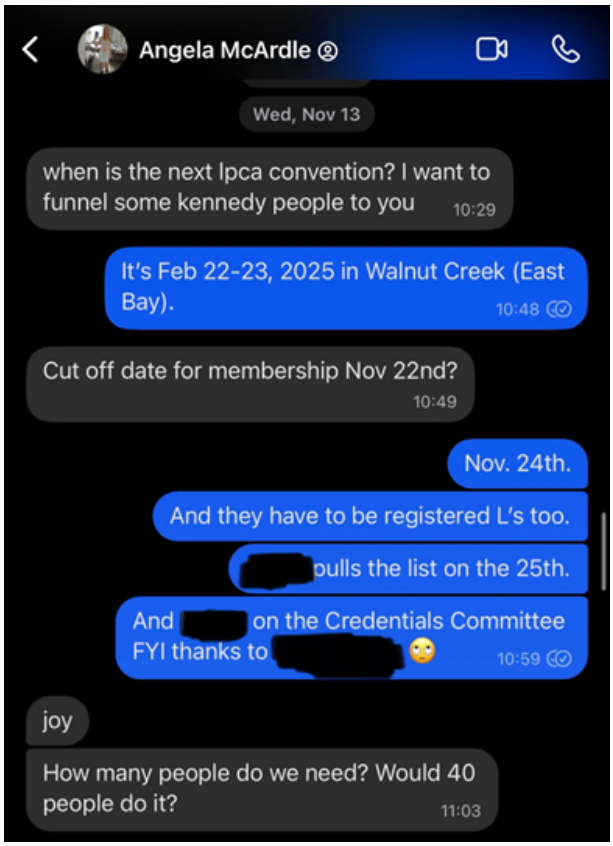
First, the date and time stamps demonstrate that Freedom Calls LLC agents were misrepresenting themselves as Austin Padgett, Luke Troxell, and Matthew Butts for months via text before using FreedomCallsOne in September 2024 and FreedomCallsTwo in August 2024. Padgett's contract ended in late January of 2024, while Mr. Troxell and Mr. Butts' professional relationships with the LNC ended 03/31/2024. FreedomCalls LLC agents may have also misrepresented themselves over the phone, given that most of the people who received calls also received texts. "Angie" eventually got her own template, which suggests that "Ella" and "Peter" continued with the misrepresentation.

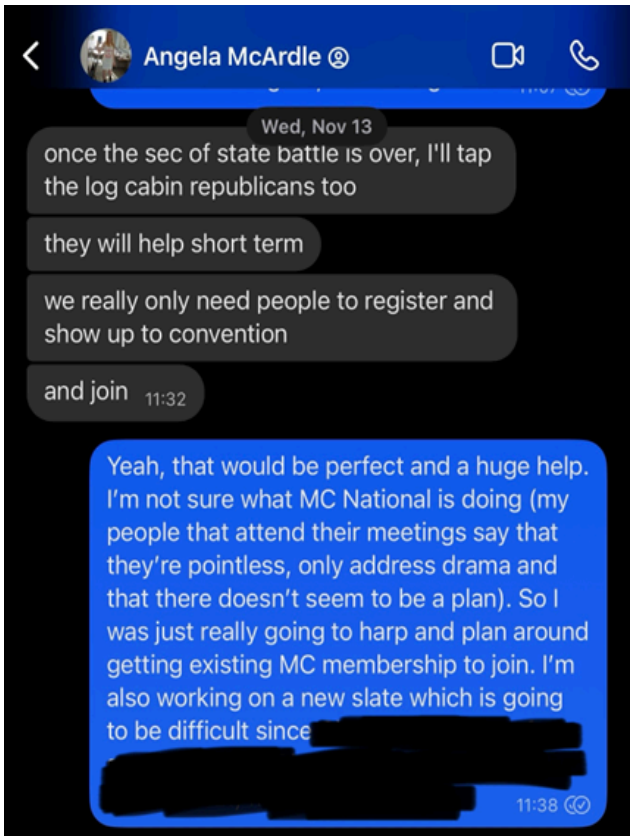
Second, the templates themselves are problematic. Some are very passive, others are too long, some have grammatical errors, while the majority beg more questions than they answer. If the call scripts were similar and the callers were poorly trained or equipped to answer questions (as some incoming SMS messages suggest), it would partly explain the project's lack of return on investment (which will be discussed in detail later).

Third, all links were generic and thus untraceable, which made it difficult to track progress, something that would be expected to be a key element for a project of this magnitude and the amount of money being spent.

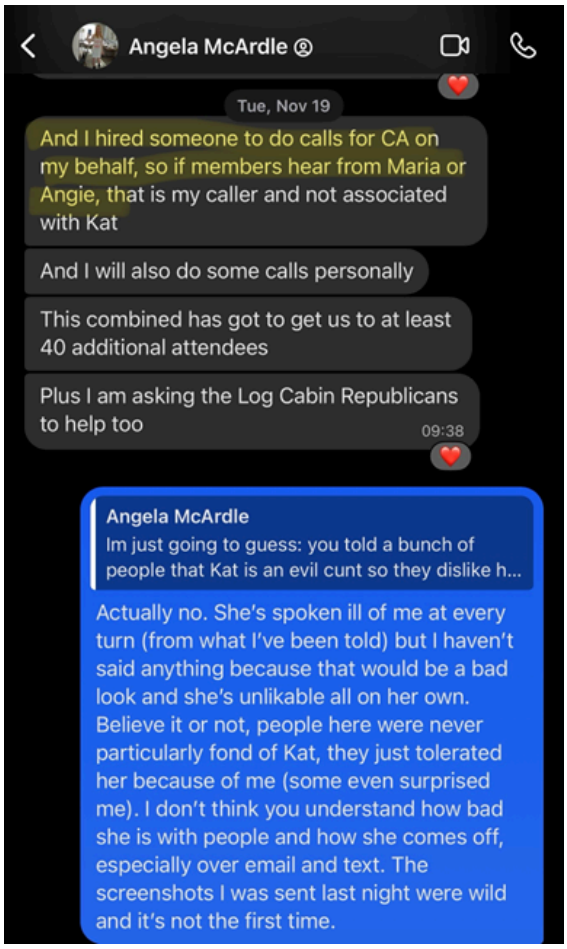
Fourth, templates #13 and #14 prove that, at the direction of McArdle, FreedomCalls LLC was being paid by the LNC and using LNC resources for Mises Caucus National purposes. Initially, McArdle told Malagon she was paying for a service of this kind out of pocket.

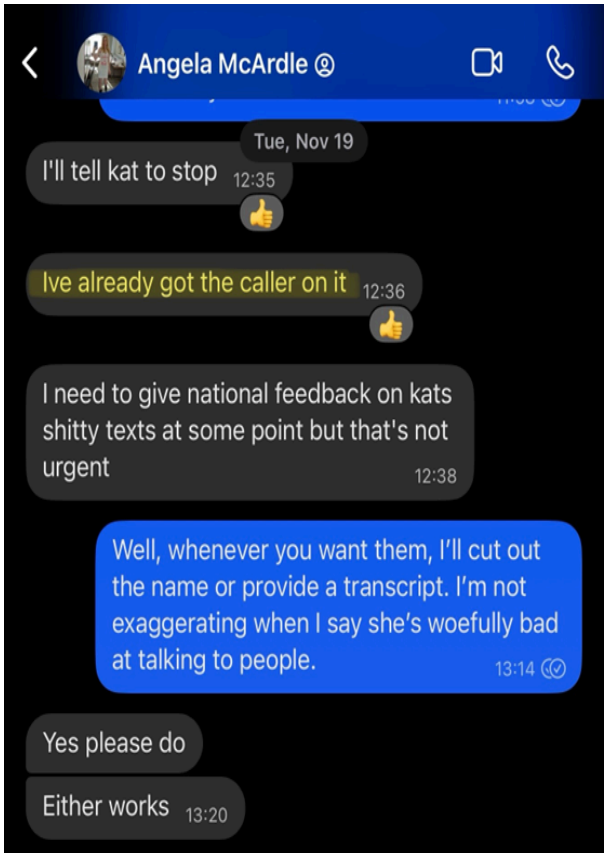
Background: On Wednesday, 11/13/2024, McArdle reached out to Malagon to find out specifics surrounding the 2025 Libertarian Party of California Annual Convention (since rescheduled to July 2025) so that she could “funnel some Kennedy people” to him. The purpose was to get people who supported McArdle and the Mises Caucus to register as delegates and show up to the LPCA Annual Convention. (Screenshots from a Signal chat below, irrelevant names redacted. McArdle in gray, Malagon in blue.)



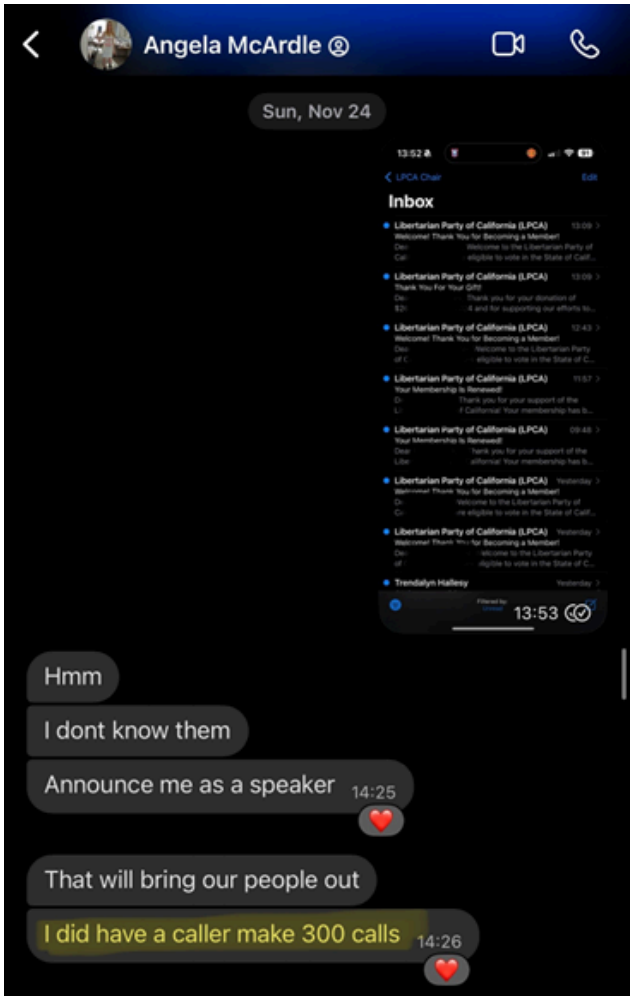


A few days passed, and the topic of the Convention once again came up. McArdle specifically mentioned that she “hired someone to do calls for CA on [her] behalf.” She continues to mention a “Maria” and an “Angie.” (The name “Maria” never appears in the Kixie system. It’s possible McArdle confused that name with “Ella.” Key phrases highlighted in yellow.)





By Sunday, 11/24/2024, McArdle claimed she had a caller make 300 calls. The Kixie audit verifies the use of the #13 and #14 templates to send 361 calls and SMS messages between 11/20/2024 and 11/23/2024.



As reported to the SIC during his interview, Malagon had no knowledge that the callers McArdle had claimed to have personally hired were actually Freedom Calls LLC agents being paid for by the LNC. Had Malagon known Party resources and funds were being used to advance the interests of any individual person or caucus, he would not have agreed to allow it in California.

