



[Sen. Morgan charged with campaign finance violation; reparations made](#) (Rhode Island)

State Sen. Elaine J. Morgan was one of two elected officials cited this week for Rhode Island campaign finance violations, discoveries that were made during an audit conducted in April through the state's Board of Elections.

Morgan, an incumbent Republican and former Hopkinton town sergeant who has been elected to serve four consecutive terms as state senator by winning elections in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020, has remained cooperative throughout the process and has already taken action to make reparations for the violations, according to state officials.

The Board of Elections on Monday announced that members had unanimously voted to accept the audit reports and consent orders for Morgan and Sen. Thomas J. Paolino, a Republican who represents the state's 17th District in Lincoln, North Providence and Cranston.

According to documents provided by the Board of Elections, the violation against Morgan stemmed from an audit that covered the period extending from Jan. 1, 2020, to March 31, 2022. The audit had been initiated in April, documents said, and was "due to her reporting contributions and expenditures in the aggregate disproportionately."

The board said Morgan and her staff agreed to cooperate with the audit and turned over any requested documents without issues.

The review determined that \$4,200 in contributions were reported as "aggregate-individual" when the name, address and place of employment for contributors should have been reported in campaign finance reports, while a total of \$2,748.63 in campaign expenditures as "aggregate expenditures" when the payee or vendor, amount paid and purpose should have been included in the report.

In addition, the review flagged \$2,604.22 spent over a total of five purchases when campaign funding was expended for personal use. That violation was based on board review and Morgan has already repaid those funds, officials indicated.

As a result of the violations, the board said Morgan agreed to pay a \$1,200 fine. Paolino was fined \$2,500 for his violations, which were unrelated.

A message left for Morgan was not returned on Tuesday.

The Board of Elections on Monday also announced that it had also forwarded a matter against Libertarian Daryl W. Gould to the Office of the Attorney General for criminal investigation. Over the past six years, the board said Gould has repeatedly failed to file campaign documents and forms, with Gould still owing the board 27 missing campaign finance reports and \$57,872 in late filing fees.

[Complaint alleges Humble failed to register as lobbyist](#) (Tennessee)

Complaints filed with the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance and the state Ethics Commission allege conservative activist and state Senate candidate Gary Humble failed to file as a lobbyist and sent out a mailer without a disclaimer. Humble is challenging Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson of Franklin in the Republican primary.

The ethics complaint was filed by Brentwood resident Tom Freeman. It says Humble as the head of the group Tennessee Stands often spoke about lobbying state lawmakers, but never filed official paperwork to do so. The Registry complaint says campaign literature didn't include information about source.

Here's is the sworn statement of facts from the ethics complainant:

According to the Tennessee Lookout's story "New conservative group Tennessee Stands takes on government mandates" (published on 1/21/21) Tennessee Stands and its founder, Gary Humble, have filed lawsuits against Gov. Bill Lee and county officials.... and lobbied for law changes, although there is no record Humble or others associated with the organization have formally registered as lobbyists.

In an April 2021 interview with the Tennessee Star (available on their website at "Tennessee Stands Gary Humble Describes His Visits to the Tennessee Capitol Hill as a Grassroots Activist"), Humble stated he chooses "not to participate" regarding the ethics commission rules. Of note, in this interview, Humble also admits that he could register as a lobbyist.

Tennessee Stands, the organization founded by Humble, has previously listed “Lobbying” as one of their functions, but this has since been removed. Despite admittance of carrying out lobbying activities, Gary Humble has never been a registered lobbyist. Tennessee Stands has never had a lobbyist registered under their name, according to the Tennessee Ethics Commission.

In an April 2, 2021 video entitled “How Tennessee’s Vaccine Medical Exemption Bill Was Amended To Only Apply To COVID-19” on The Tennessee Conservative’s YouTube, Humble said, “... I had no idea that was going to happen, I have been lobbying this bill...”

In a video posted to the Tennessee Stands YouTube account on November 13 2020 entitled “So much going on...here’s an update from Gary,” Humble solicits donations to help sustain “lobbying” activities carried out by Tennessee Stands, saying: ...”There is a donate button, we need help, we’re continuing to build a legal fund, we need help with lobbying activities...”

Neither the Registry nor the Ethics Commission meet before the Aug. 4 primary. Members of the Registry have taken issue recently with complaints they see as having been “weaponized” for political purposes.

Humble responded with the following [comments to the Tennessee Star](#):

I have not registered as a lobbyist because I am not a paid lobbyist. I am not paid to lobby for any special interests. Tennessee Stands is an advocacy group that engages citizens all across the state of Tennessee in grassroots lobbying efforts. I have traveled across the state engaging citizens to work with their legislators, email, and call to support conservative legislation. And yes, as a citizen of the state of Tennessee, I myself have asked our legislators to support conservative legislation. Those are not efforts that require a permission slip from the government to engage in and are constitutionally protected for any citizen.

We did send out a mailer where the “paid for” disclaimer was unintentionally missed in the design. The mailer came directly from my campaign. The mailer contained my branding, my image, and a personal message from me as the candidate and was clearly sent from my campaign. The mailer was invoiced to my campaign and paid for in full by my campaign. Further, that invoice has already been provided to the DA’s office satisfactory to the complaint that was filed. This was a clerical error, nothing more.