

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 29, 2008

**ETHICS COMMISSION PUBLICLY REPRIMANDS  
REPRESENTATIVE LANCE CARGILL, THE REPUBLICAN STATE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE AND THE OKLAHOMA COUNTY REPUBLICAN  
COMMITTEE FOR MULTIPLE ETHICS RULE VIOLATIONS**

OKLAHOMA CITY. The Ethics Commission today announced that it has publically reprimanded REPRESENTATIVE LANCE CARGILL, the REPUBLICAN STATE HOUSE COMMITTEE and the OKLAHOMA COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE for multiple violations of the Constitutional Ethics Rules [“the Rules”], Section 257:1-1-1 et seq. of the Rules of the Ethics Commission, 74 O.S. Supp. 2008, Ch. 62, App.

The basis of the reprimand was stated as follows:

Simply put, this is a case of the redirection of campaign contributions intended for one party committee, to another, contrary to the intent of the donors. It resulted in the contributors being made to support candidates against their conscience and in violation of several provisions of the Ethics Rules, which are designed to safeguard campaigns in Oklahoma.

PUBLIC REPRIMAND, Statement Of The Case, 2<sup>nd</sup> ¶, at p.1

The facts were that surplus campaign checks given by certain Republican Members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, intended for the “Victory Fund” of the Oklahoma Republican Party [“State Party”] to support the State Party’s agenda and roster of candidates, were re-routed to the Oklahoma County Republican Committee [“OCRC” or “County Party”] and used for an entirely different slate of candidates and purposes, contrary to the indent of the donors. The reprimand document describes the activity in detail.

The Ethics Commission unanimously voted to issue the reprimand at its regular meeting held August 22, 2008, subject to the Chairman's approval of the final draft of the document. The document was today approved for dissemination to the public and the respondents, per their attorneys of record.

Following a thorough investigation, the Commission found that the material facts were not in dispute, nor was the controlling authority. There was a deliberate intent to circumvent the law.

The Commission relied upon the testimony of four members of the House of Representatives who were surprised to learn that checks they had written to the State Party Victory Fund for ORP causes and candidates had, contrary to their will, ended up in the coffers of the County Party.

The Ethics Commission is currently made up of Chairman Don Bingham, appointed by then-Speaker Larry Adair as the appointee of the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Vice Chairman John Raley, appointee of Attorney General Drew Edmondson; James Loy, appointee of then-Chief Justice Joseph Watt of the Oklahoma Supreme Court; and Jo Pettigrew, appointee of Governor Brad Henry.

The Ethics Commission was empowered by a constitutional amendment passed in 1990 to promulgate and enforce civil penalty rules of ethical conduct for state officers and employees, as well as for state campaigns. It is authorized under Article 29, Section 4 of the Oklahoma Constitution to investigate, and when it deems appropriate, prosecute violation of its ethics rules.

ATTACHMENT:

Public Reprimand Issued To Representative Lance Cargill, RSHC and OCRC

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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