The record of inbound texts revealed additional points of interest. Some were unsurprising; for example, there were several members who remained committed to disavowing the Party so long as the Mises Caucus was “in charge.” About the same number of people on the “Mises side” expressed disappointment and anger at the fact that Chase Oliver was the Party’s nominee. What did come as a surprise was that a few contacted prospects appeared upset at the times they were being called (e.g., Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m., late Sunday evening, etc.), which means that the agents were at least, in part, either not aware of or not respecting the time zones between the Philippines and the time zones in the United States, which is standard practice for this line of work.

Expectation vs Reality:

Assuming an 8-hour workday (for the sake of simple explanation), a reasonable expectation for this line of work would be for the hired agent to make at least 200 calls per day, roughly 25 calls per hour, which would amount to a minimum of 1,000 calls per week, the latter of which should have taken place regardless given the 40-hour-per-week stipulation. This means that if split among two agents (again, a stipulation of the agreement), at least 500 calls per week should be expected by each agent to reach the 1,000 reasonable minimum. Not only was that basic standard never met, but the two or sometimes three agents combined only made over 500 calls per week less than a handful of times, as the charts above demonstrate. Broken down even further, a minimum expectation based on these numbers would be that either agent would at least reach the 25-call threshold per hour, which would include the periodic conversation. The agents at Freedom Calls LLC combined rarely ever reached even half of the 25-call threshold, achieving this only a few times.

Given that this project used a power dialer (i.e., Kixie), the bare minimum expectations are actually fairly generous. The purpose of a power dialer is for the caller to be able to efficiently and expediently make their way through an assigned call list. Additionally, this particular software allows the caller to leave pre-recorded voicemail messages and send pre-written SMS templates to every mobile number called (both of which were discussed in detail) for the purposes of allowing the caller to get through more of their assigned call list. This means that the only things that should have theoretically taken up the caller's time are actual conversations and manual notes of consequence being entered into the system, neither of which happened on the scale that would be expected of full-time work over the course of a year. Put simply, the audit should have realistically produced a record of closer to 52,000 total calls made; instead, it proved that only just over a quarter of that was actually done (13,738 total calls made).

Of additional note is that two of the weeks with the highest call volume (relatively speaking) were the week of and after the 2024 National Convention, which raises even more questions regarding the agents' calling practices and instructions. It is illogical for the call rate to be so high during the busiest Libertarian event, which occurs only once every two years, which at the very least raises the question of whether the agents were given adequate instructions.

Over 6,000 calls had a call duration of under 30 seconds; a significant number of those are under the 10-second mark, which suggests a practice known as "dead-dialing." The term means that, presumably, these numbers were called without an intent to have a conversation, or they were numbers that they believed would be the least likely to pick up, so the agents let the phone ring and then ended the call on their end while sending out the pre-recorded voicemail and text. This type of scenario is a very common practice for cold callers to use with the intention of padding metrics. The agents are unreachable, so we cannot know what happened, but there is enough evidence to suggest this scenario was plausible.

Zoho Audit:

Roman Garcia completed an analysis of the exported data from Zoho for donations made between 01/01/2024 and 01/31/2025 and Kixie calls made within the same timeframe. He compared the phone numbers and dates of the calls for the Kixie caller accounts being used against Zoho donation data using contact phone numbers, donation dates, and donation amounts.

Garcia's analysis of the Zoho and Kixie data revealed that the two databases could not match any documented donations from Freedom Calls LLC. To clarify, no donations made in Zoho could be associated with any Kixie accounts. If one were to generously attribute donation amounts made in the same month as calls to specific phone numbers that match between the two databases (manually), the grand total would only be $2,468.57. Again, it's important to note that this would be an extremely generous accounting of the data since most of the donations during that period originate either from the LP store or are recorded with no specific source point. Kixie's SMS data remains inconclusive due to the generic nature of the sent links, which makes it impossible to correlate with the text messages. Additionally, CiviCRM did not possess any documented donations linked to Freedom Calls LLC.

In short, the amount of donations collected by Freedom Calls LLC should probably be calculated at $0.00. At best, the net loss for this project was $47,131.43 rather than the entire $49,600 that the LNC paid Freedom Calls LLC. The only thing Freedom Calls LLC appears to have provided freedom from is any return on investment.

Industry Standards:

The cost of independent Filipino call centers can vary widely depending on the specific services, experience level, English proficiency, and project requirements. According to various job boards, service providers, business threads, reviews, and testimonies of verified users (all easily found online), however, the average rate of an independent Filipino call center (1-4 "employees") for the purposes of cold calling on behalf of a small business is between $4.00 and $9.00 USD per hour. The project-based pricing average appears to be 1,000 calls for $300 USD. Another option is a monthly "salary," which ranges anywhere from $320 to $1,300 USD. The range is again contingent on project complexity, agent experience, and agent language proficiency.

The task assigned to Freedom Calls LLC was not particularly complex, as it involved standard cold calling with a script and user-friendly dial software. Although the agents' experience is unknown at the time of writing this report, interviews with several anonymous prospects who received calls from the agents indicated that their English proficiency was subpar, making it difficult for these prospects to understand the agents or the purpose of their call. Normally, their payments would have been at the lower end of the previously mentioned ranges. For the purposes of this report, however, the higher-end range will be illustrated for a comparison of what was paid versus what should have been paid.

The Freedom Calls LLC agreement stipulated a “discounted rate for full-time calls for $4,200 per month” for “two dedicated callers doing a combined total of 40 hours of call work per week.”

An hourly structure (assuming $9.00 per hour) would have resulted in a payment of $360 paid per week to be split between the two agents (assuming they were splitting the work evenly). Multiplying $360 by the 52 weeks the agreement was in place comes out to a total of $18,720 in expected pay. In this scenario, the LNC overpaid by approximately $30,880.

Project-based pricing for work actually done (assuming $300.00 per 1,000 calls) would have come out to $4,200 (rounding up to 14,000 calls from the 13,738 total calls actually made). In this scenario, the LNC overpaid by approximately $45,400.

The monthly "salary" pricing, which appears to have been opted for according to the Freedom Calls LLC offer letter (assuming the pay is on the higher end of $1,300), would have come out to $15,600. In this scenario, the LNC overpaid by $34,000.

The payment in each case would be the total paid, split between the two agents, not paid to each. Assuming the last scenario, where the highest end of the pay range is generously attributed for the purposes of illustration, and assuming that Freedom Calls LLC’s “cut” was the full $1,300 (split between the agents as they saw fit), at least a few important questions come to mind.

First, how is $4,200 per month a “discounted rate” given the ease of the project (i.e., standard) and the seeming lack of proficiency in the English language the agents appeared to have? Second, who received the estimated $34,000 overpayment for such a standard service? Third, why were no other quotes solicited? Fourth, why was the project-based option not sought or negotiated since it was objectively the most prudent option given the LNC’s needs and would have easily traced the feasibility of such a project?

Without McArdle or Freedom Calls LLC’s cooperation, it is unlikely that reliable answers will ever be provided to these and other important questions, although it appears based on the available evidence that there are no good answers.

<u>LNC Staff / Contractors vs Freedom Calls LLC:</u>

McArdle brought Matthew Butts back as a contractor to make donor calls after a five month hiatus. His first day back was 08/06/2024 (he resigned shortly after on 10/22/2024 citing personal issues). Putting aside for a moment that a previously laid-off contractor (Butts) had been rehired to do the very thing that Freedom Calls LLC had allegedly been doing for roughly seven months at this point and was purportedly continuing to do, if you combine the last couple of weeks of his first tenure and just over two months of his second tenure, he brought in just under $3,000 in donations. The worst part (for Butts) is that he was getting paid about 50% less during that first stint and significantly less than Freedom Calls LLC during his second stint since he was working part-time, despite providing far more value.

The shift in Butts' performance came after he had a short training session with Malagon, where he was instructed on best practices, how to make a proper ask, follow up, etc. The fact that such behavior was not tracked at the time and that McArdle didn't have Malagon oversee or train the Freedom Calls LLC agents despite Butts' turnaround in performance raises additional concerns and questions as to the legitimacy of the Freedom Calls LLC engagement.

The abrupt termination of staff and their replacement—by an underperforming contractor who directly benefited the McArdle household—raises additional serious concerns. In mid-March of 2024, when the LNC's dire financial situation became evident, Troxell and Butts received only a few days' notice that their employment would be terminated on 03/31/2024. To be clear, their livelihoods and health insurance were abruptly stripped, while Freedom Calls LLC's previous and future expenditures remained unevaluated, unquestioned, and apparently financially lucrative for McArdle.

General Conclusion:

Occasional mistakes, imprudence, or lapses of judgment are not uncommon among leadership in any organization. Neither is the contrition or attempted remedy that usually follows. The disconcerting reality here is that McArdle rejects the possibility that she did anything wrong. As evidenced by her actions, emails, and social media posts, much like her job in the Trump Administration, remorse is non-existent.

Numbers don't lie. Facts don't lie. Based on the evidence available, McArdle's retention of Freedom Calls LLC suggests gross fiduciary negligence and incompetence, if not deliberate misconduct, while she was Chair of the LNC.

Factors supporting a conclusion of deliberate misconduct include McArdle's violation of a conflict of interest rule just months after it was put in place because of her previous conflicts of interest, McArdle's affirmative acts to keep LNC Counsel and the LNC unaware of material facts relating to the Freedom Calls LLC engagement and Freedom Calls LLC's performance, McArdle's acceptance of the vague and legally insufficient terms of the Freedom Calls offer letter and apparent failure to execute a formal contract, McArdle's failure to ensure adequate oversight during the pendency of Freedom Calls LLC's engagement, among the other issues mentioned in this report.

II. Swing Vote Strategist

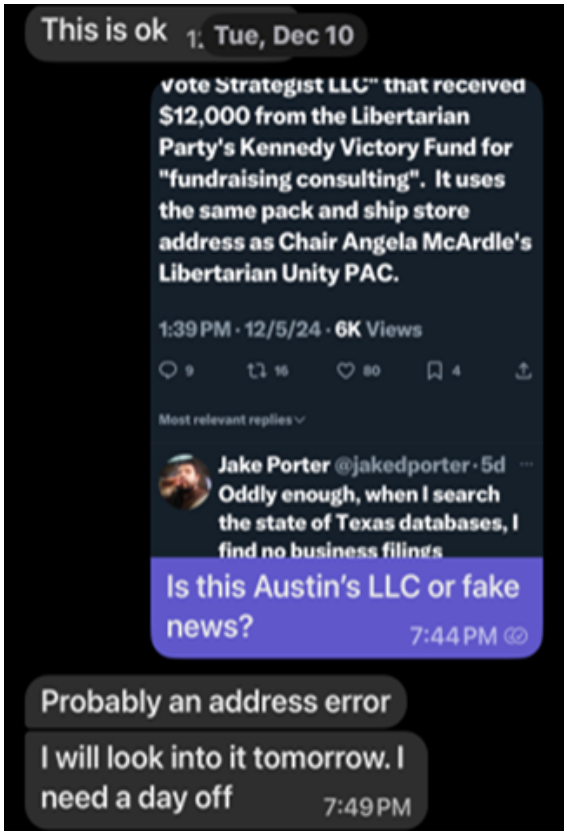
A. Background

On 07/11/2024, the Executive Committee voted to form a Joint Fundraising Committee ("JFC") with TK), the Presidential campaign for Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. A Joint Fundraising Committee, known as the Kennedy Victory Fund ("KVF"), was formed and filed a Statement of Organization with the Federal Elections Commission on 07/19/24. A number of state affiliates and PACs also joined the KVF.

On 12/05/2024, Jake Porter posted on X, "I wonder who operates the "Swing Vote Strategist LLC" that received $12,000 from the Libertarian Party's Kennedy Victory Fund for "fundraising consulting." A review of KVF's FEC filings revealed that Swing Vote Strategist ("SVS") was one of the expenses paid by the KVF before distributing funds to the participants.

B. Board Action and Response

LNC members began asking McArdle questions. They either received misleading responses or no response. Yeniscavich messaged McArdle on 12/10/2024 asking if Swing Vote Strategist LLC ("SVS") is Austin's LLC? She replied, "Probably an address error. I will look into it tomorrow. I need a day off."



On 12/16/2024, Porter posted photos from FEC filings demonstrating that the address on the Statement of Organization for McArdle's Libertarian Unity PAC is the same address as the SVS reported in KVF's FEC filings. On 12/28/2024, another Porter X post included a screenshot of a State of Delaware public records search for SVS which showed that it was registered in Delaware on 09/24/24. Finally, on 12/30/24, Porter posted on X a State of Delaware Certificate of Formation of Limited Liability Company for Swing Vote Strategist, with Padgett as the authorized person and organizer.

State of Delaware
Secretary of State
Division of Corporations
Delivered 11:58 AM 09/24/2024
FILED 11:58 AM 09/24/2024
SR 20243768668 - File Number 5249310

STATE OF DELAWARE
CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION
OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The undersigned authorized person, desiring to form a limited liability company pursuant to the Limited Liability Company Act of the State of Delaware, hereby certifies as follows:

1. The name of the limited liability company is Swing Vote Strategist LLC.

2. The Registered Office of the limited liability company in the State of Delaware is located at 8 The Grn, STE A (street), in the City of Dover, Zip Code 19901. The name of the Registered Agent at such address upon whom process against this limited liability company may be served is A Registered Agent, Inc.

By: /s/Austin Padgett
Authorized Person

Name: Austin Padgett, Organizer
Print or Type

On 01/01/2025, several other board members inquired of the validity of Porter's post. McArdle continued to deflect these inquiries. 0n 01/17/25, Yeniscavich learned from the LNC's liaison with TK that the SVS was between TK and McArdle.

C. Investigation

Contract

Yeniscavich made several unsuccessful attempts to obtain a copy of the SVS contract. However, Matthew Sanders, the TK Chief Operating Officer, who signed the JFA on behalf of TK, agreed to be interviewed by the SIC. Sanders reported that he is responsible for all TK contracts and, accordingly, signs them and authorizes associated payments. He confirmed that he approved the scope of work and signed the SVS contract between McArdle and TK and stated that he had never heard of Padgett. To comply with FEC requirements, campaigns must provide a fair market value in exchange for work, and, accordingly, Sanders assessed the time commitment and value of work for all TK contracts before signing. He describes McArdle's work for the KVF as "onboarding new state parties, answering questions from state parties, helping to ensure state parties sent back their % to the LNC per the JFA agreement." McArdle reported to Sanders, and he advised that he is satisfied that the workload performed by McArdle justified the payments.

Failure to Disclose Contract

McArdle did not report her Swing Vote Strategist work as a potential conflict as required by Policy Manual Section 1.07(2). While legitimate work apparently was performed for the KVF, directed by TK, it should have been disclosed as a potential conflict of interest as it could reasonably raise questions of bias and inappropriate use of funds. In fact, several questions and allegations arose. While they do not appear to have merit, these concerns emerged due to a lack of disclosure.

First, there were allegations that McArdle encouraged the LNC to join the JFC to create opportunities to benefit financially. The SIC is unaware of any evidence that this was McArdle's motivation. According to Sanders and Yeniscavich, there were no discussions about payment for McArdle until several weeks after the agreement was signed and the extent of the workload was realized. At that time, Sanders offered to pay both McArdle and Yeniscavich for the work they were doing to administer the fund. Yeniscavich declined and agreed to continue work as a volunteer. She was unaware if TK came to an arrangement with McArdle

A second allegation was that McArdle may have approved KVF payments in which she had a personal interest. This allegation is based upon a statement she made on a 12/24/2024 X Spaces, titled Confirm RFK Jr, MAHA-Libertarian Coalition with Angela McArdle, "I'm very friendly to Kennedy, obviously, I run his JFC, consider him a friend." While it is unclear what McArdle meant, the allegation is false as McArdle had no authority to approve KVF payments. Sanders advised the SIC that he, or in a few instances the TK Treasurer, authorized all payments from the KVF, including those to SVS. He also approved all expenses paid from the TK allocation of the distribution maintained by the LNC and conducted oversight of the bank account through

weekly reports from Executive Director Kennedy. These reports provided the bank balance, outstanding payables, and a listing of all bank activity.

In addition to her failure to disclose the potential conflict of interest, McArdle took actions that obfuscated her involvement with Swing Vote Strategists. During the month Porter posted about Swing Vote Strategists, she led some board members to believe that Padgett was working for the KVF. It took over a month to determine that she was being paid for KVF work through SVS.

Invoices and Payments

Evidence confirming that it was McArdle and not Padgett doing business with the KVF as SVS was found in McArdle's lp.org email. Several invoices for SVS were sent from McArdle's lp.org email address to the KVF.

A side-by-side comparison of an SVS invoice from McArdle to the KVF sent from her lp.org email, to a Freedom Calls LLC invoice sent from the Freedom Calls email to McArdle's lp.org email, shows that SVS and Freedom Calls appear to have used the same invoice template. Both LLCs use the same bank, but payments are directed to different accounts (redacted).

Swing Vote
STRATEGIST

14900 Avery Ranch Rd. Austin TX 78717

Date: February 12, 2025 2024

To: Kennedy Victory Fund
Attn: Accounting

Invoice No. 006

Service	Cost	Total
Joint Fundraising Committee Advisory & Management for January 2025	$4000	$4000

Please remit via ACH:

Bank Name: Blue Vine (also known as Coastal Community Bank)
Bank Account No [redacted]
Routing No [redacted]

FREEDOM CALLS LLC
2810 N Church St #588254, Wilmington, DE 19802 | freedomcalls.com

Date: July 25, 2024

To: Libertarian National Committee 1444 Duke St. Alexandria, VA 22314
Attn: Angela, Accounting

Invoice No. 006

Service	Cost	Total
Fundraising call services at LNC rate for June, plus $200 Thank you Discount	$4000	$4000

Please remit via ACH:

Bank Name: Blue Vine
Bank Account No [redacted]
Routing No [redacted]

Thank you!

From 10/18/2024-03/28/2025, the KVF paid SVS $32,000, or $4,000 per month for August through March.

Swing Vote Strategist Payments

Date	Service	Amount
10/18/2024	Aug & Sept	$8,000
11/8/2024	Oct	$4,000
12/20/2024	Nov	$4,000
1/17/2024	Dec	$4,000
2/14/2025	Jan	$4,000
3/7/2025	Feb	$4,000
3/28/2025	Mar	$4,000
		$32,000

Unbeknownst to the LNC, TK chose to continue the contract with SVS after McArdle resigned as LNC Chair due to an apparent misunderstanding by TK. Sanders stated that the work was not specific to McArdle's role as LNC Chair. The SIC became aware of the continued relationship during a review of McArdle's lp.org email. Those emails revealed that she continued to interact with the KVF, affiliates, and PAC participants in the KVF, and TK, at least through March 2025. FEC reports demonstrate that the final KVF payment to SVS was in March 2025.

In at least six such emails, all which appear to be responses, McArdle continued to represent herself as LNC Chair in her signature block after she resigned from the LNC, in emails sent on 02/10/2025, 03/04/2025, 03/05/2025, 03/25/2025, 04/07/2025, and 04/24/2025. These emails were between TK staff and the TK attorney advising on the KVF.

From the time her resignation was accepted, McArdle's lp.org email address was forwarded to an archived inbox. She used this email to complete transition tasks and for the SVS work. In early March, McArdle began using her personal Gmail address. An SIC review of the emails sent and received by both addresses revealed that the signature blocks in the archived address and in the Gmail address contained the LNC Chair title, at least in responses.

Sample email from the lp.org archived email:

Outlook

Re: March invoice

From Angela McArdle - Archive <angela.mcardle@lp.org>
Date Tue 2025-03-25 8:04 PM
To ellie[redacted]
Cc matthew[redacted] Tim Everhart [redacted]

Yep, no problem

Angela McArdle
LNC Chair

A sample email from the Gmail address related to work with SVS, redacted due to attorney client privilege and to shield TK email addresses:

Outlook

Re: [redacted]

From Angela Mc Ardle <angelamcardlelda@gmail.com>
Date Mon 2025-04-07 11:40 AM
To [redacted]
Cc Angela McArdle - Archive <angela.mcardle@lp.org>; [redacted]

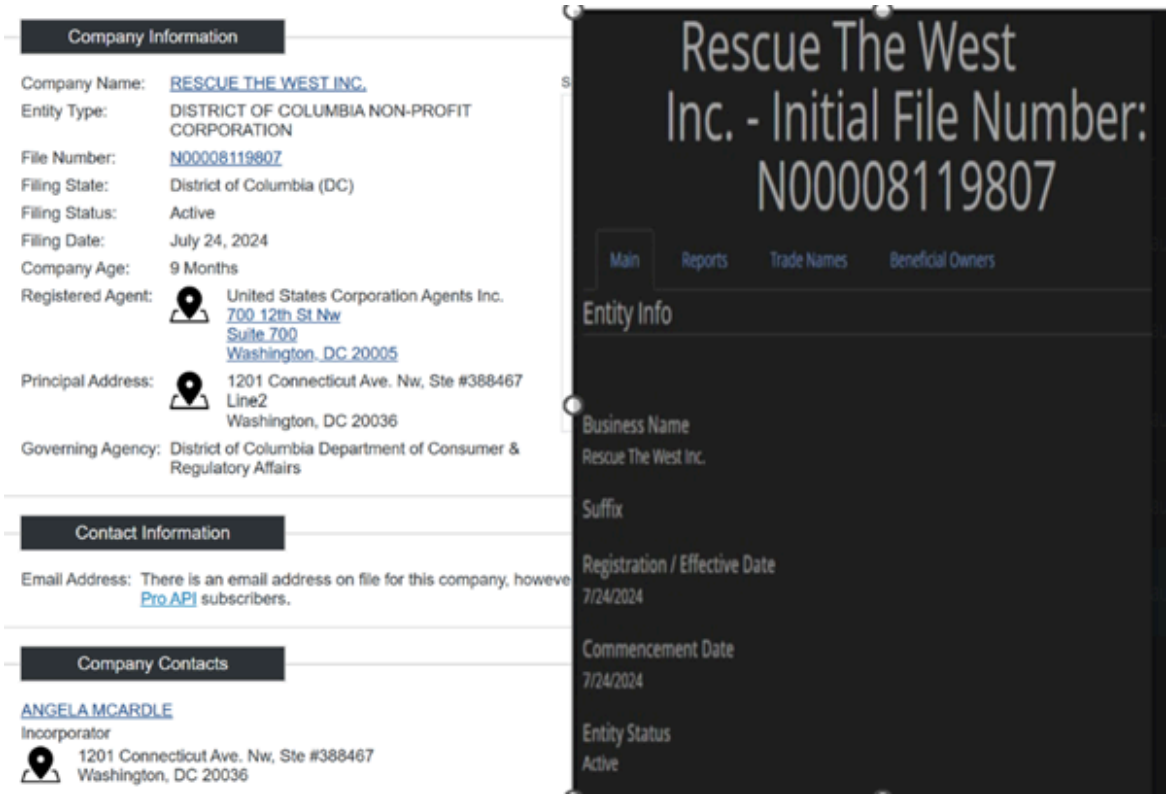
Got it.

Angela McArdle, LP Chair

III. Rescue the West, Inc.

A. Background

Rescue the West was incorporated by McArdle as a non-profit in the District of Columbia on 07/24/2024, with a business address of 1201 Connecticut NW, Ste #388467, Washington, DC 20036.



Company Information

Company Name: RESCUE THE WEST INC.
Entity Type: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
File Number: N00008119807
Filing State: District of Columbia (DC)
Filing Status: Active
Filing Date: July 24, 2024
Company Age: 9 Months
Registered Agent: United States Corporation Agents Inc. 700 12th St Nw Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005
Principal Address: 1201 Connecticut Ave. Nw, Ste #388467 Line2 Washington, DC 20036
Governing Agency: District of Columbia Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs

Contact Information

Email Address: There is an email address on file for this company, howeve Pro API subscribers.

Company Contacts

ANGELA MCARDLE
Incorporator
1201 Connecticut Ave. Nw, Ste #388467
Washington, DC 20036

Rescue The West Inc. - Initial File Number: N00008119807

Main Reports Trade Names Beneficial Owners

Entity Info

Business Name
Rescue The West Inc.

Suffix

Registration / Effective Date
7/24/2024

Commencement Date
7/24/2024

Entity Status
Active

On 09/29/2024, Rescue the West sponsored the Rescue the Republic: Join the Resistance Rally ("RTR") in Washington, DC. The event was advertised in advance on its website and social media, with named speakers including Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Tulsi Gabbard. Co-founders are listed as McArdle, Matt Tune, and Dr. Bret Weinstein. See jointheresistance.org.

B. Board Action and Response

Some LP and LNC members raised concerns about McArdle associating the rally with the LP.

A review of documents reveals that the LNC's Advertising and Publication Review Committee did not review and approve an email about RTR that was sent to the LP membership. Policy Manual Section 1.04(2) provides the committee's purpose:

> The APRC shall review and advise whether official public communications of the Party violate our Bylaws, Policy Manual, advocate moving public policy in a different direction

> other than a libertarian direction, as delineated by the Party platform, or are detrimental to the image of the Party.
>
> And:
>
> If a majority of the entire APRC disapproves a communication with specified reasons within its scope, the communication will not be sent. The LNC Chair may override this disapproval.

A substantially longer email about RTR than the one sent to LP membership was submitted to the committee on 09/09/2024. The email took the appearance and format of a press release for RTR, and was titled, "OVER 100,000 VOTERS FROM THE RIGHT AND LEFT WILL UNITE TO RESCUE THE REPUBLIC IN WASHINGTON, DC – 9.29.24. It included a list of featured speakers, quotes from McArdle and co-founder Bret Weinstein, description of purpose and goals, and links to the RTR webpage and a Give Send Go formed by McArdle. It also included the following statement which tied the LP directly to the rally:

> As the 3rd largest political party in the United States, the Libertarian Party, and its Chair, Co-Director of the Rescue the Republic, Angela McArdle are helping to lead the charge to save the country from the corrupt two-party system and bring its citizens together for change under common principles.

As shown in the email thread below, Harlos, the Chair of the APRC, disapproved of the email due to apparent policy violations and the potential impropriety of sending out the email to LP members. She also asked questions regarding ownership and why the LP's name was used without approval. At the time, the vote count of the five-member committee was two approvals, two disapprovals, and one abstention. McArdle replied to Harlos on 09/11/2024 stating that the questions were inappropriate for the APRC to consider when voting to approve or disapprove the email. She also stated that the email would be rewritten but did not provide a reason and that the email would be resubmitted to the committee. Nearly two weeks later, on 09/23/2024, the revised email went out without resubmittal to the APRC. The same day, Harlos noted on the thread that the email was never resubmitted for review.

APRC email thread from 09/09/2024-09/23/2024, with redaction of staff name (First email is at the bottom of the thread):

Outlook

Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

From LP Secretary <secretaryArchive_CarynAnnHarlos@lp.org>
Date Mon 9/23/2024 10:04 PM
To Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>; Ben Weir <ben.weir@lp.org>; Adam Haman <adam.haman@lp.org>; Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>; Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; [redacted] <[redacted]; APRC <aprc@lp.org>

And we never did see the final draft before it went out.

In Liberty, Caryn Ann Harlos
LNC Secretary and LP Historical Preservation Committee Chair ~ 561.523.2250

From: LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 9:19 AM
To: Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>, Ben Weir <ben.weir@lp.org>, Adam Haman <adam.haman@lp.org>, Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>, Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>, [redacted], APRC <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

Thank you.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 9:18:56 AM
To: LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>; Ben Weir <ben.weir@lp.org>; Adam Haman <adam.haman@lp.org>; Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>; Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; [redacted]>; APRC <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

It will get re submitted once it's ready

Angela McArdle
LNC Chair

From: LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 10:08:52 AM
To: Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>; Ben Weir <ben.weir@lp.org>; Adam Haman <adam.haman@lp.org>; Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>; Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; [redacted] <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

May we see the current copy so I can make APRC appropriate comments?

From: Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 9:03:52 AM
To: LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>; Ben Weir <ben.weir@lp.org>; Adam Haman <adam.haman@lp.org>; Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>; Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; [redacted] <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

This isn't going out as is, but none of your questions are appropriate for aprc.

Angela McArdle
LNC Chair

From: LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 7:30:43 AM
To: Ben Weir <ben.weir@lp.org>; Adam Haman <adam.haman@lp.org>; Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>; Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; [redacted]; APRC <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

What corporation owns this? Who are its directors? Are they getting paid? How is our name being used without approval? I understand this Committee doesn't matter, the Chair is just going to override whatever she wishes but the LNC has the right to know these things. The domain is anonymous which is the opposite of transparent.

In Liberty, Caryn Ann Harlos
LNC Secretary and LP Historical Preservation Committee Chair ~ 561.523.2250

From: Ben Weir <ben.weir@lp.org>
Date: Monday, September 9, 2024 at 10:35 AM
To: Adam Haman <adam.haman@lp.org>, Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>, LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>, Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>, [redacted] APRC <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

I abstain.

Ben Weir
Region 6 Alt

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Adam Haman <adam.haman@lp.org>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 12:28:50 PM
To: Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>; LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>; Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; [redacted] <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

Approve.

This is a move in the right direction, and we move these people even further towards liberty by interacting with them, not by ignoring them.

We should use events like this to take the huge amount of “disaffected by the duopoly” energy and move it towards the LP.

Adam Haman
Region 1 Rep, Libertarian National Committee
Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Nevada

From: Greg Hertzsch <greg.hertzsch@lp.org>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 9:11:34 AM
To: LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>; Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; [redacted] APRC <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

Disapprove

Greg Hertzsch
LNC Region 3 Alternate
greg.hertzsch@lp.org
(502)939-4731

From: LP Secretary <secretary@lp.org>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 11:54:11 AM
To: Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>; [redacted]; APRC <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

Disapprove- sponsorship never approved goes against "national divorce" and localization supported by delegates

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 9:51:30 AM
To: [redacted]; APRC <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: Re: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

Approve

From: [redacted]@lp.org>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 11:45 AM
To: APRC <aprc@lp.org>
Subject: APRC: [CiviMail Draft] Rescue the Republic!

Image removed by sender. Libertarian Party

OVER 100,000 VOTERS FROM THE RIGHT AND LEFT WILL UNITE TO RESCUE THE REPUBLIC IN WASHINGTON, D.C. – 9.29.24

Biggest Non-Partisan, Get-Out-The-Vote Event in History to Send Message to Capitol Hill That the Two-Party System Must Go

Russel Brand, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Tulsi Gabbard, Bret Weinstein, Matt Taibbi, Col. Douglas Macgregor (ret.), Robert Malone MD, Pierre Kory MD, Dr. Heather Heying, LNC Chair Angela McArdle, Tennessee Jett, Jimmy Dore, The Defiant, Five Times August

APRC,

Over 100,000 Americans from all political persuasions will descend on Washington, D.C., on Sunday, September 29, for a rally to *Rescue the Republic*. For the first time, more Americans identify as "Independent" than as members of a major party, with most voters fed up with information operations and corporate media that divide people based on identity politics. These voters believe the Republic is under attack and must be rescued, and they want candidates who will join the fight.

As the 3rd largest political party in the United States, the Libertarian Party and its Chair, co-director of *Rescue the Republic* Angela McArdle, are helping to lead the charge to save the country from the corrupt two-party system and bring its citizens together for change under common principles.

Featured speakers include Tulsi Gabbard, Bret Weinstein, Matt Taibbi, Col. Douglas Macgregor (ret.), Robert W. Malone MD, Pierre Kory MD, Dr. Heather Heying, LNC Chair Angela McArdle, comedian Jimmy Dore, and musical acts the Defiant, Five Times August and Tennessee Jet. More speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

"Libertarians are leading the charge on unifying the country. Together, we can restore the principles that make our republic so beautiful and worth saving. We're bringing together notable musical artists, comedians, and thought leaders of our generation to stand together and rescue the Republic," said Angela McArdle, co-director of Rally to Rescue the Republic and Chair of the National Libertarian Party.

The non-partisan rally is an effort to unite and mobilize the public to demand a drastic shift away from the two-party system and inspire candidates around shared values and eight core principles of *the American Commitment*.

Voters to Mobilize and *Urge Candidates to Endorse and Defend the American Commitment*

Organizers believe the weeks following the rally leading up to the election are crucial to educating and mobilizing voters and candidates at all levels of government. At the event, attendees can download the American Commitment via a QR code advertised on jumbotrons. Voters will be urged to pressure candidates to sign up to make The American Commitment's by endorsing and defending eight core principles. They include:

- War is always the last resort
- Sanctify/recodify informed consent

- Banish state information control, surveillance & propaganda
- Secure monetary freedom
- Restore family sovereignty
- Enact a rational border policy, including putting an end to harmful US policies
- Liberate truth-seeking and open dialogue
- End Lawfare and abuse of the court system

Why is our Republic worth preserving?

"At its heart, it is an agreement to distribute opportunity as widely as possible. Today, the foundation that makes up the West is under attack. This moment demands radical change and requires liberals, conservatives, and independents of every color and creed to unify to rescue the West," said Dr. Bret Weinstein, co-host of the DarkHorse podcast and a key visionary of the rally.

Those interested are encouraged to visit the **rally website** in the coming weeks as more speakers, artists, and musicians are added to the line-up.

WHAT: "Rescue the Republic" Rally
WHEN: Sunday, Sept 29th, 2024
WHERE: Washington, D.C., between the WWII and Washington Monuments
WHY: To unite voters tired of the two-party system, cronyism, and divisive politics

Help *Rescue the Republic!*

Visit the Rally Website

Gear up for liberty with Official Libertarian Party Merchandise!

Show your support for individual freedom, limited government, and personal responsibility with our exclusive collection of apparel, accessories, and more. Whether you're attending a rally, hitting the streets to spread the message of liberty, or simply want to showcase your libertarian pride, our merchandise has you covered. There's never a bad time to buy some new merch, as every purchase directly supports the Libertarian Party and our mission to promote liberty for all.

Shop now and wear your principles on your sleeve!

Email that was sent to LP membership on 09/23/24:

RESCUE THE REPUBLIC

JOIN THE RESISTANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

9 · 29 · 24

Calling all Libertarians!

On **Sunday, September 29th**, libertarians, independents, and swing voters will descend on Washington DC to rally for unity at **Rescue The Republic**.

This is our chance to register voters and make our voices heard.

We're issuing the following call to action:

- Attend the event wearing a Libertarian Party t-shirt
- Come prepared to engage with swing voters
- Bring business cards or small flyers for down-ticket candidates

This is going to be an incredible event featuring an amazing lineup that includes libertarian speakers like Rob Schneider, Corey DeAngelis, and Zuby.

Find out more about the event at jointheresistance.org.

Rescue The Republic!

Gear up for liberty with Official Libertarian Party Merchandise!

Show your support for individual freedom, limited government, and personal responsibility with our exclusive collection of apparel, accessories, and more. Whether you're attending a rally, hitting the streets to spread the message of liberty, or simply want to showcase your libertarian pride, our merchandise has you covered. There"s never a bad time to buy some new merch, as every purchase directly supports the Libertarian Party and our mission to promote liberty for all.

Shop now and wear your principles on your sleeve!

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Paid for by the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. (LP.org)
1444 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3403
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

You previously signed up to get mail from the Libertarian National Committee on August 21st, 2018 4:00 PM. Didn't get this email in your primary inbox? Here's how to fix that. You can update your preferences, unsubscribe from the Libertarian National Committee or opt out of all Libertarian Party communications.

Harlos stated that rarely, if ever, is an email completely rewritten. In her opinion the rewrite is a different email and should have been resubmitted for approval. A comparison of the two emails reveals that the one that went out is a total rewrite. Accordingly, the email should have been resubmitted as McArdle stated she would but failed to do.

Upon receiving the email, LNC Member Thompson sent a message to the LNC asking questions and expressing concern that the event was pro-Trump based upon the advertised speakers, including Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who had ended his Independent Presidential campaign to support Donald Trump.

After additional questions and comments by LNC members, McArdle responded, “It’s not an endorsement. It’s not RATWM. It’s a call to action at an event where [sic] will be doing outreach including tabling and voter registration.” RATWM is the acronym for Rage Against the War Machine, another organization that McArdle formed and also a 2023 rally by the same name.

C. Investigation

Conflict of Interest

McArdle declared RTR as a potential conflict nearly three weeks after the rally. In a 10/18/2024 email to the LNC, McArdle stated, “Some people are alleging that Rescue the Republic is a potential conflict of interest, which I disagree with, but I can list it if it will make people feel more at ease.

Outlook

New Potential Conflicts of Interest Form

From Angela McArdle <angela.mcardle@lp.org>
Date Fri 10/18/2024 2:21 PM
To LNC Board <lncboard@lp.org>

We need to appoint an interim secretary soon. In the meantime, we can use this thread for potential conflicts of interest.

I have a new PAC called Libertarian Unity. It's being used to raise funds for Libertarian candidate videos.

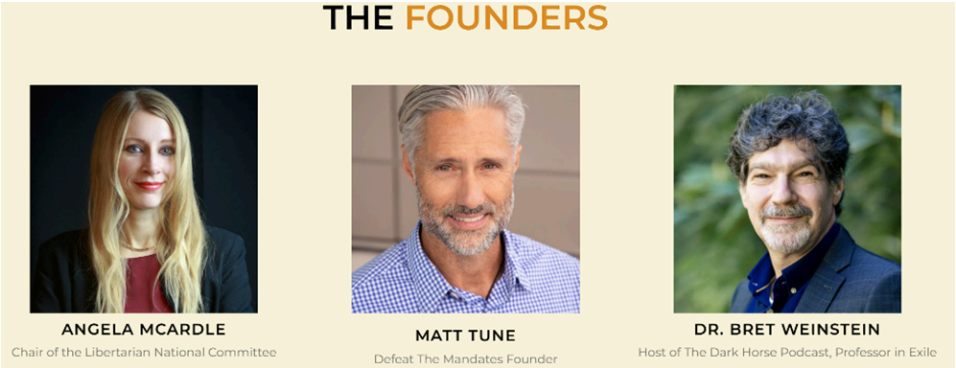
Some people are alleging that Rescue The Republic is a potential conflict of interest, which I disagree with, but I can list it if it will make people feel more at ease.

Angela McArdle
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

Although McArdle disagreed that the rally is a potential conflict, a reasonable third-party could interpret her actions to organize and fundraise for a rally heavily supported by the agenda of a non-Libertarian candidate, just over a month before the Presidential election, showed bias against the Libertarian candidate and the LP, and influenced her decision-making in LNC matters. Board members, LP members, and members of the public pointed to the speakers, sponsors and imagery projecting support for Trump and called into question her loyalties. Only a few examples are provided below.

(1) The website and social media included a prominent image of Trump, Elon Musk, and other speakers recreating the famous Washington Crossing the Delaware painting:

(2) The website lists McArdle as a Co-Founder, using her LNC Chair title:



(3) A description of the history of Rescue the Republic on its website states that it originated from Defeat the Mandates and RATWM:

> What started as Defeat The Mandates, an historic idea to bring together the world's leading COVID-19 dissidents in the early days of the vaccine mandates, and Rage Against The War Machine in the wake of the Ukrainian conflict, has now become today's Rescue the Republic: **Join The Resistance.**
>
> The same team of visionary leaders who organized and rose up to send the strong message of "We will not comply" are raising voices once again to protest the ongoing dismantling and destruction of Western values across the globe.
>
> On Sunday, September 29th we will come together on the sacred grounds between the WWII Memorial and the Washington Monument to rally again and say with one voice:
>
> **"We will NOT COMPLY with tyranny! We will RESCUE THE REPUBLIC!"**

RATWM is an anti-war organization created by McArdle and Nick Brana of the People's Party. In February 2023, the organization held a rally of the same name. McArdle sought and obtained the LNC's endorsement and sponsorship of that rally. The organization held a second rally, which was not endorsed or sponsored by the LNC, the day before RTR on the same stage. This statement and the twin rallies blurred the separation between the RATWM and RTR, and therefore the LP and RTR.

(4) The Make America Healthy Again movement heavily supported the RTR event. Accordingly, the stage banner and podium for RTR contained MAHA branding, and MAHA was mentioned frequently during the event.

(5) Months after the rally, on 02/17/2025, McArdle retweeted Nicole Shanahan's post to Ross Ulbricht after he was freed, thanking McArdle for steering Libertarian support to Trump, reinforcing the perception that McArdle's efforts, including organizing the RTR, were in support of Trump.

These are just a few of the indicators that support a reasonable interpretation that McArdle's activities as a Co-Founder of RTR showed a bias toward another political party and could have influenced her decision-making with respect to the Libertarian Party and its Presidential candidate, thereby requiring disclosure. Further, Policy Manual Section 1.07(2) requires the disclosure to be made at the earliest opportunity. This potential conflict with RTR should have been reported by McArdle at the beginning of the planning phase instead of weeks after the rally.

McArdle also never disclosed Rescue the West, the non-profit she incorporated in the District of Columbia, as a potential conflict. Her relationship to this entity should also have been disclosed as soon as it was incorporated.

However, this issue is larger than merely reporting a potential conflict of interest. Many LP members questioned whether McArdle's actions were ethically consistent with her responsibilities as LNC Chair and whether she violated the LP Bylaws. It is recommended that the LNC consider this issue and, if it wishes to prevent LNC members from engaging in similar

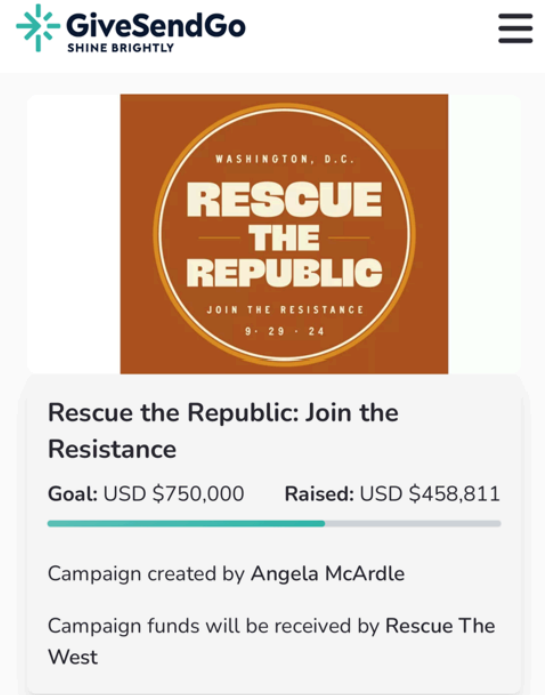
actions in the future, develop internal policies to that effect. Members may also wish to consider additional bylaws amendments.

Financials

A review of available financial documents reveals that McArdle raised a total of $1,234,811 through Rescue the West, of which $458,811 was from individual donors on the Give, Send, Go fundraising platform, and $776,000 from the KVF and PACs supporting Kennedy's platform, including AV24, MAHA Alliance, and the Make America Healthy Again PAC.

Date	Source	Amount
9/5/2024	American Values 24	$20,000
9/10/2024	American Values 24	$130,000
9/20/2024	Kennedy Victory Fund	$25,000
9/23/2024	MAHA Alliance	$200,000
9/27/2024	MAHA PAC	$1,000
9/27/2024	MAHA Alliance	$300,000
11/15/2024	MAHA Alliance	$100,000
		$776,000
	Give Send Go	$458,811
	Total	$1,234,811

Source: FEC Reports



On 02/07/2025 McArdle posted on X that the rally cost over $2 million and that she did not make any money. On the day of the rally, Co-Founder Matt Tune made a plea from the stage for donations to cover the remaining expenses. The SIC did not have access to documents disclosing the total donations, cost, and expenses of the event. Accordingly, no determination can be made whether the event profited and whether McArdle was paid. It was determined, however, that no LP donor funds were expended on the rally.

The KVF October FEC filing reported a $25,000 donation to the rally on 09/20/24. The filing listed McArdle's home address for this transaction. Sanders stated that he authorized this donation to be paid from KVF to Rescue the West after obtaining confirmation from Counsel that it was an allowable KVF expense as Kennedy was a featured speaker at the event. In response to a request from the SIC, Sanders confirmed with the KVF that the payment went by wire to Rescue the West and not to McArdle personally.

IV. Libertarian Unity and Libertarian Mutual Aid PAC

On 10/11/2024, McArdle filed FEC Form 1 Statement of Organization to register Libertarian Unity as a PAC supporting or opposing more than one Federal candidate. The PAC's address is listed at 14900 Avery Ranch Boulevard, Austin, Texas, the same address used to form Swing Vote Strategist LLC in the State of Delaware on 09/24/24. The form was amended on 10/23/2024 to add the Kennedy Victory Fund as an Affiliated Committee.

Between 11/15/2024 and the final payment on 4/9/25, Libertarian Unity received eight KVF distributions totaling $91,077.93. As of the date of the report, Libertarian Unity complied with the JFA and transferred 90%, or $81,970.14 to the LNC bank account maintained for TK's allocation. Accordingly, the PAC's 10% of the distributions, which it keeps under the agreement, is $9,107.79. As of 06/07/2025, the last FEC report filed by Libertarian Unity was Year-End 2024. No disbursements have been reported to the FEC except for the transfers to the LNC. Accordingly, it cannot be determined at this time how the PAC has spent any of the funds.

In an email dated 10/18/2024, McArdle reported Libertarian Unity to the LNC as a possible conflict, in the same email she reported RTR, shown above. During this time the LNC was not using the public list except for vote totals and announcements; therefore, the email was seen only by the LNC. The potential conflict of interest was publicly reported on the Cumulative Reported Conflict of Interest statement prepared for the 12/07/24-12/08/24 LNC Meeting in Providence, RI. See LNC Meeting Minutes Providence Rhode Island.

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Libertarian National Committee
Cumulative Reported Potential Conflicts of Interest
(As of December 2024)

Ms. Angela McArdle, Chair

- Secretary, Rage Against the War Machine
- Libertarian Unity PAC
- Rescue The Republic

The policy requires LNC members to report potential conflicts at "the earliest opportune moment, prior to the discharge of such duties." The potential conflict was reported within seven days of the filing of the Statement of Organization and well before receiving the first KVF

distribution on 11/15/2024. Accordingly, McArdle appears to have complied with the policy to report the potential conflict.

On 08/12/2024, Pat Ford, LNC Region 6 Representative, filed FEC Form 1 Statement of Organization to register Libertarian Mutual Aid as a PAC supporting or opposing more than one Federal candidate. The form was amended on 08/28/2024.

Between 09/16/2024 and 02/18/2025, Libertarian Mutual Aid PAC received seven distributions totaling $90,930. In compliance with the JFA, Libertarian Mutual Aid PAC transferred 90% of the funds to the LNC bank account maintained for TK's allocation, with the final transfer in process. Accordingly, the PAC's 10% of the distributions will be $9,093. As of the FEC Post-General report, Libertarian Mutual Aid PAC reported transfers to the LNC as required by the JFA and eight disbursements to Libertarian Mutual Aid Non-Profit.[11] In response to an inquiry regarding the PAC's use of the KVF funds, Ford stated,

> The funds received by Libertarian Mutual Aid PAC were donated to Libertarian Mutual Aid, Inc, a Rhode Island Not for Profit. All funds received from the Kennedy Victory Fund will be used to support the homeless, and communities in poverty. The organization is staffed on a completely voluntary basis. No salaries are paid. We seek simply to, on a voluntary basis, replace greed and waste employed by the government. And the force utilized to fund it.

In an email dated 06/16/2024, Ford emailed the LNC Secretary that he is a Director of LMA, Inc.

Potential Conflict of Interest

PF

Pat Ford <pat.ford@lp.org>

To: LP Secretary

Sunday, June 16, 2024 at 6:42 PM

A Director of Libertarian Mutual Aid, Inc

Regards,

Pat Ford
LNC Region 6 Representative

In addition, Ford publicly disclosed that he is the Executive Director of the LMA PAC at the 08/24/2024 LNC Meeting in Miami. See LNC-Mintes-_08-24-25_FINAL.pdf, timestamp 17:52.

[11] As of 05/30/2025, the Year End 2024 and First Quarter 2025 reports had not been filed as of the time of the report.

Ford also discussed at the Miami meeting that his PAC would be joining the KVF and welcomed any input. LMA, Inc. and the LMA PAC are two separate entities, one a non-profit and one a PAC. There appeared to be some confusion as the Cumulative Reported Conflict of Interest statement prepared for the 12/7-12/8/24 LNC Meeting in Providence, RI listed only Libertarian Mutual Aid, Inc. Nevertheless, Ford properly disclosed both entities. He also clarified in public session at the LNC Grand Rapids Meeting on 05/17/2025 that both entities should be on his list of potential conflicts.

The PAC was disclosed before 09/16/2024 when Ford accepted the first KVF distribution. Therefore, Ford appears to have complied with the LNC's potential conflict of interest reporting policy.

Allegations have been made that McArdle and Ford, as a member of the Executive Committee, supported the LNC's participation in a JFA with TK for personal enrichment. The SIC found no evidence to support this allegation. Sanders and Yeniscavich stated that while it was TK's intent to recruit participants to the fund from its inception, there was no discussion about PACs joining the KVF until approximately mid-August. McArdle and Ford broke no internal policies by creating these PACs and joining the KVF. If the LNC would like to prohibit or restrict this type of situation in the future, it should develop such a policy.

V. LNC Contractor and American Values 24 PAC

On 08/04/2024, a part-time LNC contractor called Yeniscavich to advise that as of 08/01/2024 he had been hired by American Values 2024 PAC ("AV24") for the purpose of getting LNC affiliates to join with the KVF.[12] The contractor was aware that Yeniscavich had held two meetings with affiliates interested in joining the KVF and he wanted to work with her to recruit affiliates. Yeniscavich stated that he should handle this on his own since he was being paid by AV24 to do this work.

Yeniscavich discussed the matter with the EPCC and expressed concern that the contractor's work with AV24 was a conflict of interest with work for the LNC. McArdle disagreed. She proposed that the LNC alleviate any concerns by drafting an addendum to the contractor's contract, setting forth a delineation of responsibilities. The EPCC and McArdle worked together to draft an addendum that was finalized on 08/18/2024. Yeniscavich sent it to McArdle who stated she would sign it

[12] The contractor's contract did not require him to disclose potential conflicts. The boilerplate language for contractors has since been amended to require contractors to disclose potential conflicts in the same manner required by staff.

AM Angela McArdle
To: Kathy Yeniscavich; Andrew Watkins; Steven Nekhaila
Reply Reply all Forward
Mon 8/19/2024 10:19 AM
Flagged

Got it, I'll sign it.

Angela McArdle
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

Reply Reply all Forward

KY Kathy Yeniscavich
To: Andrew Watkins; Angela McArdle; Steven Nekhaila
Reply Reply all Forward
Sun 8/18/2024 1:59 PM

[redacted]Addendum 8.18.24.pdf
318 KB

Angela - Attached is the [redacted] addendum on letterhead, ready to execute.

In Liberty,
Kathy Yeniscavich
At-Large Member, Libertarian National Committee
kathy.yeniscavich@lp.org

Yeniscavich believed that the addendum had been signed. She learned from the contractor on 01/24/2025, the day McArdle resigned, that he had never been asked to sign an addendum and had no knowledge of it. At this point the issue was moot as the work with AV24 had concluded, but it is another instance in which a potential conflict of interest apparently was ignored by McArdle.

To ensure this could not happen again, Yeniscavich noticed the following amendment to the Policy Manual Section 1.04(8) at the 03/02/2025 electronic board meeting, “The EPCC shall review and document all employment contracts for staff and contractors that provide services outside of vendors.” The amendment passed on the consent agenda. Additional oversight measures are also being considered.

VI. Contractor Dylan Allman

When McArdle assumed the dual role of Executive Director and LNC Chair in August 2023, she made several hires. One such hire was Dylan Allman. From August 2023 until 12/31/2024, Dylan Allman was contracted with the LNC to post to X and generate X revenue. From July 2024, Allman was paid through Black Flame Media LLC which is a Texas LLC created in April 2024 and partially owned by Allman.

Bizapedia

BLACK FLAME MEDIA LLC is a Texas Domestic Limited-Liability Company (Llc) filed on April 28, 2024. The company's filing status is listed as In Existence and its File Number is 0805526631.

The Registered Agent on file for this company is Jessica Nicole Bennett and is located at [redacted]

The company has 2 contacts on record. The contacts are Dylan Michael Allman from Austin TX and Jessica Nicole Bennett from Austin TX.

While employed with the LNC, Allman was paid $3,140.62.

Date	Payee	Amount
9/26/2023	Dylan Allman	333.81
11/2/2023	Dylan Allman	205.00
12/1/2023	Dylan Allman	209.39
12/27/2023	Dylan Allman	210.85
12/27/2023	Dylan Allman	206.68
1/25/2024	Dylan Allman	24.17
2/27/2024	Dylan Allman	215.78
3/26/2024	Dylan Allman	210.91
4/26/2024	Dylan Allman	237.61
7/16/2024	Black Flame Media, LLC	438.10
9/17/2024	Black Flame Media, LLC	401.60
9/17/2024	Black Flame Media, LLC	46.72
10/30/2024	Black Flame Media, LLC	200.00
12/3/2024	Black Flame Media, LLC	200.00
		3,140.62

The address associated with most of these payments in FEC reports is 4516 Burleson Road, Austin, Texas 78744, which is the address for a United States Post Service office used by Padgett when he was an independent contractor..

Several LNC members reported being told over the course of a year that Allman is McArdle and Padgett's neighbor, and that it was Padgett's idea to hire Allman. Malagon stated that he was told Allman was working as a volunteer.

During its investigation, the SIC confirmed that Allman lives approximately one mile away in the same neighborhood as McArdle and Padgett.

While some LNC members eventually became aware of the prior relationship between Allman and McArdle and Padgett, the relationship was not disclosed prior to the hire. It is recommended that the policy manual expand the definition of conflicted relationship to include friends so that the LNC can determine if preferential treatment is being given to friends of the hiring authority.

Findings of Financial Review

In April 2025, a review of Libertarian National Committee (LNC) cash expenditures was conducted to investigate concerns of the LNC regarding unauthorized payments and payments to vendors for which no contract could be produced. This review included an examination of vendor transactions in Quickbooks, which the LNC uses as its internal accounting software, and spans the time period between June 2022 through January 2025. The vendors and amounts included in this review are listed below in Exhibit A.

The financial review resulted in the following anomalies and/or concerns:

Freedom Calls (FC): $49,600.00 – This committee has been unable to obtain any contract associated with payments to FC. This committee was able to determine, after inquiry to the external accounting firm, that Chair McArdle did specifically authorize payments made to Freedom Calls. See page 37 for additional detail on the McArdle authorizations.

After inspection of the W-9 supplied by FC, it was found that FC claimed it is a single member LLC, but no individual name was included with a DBA (doing business as) name, which the IRS requires when a single member LLC submits a W-9. Additionally, because FC claimed to be a single member LLC, the sole member's Social Security Number should have been listed on the W-9. Instead, an Employer Identification Number was listed. Also, the signature on the W-9 was unidentifiable.

Interviews conducted by the committee revealed that the value of the services was far less than the amounts paid to FC. A detailed explanation of the lack of value received appears in this report starting on page 41 (Assessment of Value to the LNC).

There was concern that a duplicate payment may have been made in May 2024. Our review noted that there was a returned payment of $4,000 on 5/2/24 due to a failed payment attempt. That invoice was reprocessed on that day, so Freedom Calls did not receive a duplicate payment in May 2024.

Padgett, Austin: $32,465.38 – Our review of Quickbooks noted that Padgett was paid $12,120.00 through his assigned vendor account. Upon the review of FEC reports, Padgett was paid a total amount of $32,465.38. Investigation of this discrepancy found additional miscellaneous payments not recorded in his Quickbooks vendor account in the amount of $20,345.38. The result of this analysis is that the Quickbooks and FEC amounts are reconciled and matched.

Andre Giron: $9,225.00 - Mr. Giron was contracted for website services through an overseas company called The Pittura Group. This committee has been unable to obtain any contract associated with these payments. Further analysis determined that payments were made to Giron personally via electronic international bank wire. It is unclear why payments were made to Giron personally and not to The Pittura Group.

The review also noted that in the FEC filings, the four payments to Giron recorded the address of an Austin Post Office used by Austin Padgett when he was an independent contractor of the LNC. The committee noted that the same Post Office was also used by another contractor, Dylan Allman (Black Flame Media LLC), who was Mr. Padgett's neighbor. Details of the Allman review appear starting on page 80. The investigation has been unable to determine if this was a bookkeeping mistake or if there is some personal or professional connection between Mr. Giron and Mr. Padgett.

Interviews conducted by the committee indicated that the work performed by Giron was not up to specifications and incomplete. Further work was needed by staff and another vendor to complete the job. A detailed explanation of the lack of value received appears in this report on page 88 (Findings of Analysis of Website Completion).

Angela McArdle: $1,297.15 – McArdle was paid directly by the Party to reimburse her for travel expenses she paid out of pocket related to Freedom Fest 2023 in Memphis.This payment was properly accounted and paid for.

It was concluded that the members of this committee who also sit on the LNC Audit Sub-Committee should review these concerns with the organization's CPA firm, Lehman Flynn Vollaro PLLC. Through the CPA's Management Letter, associated with the 2024 independent financial audit, they recommended the following:

"It is recommended that a designated member of the Board of Directors undertake a thorough review of the organization's bank statements on a monthly or quarterly basis. This review should specifically focus on scrutinizing cash disbursements, examining payees, and evaluating amounts to ensure consistency with authorized expenditures and adherence to the

organization's financial policies. The member chosen to do this should initial the original bank statements to document the review.

The implementation of this review process would strengthen internal controls and help mitigate risks associated with unauthorized financial transactions. By establishing this oversight responsibility, the organization can promote greater transparency and ensure the integrity of its financial operations."

Exhibit A

Freedom Calls	$ 49,600.00
Stigler Printing	$ 48,840.34
The Miles Press, Inc.	$ 36,681.73
Padgett, Austin	$ 32,465.38
Print Connection	$ 25,776.23
Comcast	$ 19,129.74
Postmaster USPS HQ	$ 18,043.43
Simplisafe	$ 12,682.85
Master Print – Vomela, Inc.	$ 12,068.17
Andre Giron	$ 9,225.00
iWave Information Systems	$ 7,495.00
Cornerstone Solutions Inc.	$ 5,621.85
Goulash Media	$ 4,235.00
Trimark Corp.	$ 3,784.00
Airbnb, Inc.	$ 3,593.48
WP Engine	$ 3,398.00
Smilodon LLC	$ 3,351.43
CSC Corp.	$ 2,788.00
Mythos Media	$ 2,492.20
Cancelled Productions	$ 2,449.43
Instacart	$ 1,348.31
Angela McArdle	$ 1,297.15

Interview Summary

This section summarizes witness interviews conducted by the Special Investigative Committee. It is intended solely as a factual account of information gathered and does not represent legal conclusions, determinations of liability, or findings of misconduct.

The Special Investigative Committee, appointed by the Libertarian National Committee (LNC), undertook a series of interviews between February and April 2025 in order to gather information regarding potential conflicts of interest and business practices within the national organization. The Committee's intent was to establish an objective factual record by collecting a wide range of perspectives from individuals with knowledge of the relevant matters. Recognizing the diversity of opinions within the Libertarian Party, the Committee conducted its inquiry in a manner that upheld the principles of fairness, transparency, and professionalism, without presupposing misconduct by any individual.

The Committee extended interview requests to several key individuals whose roles or proximity to relevant transactions, operations, and decision-making processes suggested that they could provide important insights. Interviews were conducted with Hannah Kennedy, Matt Hudson, Drew Hreha, Michael Heise, Carrie Eiler, Todd Hagopian, Jake Porter, Matthew Sanders, and Adrian Malagon. In addition, the SIC reviewed hundreds of documents and followed up with interviewees as required. Each of these individuals provided useful information that contributed to the Committee's understanding of the situation.

Requests for interviews were declined or unanswered by Angela McArdle, Austin Padgett, Luke Troxell, and Matthew Butts, each of whom had material connections to the matters under investigation. Their refusal to participate is noted for the record, but is not treated by the Committee as an admission of wrongdoing.

The interviews addressed a broad range of topics centered around three primary areas:
(1) the engagement and management of Freedom Calls LLC and related vendors;
(2) the processes surrounding the LNC's website redevelopment efforts; and
(3) general financial oversight and organizational practices within the National Party.

Freedom Calls LLC and Phone Banking Operations
A substantial portion of the interviews focused on the establishment and oversight of Freedom Calls LLC, which had been contracted to perform phone banking services on behalf of the LNC. Testimony indicated that Freedom Calls was introduced as a solution to support outbound fundraising calls following staff changes in the Party's fundraising department. However, operational oversight of Freedom Calls appears to have been limited or non-existent.

Accounts describe that updates to call lists and management of the phone banking platform (Kixie) were routed through a small number of individuals rather than subjected to routine staff management or broader committee oversight. Although records suggest that calls were being made through Kixie accounts, the lack of individualized tracking and the transfer of accounts among users during this period created challenges in auditing specific call activities or verifying performance metrics against fundraising outcomes.

Multiple sources described an absence of comprehensive reporting mechanisms to tie call activity directly to fundraising donations. While systems such as Kixie, CiviCRM, and Zoho

contained call and donation data, no systematic process appeared to exist for cross-referencing those datasets to confirm the effectiveness of external contractors. The separation of call tracking and donation processing into distinct systems further complicated retrospective analysis.

Furthermore, questions arose concerning the administrative set-up and payments made to Freedom Calls LLC. It was noted that Freedom Calls was linked by address and corporate structure to other entities such as Swing Vote Strategists, both of which had limited public transparency. Observations suggested a lack of clear contractual documentation, oversight of deliverables, or performance metrics typically expected in vendor relationships of this nature.

Website Redevelopment and Vendor Engagement
Another significant area explored in the interviews related to the redesign and redevelopment of the LNC's websites. The LNC engaged an external vendor, Pittura Group, to facilitate these services. Testimony indicated widespread dissatisfaction with both the quality and the timeliness of the work product delivered by Pittura Group. Numerous operational deficiencies were described, including incomplete pages, broken links, and a substantial need for internal staff and volunteer time to correct errors and finalize basic functionalities. Estimates suggested that upwards of 90 hours of internal labor were required to bring the website to an acceptable operational standard following delivery from the external vendor.

Concerns were raised not only about the quality of work received, but also about the cost associated with the Pittura Group engagement. Payment records indicated that Pittura Group was compensated at a level significantly higher than what some internal assessments would have deemed reasonable for the services provided. It was also noted that the principal individual involved in communications with Pittura Group was not independently verified by broader committee or staff structures, and that oversight of deliverables was largely absent.

The Committee also learned that Pittura Group's work extended beyond the LNC to include projects for other political efforts affiliated with individuals connected to party leadership. Although no conclusions were drawn about impropriety based on these overlaps alone, the existence of interconnected relationships underscored the need for greater transparency in vendor selection and management processes.

Financial Oversight and Internal Governance Practices
Interviews further identified concerns related to financial oversight and governance procedures within the LNC during the relevant periods.

Participants consistently described a pattern of major financial decisions, including the engagement of external contractors, being made without broader consultation with the LNC Executive Committee, National Committee, or financial officers such as the Treasurer. Specific contracts and recurring payments were reportedly authorized without prior notice to those responsible for fiduciary oversight.

Particular attention was drawn to the structural vulnerabilities created by internal rules allowing discretionary spending by the Chair up to certain thresholds without formal committee approval. Testimony indicated that these procedural allowances were used in ways that limited internal transparency and contributed to an environment where major operational decisions could be made with little formal scrutiny.

The Committee also received information indicating that volunteer-driven projects, fundraising initiatives, and communications efforts were often marginalized or disregarded, particularly when internal dissent or alternative recommendations were raised. The exclusion of longstanding volunteers and staff members from important operational conversations was a recurring theme.

Recurring Themes Across Testimony
Despite the diversity of roles, responsibilities, and perspectives among those interviewed, several recurring themes emerged consistently across interviews:

- **Insufficient Documentation**: Vendor agreements, performance reports, and operational data were not consistently maintained or readily accessible.
- **Lack of Accountability Mechanisms**: There was no systematic method for ensuring that vendors fulfilled contractual obligations or that expenditures produced the intended results.
- **Potential Conflicts of Interest**: Overlaps between contractors, party leadership, and external political efforts raised concerns about objectivity in vendor selection and resource allocation.
- **Transparency Deficits**: Financial and operational decisions were not consistently communicated to governing bodies or officers charged with oversight responsibilities.
- **Operational Silos**: Key initiatives, including major technology upgrades and fundraising operations, were often managed without integrated planning or consultation.

Limitations
The Committee acknowledges that the refusal of certain individuals to participate in interviews limited its ability to obtain clarifications on some matters. While the available testimony and records provided a coherent narrative in many respects, the absence of full participation may have left certain questions unanswered. In constructing its findings and recommendations, the Committee has relied solely on verified documentation and testimony provided during the course of its investigation.

The information summarized in this section constitutes the factual basis upon which the Special Investigative Committee has proceeded to assess organizational practices and to develop subsequent findings and policy recommendations.

Findings of Analysis of Website Completion

Report on Value Received by the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) from Website Rewrite by Pittura Group

Summary:
An investigation into the quality and value received by the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) from the website rewrite conducted by Pittura Group found significant deficiencies in the delivered service.

Evaluation of Service:
According to testimony from staff, who ultimately took over the website project, the service provided by Pittura Group was highly unsatisfactory. The work delivered was described as "very sloppy," with numerous broken links and incomplete pages, and was "not even close to finished." The initial state of the website necessitated substantial corrective actions, resulting in approximately 90 hours (three weeks) of additional work by staff.

Cost Efficiency:
The LNC paid $9,225 to Andre Giron, representing Pittura Group, for the website rewrite. Staff stated that the market value for a properly functioning website of similar scope should have been around half that amount. Staff explicitly indicated the LNC "did not receive market value" from this engagement.

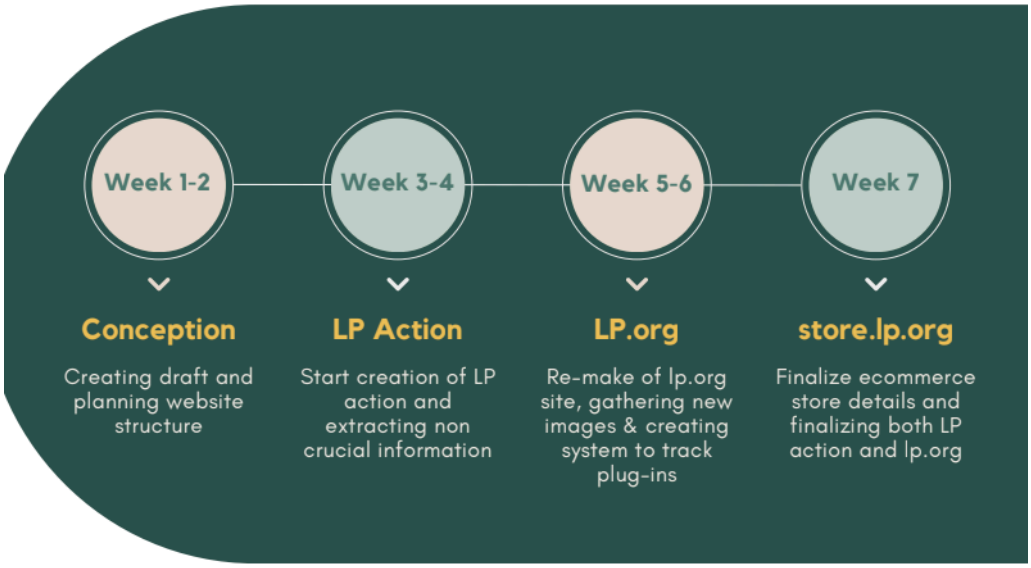
Timeline and Responsiveness:
Work by Pittura Group began 03/2024. However, by 12/2024, due to significant delays and lack of progress despite repeated meetings and communications with Pittura representatives, the LNC was compelled to intervene directly through staff. Regular interactions with Pittura Group representatives failed to yield timely or effective resolutions.

Conclusion:
Based on the available information and expert testimony from staff, it is concluded that the Libertarian National Committee did not receive good value from the website rewrite project contracted with the Pittura Group. The delivered service was deficient in both quality and timeliness, resulting in additional internal resource expenditure to rectify shortcomings.

General Findings:
While the LNC did not receive good value for the work performed, the contract was conducted according to existing policy. It is recommended that the LNC seek guidance on IT contracts and acceptance of contract completion from LNC staff or the Information Services Committee in the future as a matter of policy. The proposal for $4,000 and subsequent payment of over $9,225 demonstrate a lack of expertise on the part of the past Chair to supervise an IT project of this complexity based on the evaluation of service, cost efficiency, and timeline.

Website proposal/contract:

PROJECT TIMELINE



Payment Plan	Value	Percentage
Website Conception (Deposit) - Paid At Start	$1,000	25%
Final Payment once upon completion	$3,000	75%
Total	**$4,000**	**100%**

Recommendations to LNC

It is recommended that the LNC take the following actions to minimize the potential for a similar occurrence in the future. Policy manual revisions alone will not prevent unauthorized expenditures. Increased board awareness and interest in the LNC's financial status is critical moving forward, to repair reputational damage and properly safeguard donor funds. The recommendations are designed to provide increased oversight by the board, cure weaknesses in policy and procedures, and address legal considerations. They are organized according to the topic they are intended to address.

Request Counsel to send a cease-and-desist letter to McArdle demanding she cease using the LNC Chair title.

1. Revise the Policy Manual as follows:

    Revise Section 1.04 – Committee Scope and Responsibilities:

    Adopt a board financial committee to provide financial oversight and accountability for decision-making. Such committees are considered a best practice for board governance. Standard duties of a board Financial Committee are to review and approve expenditures, monitor overall financial health, ensure compliance with regulations, and document decision-making. The committee should also review bank statements and other financial records on a monthly or quarterly basis pursuant to a recommendation in the Management Letter submitted by the auditor with the 2024 Audit. The committee should be no larger than 3 LNC members, including the Treasurer. The Chair should be an ex-officio member of the committee. The Committee should report to the full LNC on a regular basis.

    Status: Completed. The LNC created a Financial Services Committee at its May 2025 meeting. The next step is to elect two LNC members to serve on the committee, which had not occurred as of the writing of the report.

    Section 1.06(3) - Contracts and Contracts Approval:

    Require all contracts, agreements, transactions, remunerations, and modifications to be in writing, with a detailed description of the scope of services to be performed. This section should also set forth the minimum required elements of a contract, including printed name and signatures of both parties to signify acceptance of terms. No contract should be approved without conducting due diligence on the company and developing oversight measures and metrics to ensure that the LNC is receiving a sufficient return on investment.

Address the expenditure ceiling that the Executive Director and Chair can authorize without board approval. Consider the types and amounts of expenditures that must be approved by the Financial Committee, if formed, and board notification processes.

Require independent contractors and vendors to submit detailed invoices to the Executive Director or Chair for approval prior to authorizing payment. No contractor or vendor should be on auto-payment unless approved by the Financial Committee.

Expand the definition of conflicting interests to include friends.

Exclude the board member(s) with a conflicting interest from voting to approve conflicting interest transactions even if the disinterested members are less than a quorum. This language is included in DC Law § 29-406.70 and would strengthen the policy.

Remove approval authority of a conflicting interest transaction from the Executive Committee. The full LNC should deliberate and consider conflicting interest transactions.

Require that modifications to the approved contract be re-approved by the LNC prior to implementation. Modifications change the original terms of the contract and should be considered a new contract that needs approval.

Prohibit the interested board or staff member(s) from conducting performance evaluations or supervising the closely related party. Under no condition should the closely related party report to the interested board or staff member.

Status: The LNC adopted proposals that address these issues at its May 2025 meeting.

Section 1.07(2) – Conflicts of Interest

Expand this section to define potential conflicts of interest and provide guidance to LNC board members, staff, and contractors as to the types of situations that should be reported. Based on input from members, the LNC should also consider implementing requirements to report funds received from a real or potential conflict of interest.

Consider adding a policy that any current or former LNC members, and the subject(s) of the conflict found in violation of this subsection shall be denied any trade relationship with the LP.

Status: The LNC adopted a proposal to deny a trade relationship with the LP to any current or former LNC members found in violation of the conflict of interest policy at its May 2025 meeting.

Section 1.08 (3) – Budget

Revise this section to include the board committee, if adopted, to participate in the development of a draft budget.

Status: The LNC adopted a proposal to make this revision at its May 2025 meeting.

Section 1.08 (5) – Credit Cards and Expense Reimbursements

Revise this section to include review or approval of credit card bills, and expenses or reimbursements to the Executive Director and Chair.

Status: The LNC adopted a proposal requiring the Financial Services Committee to approve in writing reimbursements exceeding $200 to the Executive Director, or any LNC member prior to payment, at its May 2025 meeting.

Section 1.07 - Obligations Among Board Members and Staff

Add a new heading to this section to prevent the LNC officers from serving as Executive Director. This provision will ensure proper checks and balances and ensure that the Chair cannot unilaterally enter into transactions.

Status: The LNC adopted a proposal to prevent an LNC officer from serving as Executive Director while serving on the LNC.

2. Consider developing an LNC ethics policy or other internal policy to prohibit members from engaging in actions that appear to support a candidate or candidates(s) from other parties. Members may also wish to consider bylaws amendments.

3. Continue to seek additional documentation from McArdle, including the following:

- Additional documentation regarding any Freedom Calls transactions with the LP.
- Articles of Organization and minutes for Freedom Calls LLC.
- Name of Freedom Calls employees who made calls for the LP.
- Statement regarding the identity of the person who prepared and signed the Freedom Calls W-9.
- Statement regarding the identity of the person who answered the freedomcalls.net email address.
- Statement regarding the identity of the person who submitted the Freedom Calls invoices for payment.
- Copies of weekly reports from Padgett, as required by his contract with the LNC, 07/24/2023-01/26/2024.
- Copies of weekly reports from Dylan Allman, as required by his contract with the LNC, 08/2023-01/31/2025.
- LNC documentation not previously provided, including contracts, reports, performance evaluations, and project materials.

5. Legal action: The SIC carefully considered the facts and evidence set forth in this report to determine whether it would be in the best interest of the LNC to pursue legal action based on the matters investigated. The SIC also consulted with LNC Counsel, who consulted with the LNC's counsel in *Vest v. McArdle*, the derivative lawsuit pending in D.C. Superior Court, regarding this issue. The SIC concludes that the LNC may have a viable claim or claims against McArdle, Padgett and Freedom Calls LLC based on the facts and evidence available. For example, the SIC has concluded that the transactions with Freedom Calls LLC – in which the LNC paid Freedom Calls LLC a total of $49,600 – may be void or voidable pursuant to D.C. Code § 29-406.70, because McArdle did not disclose material facts relating to her financial interest in those transactions, and because the transactions were not fair to the LNC, among other reasons. The LNC therefore may have valid grounds for seeking restitution of the funds paid to Freedom Calls LLC.

Beyond the legal merits, the SIC was obliged to consider several additional factors that impact the LNC's interests. First, the LNC's Directors and Officers insurance policy provides coverage for the LNC's defense when legal action is initiated against the LNC or its directors or officers, but does not cover the litigation costs of claims the LNC may pursue as a plaintiff. The LNC thus would have to pay those costs. Second, it appears the cost of pursuing a claim or claims for restitution of the funds paid to Freedom Calls LLC would exceed $49,600 – the maximum damages the LNC could reasonably expect to win. The litigation therefore would likely result in a net loss to the LNC, even if the LNC prevailed. Third, the outcome of litigation is never certain and there is a reasonable possibility the LNC would not prevail, or would be awarded less than the maximum damages claimed. Fourth, even if the LNC prevailed, further litigation – at additional cost – could be required to enforce and collect on the judgment, and collection ultimately could prove impossible if the defendant(s) were unable to make restitution.

Based on the foregoing, the SIC has determined that, although the LNC may have a viable claim or claims for restitution, litigation to pursue such action is not in the LNC's best interest, primarily because the financial cost would outweigh the potential gain, leading to a net loss for the LNC. The SIC therefore recommends that the LNC not pursue any legal action for restitution if it is to be paid for from the LNC's general funds. If the LNC and/or general membership feel strongly about pursuing restitution, and a donor or donors are willing to make sufficient contributions to a legal fund, the LNC could potentially initiate legal proceedings. Also, the LNC could search for an attorney who would take its case on a *pro bono* basis.

The SIC has also reviewed the status of *Vest v. McArdle* and consulted with counsel regarding that case. The primary relief the plaintiff seeks is the removal of McArdle as Chair of the LNC. That has already happened. The SIC therefore concludes that continued litigation seeking such relief is not in the LNC's best interest. Secondarily, the plaintiff seeks a court order prohibiting McArdle from serving on the LNC in any capacity in the future. The SIC finds it exceedingly unlikely that a court would enter such an order, and even if it did, that such an order would be unenforceable as contrary to the First Amendment. The SIC further finds that such extraordinary relief would be an unprecedented intrusion by the state into the freedom of association of the

Libertarian Party and its members, thus causing the LNC at least as much harm as benefit – if there were any benefit at all. The SIC therefore concludes that continued litigation seeking a court order barring McArdle from serving on the LNC in any capacity is not in the LNC's best interest – particularly in light of the SIC's recommendation in paragraph (6) below. Finally, the plaintiff seeks a court order seeking access to LNC records – access she alleges the LNC "refused" when she requested it as a member of the LNC. But that allegation is false. The LNC responded by acknowledging that LNC members are "entitled to inspect and copy LNC records at any reasonable time to the extent reasonably related to the performance of their duties as a director" and stated it was "prepared to accommodate any reasonable request…." The plaintiff made no such request but sued instead. Additionally, the SIC notes the plaintiff is no longer a member of the LNC – she is not a director and has no duties as such. Because the LNC has not refused any LNC member's request for records, and because the plaintiff is no longer a member of the LNC, the SIC concludes that continued litigation seeking relief the LNC has not denied to an individual who has no directorial duties to the LNC is not in the LNC's best interests. In sum, the SIC concludes that the relief requested in *Vest v. McArdle* would not benefit the LNC and maintenance of the action is not in the LNC's best interests.

6. Based on the findings and conclusions in this report, and the strength of the evidence supporting them, the SIC recommends that the LNC adopt a resolution finding Angela McArdle unfit to serve as an officer of the Libertarian Party in the future. The SIC recommends that the LNC adopt a resolution declaring that no LNC board or staff member shall have any contact or contract with Angela McArdle, Austin Padgett or any corporation or entity closely held or controlled by either one.

Adopted by the Special Investigative Committee on 06/07/2025.

Adopted by the Libertarian National Committee 06/09/2025.