

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20463

In the Matter of:

KWQC-TV and a subsidiary of Gray Media, Inc.

805 Brady Street

Davenport, IA 52803

Email: mark.little@kwqc.com | dmca-legal@graymedia.com

KCRG-TV9, a subsidiary of Gray Media, Inc.

501 2nd Ave SE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Email: thomas.pritz@kcrg.com | dmca-legal@graymedia.com

Christina Bohannon for Congress and Jennifer Fiihr, in their official capacity as Treasurer

P.O. Box 722

Iowa City, IA 52244

Miller-Meeks for Congress and Thomas Datwyler, in their official capacity as Treasurer

P.O. Box 33

Ottumwa, IA 52501

Respondents.

COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) AND 11 C.F.R. § 111.4

I. Complainant Identity

1. Complainant Michael Scott Bridgford is an individual residing at 1051 Carriage Place Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722; 309-582-6222; michael@bridgfordforiowa.com.
2. Complainant Bridgford for Iowa is the principal campaign committee of Michael Scott Bridgford (FEC Committee ID: C00947432), with an official mailing address of P. O. Box 12, Pleasant Valley, IA 52767.
3. Candidate Michael Scott Bridgford is an officially ballot-qualified candidate for U.S. Representative for Iowa's First Congressional District in the 2026 General Election running as a No Party (Independent) candidate.

II. Respondents

4. Respondents KWQC-TV, KCRG-TV9 and Gray Media, Inc. ("the Broadcaster") is a commercial broadcast entity operating television stations KWQC and KCRG, serving the Quad Cities and Cedar Rapids, IA media markets respectively. The Broadcaster is an incorporated commercial entity.
5. Respondent Christina Bohannon for Congress is a federal political committee registered with the Commission (FEC ID: C00787820), functioning as the principal campaign committee for candidate Christina Bohannon, an officially ballot-qualified candidate for

U.S. Representative for Iowa's First Congressional District in the 2026 General Election running as a Democratic Party candidate.

6. Respondent Miller-Meeks for Congress is a federal political committee registered with the Commission (FEC ID: C00558825), functioning as the principal campaign committee for candidate Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks, an officially ballot-qualified candidate for U.S. Representative for Iowa's First Congressional District in the 2026 General Election running as a Republican Party candidate.

III. Statutory and Regulatory Legal Framework

7. Under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (FECA), 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a), it is unlawful for any corporation to make a contribution or expenditure in connection with any election to federal office.
8. Correspondingly, under 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a), it is unlawful for any candidate, political committee, or other person to knowingly accept or receive any prohibited corporate contribution.
9. Staging a candidate debate using corporate airtime, studios, and production assets is considered an expenditure and an in-kind contribution under 52 U.S.C. § 30118, unless the event satisfies the safe-harbor conditions set forth in 11 C.F.R. § 110.13 and 11 C.F.R. § 100.154.
10. To qualify for the candidate debate safe harbor:
 - a. The debate must include at least two candidates and must not be structured to promote or advance one candidate over another (11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b)); and
 - b. The staging organization "must use pre-established, objective criteria to determine which candidates may participate in a debate" (11 C.F.R. § 110.13(c)).
11. Where a broadcaster abandons objective criteria, accommodates a campaign-led boycott of an objective forum, or constructs post-hoc criteria to restrict access to pre-selected candidates, the safe harbor is lost. In such cases, the full value of the production and airtime constitutes an illegal corporate in-kind contribution (*La Botz v. FEC*, 889 F. Supp. 2d 51 (D.D.C. 2012)).

IV. Factual Allegations

A. Facts Based on Personal Knowledge

12. On June 10th 2025, Candidate Michael Scott Bridgford achieved certified ballot access for U.S. Representative for Iowa's First Congressional District with the Iowa Secretary of State's Office. Attached as Exhibit A.
13. Comparative Qualification via Objective Benchmark: For the current 2026 election cycle, public broadcaster Iowa PBS established and published its objective candidate selection criteria for the *Iowa Press Debates* platform.
14. Iowa PBS formally evaluated the candidate field for Representative for Iowa's First Congressional District under its published objective standards. Iowa PBS determined that all three ballot-qualified candidates - Complainant Michael Scott Bridgford (No Party), Respondent Christina Bohannon (Democratic Party), and Respondent

Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks (Republican Party) - fully met the objective criteria for debate inclusion.

15. The criteria for the Iowa PBS debate included a financial threshold of \$50,000 as indicated by the July 1, 2026 disclosure deadline with the FEC.
16. Complainant Michael Scott Bridgford exceeded this financial threshold with \$189,523.47 in total receipts. Respondent Christina Bohannon exceeded this financial threshold with \$7,051,745.42 in total receipts. Respondent Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks exceeded this threshold with \$7,208,271.35 in total receipts. Attached as Exhibit B.
17. Complainant Michael Scott Bridgford has only filed one FEC report, with a reporting date of July 1, 2026. No information on the campaign's total receipts were available prior to July 15.
18. Iowa PBS extended formal debate invitations to all three qualified candidates on identical terms. Attached as Exhibit C.
19. This 3-candidate offer by Iowa PBS mirrored the exact same objective invitation framework extended to candidates during the 2024 election cycle for the same office.
20. Respondents Christina Bohannon and Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks declined to participate in the Iowa PBS *Iowa Press Debate*.
21. Only after Respondents Christina Bohannon and Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks rejected the Iowa PBS debate did Respondent Broadcaster extend an alternative debate offer restricted strictly to the Respondent candidates from the Democratic and Republican Parties - excluding Complainant Michael Scott Bridgford of No Party.
22. On September 16th 2026, Complainant formally requested written copies of Respondent Broadcaster's pre-established objective criteria and requested inclusion on identical terms. Respondent Broadcaster refused to provide written criteria used prior to selection. Attached as Exhibit D.
23. On September 18th 2026, Complainant's legal counsel served a formal Demand Letter and Preservation Notice on Respondent Broadcaster. Attached as Exhibit E.
24. On September 25th 2026, Respondent Broadcaster formally asserted that it excluded Complainant pursuant to a criterion requiring participating campaigns to have raised at least \$1,000,000 in contributions. Attached as Exhibit F.
25. Respondent Broadcaster has produced no contemporaneous, written documentation demonstrating that this \$1,000,000 threshold was adopted prior to candidate evaluations, rather than selected post-hoc with knowledge of the candidates' quarterly FEC filings.
26. Respondent Broadcaster is owned and operated by Gray Media (or its operating licensee subsidiaries).
27. The \$1,000,000 fundraising barrier applied by Respondent in this race is an arbitrary, ad-hoc threshold contradicted by Gray Media's own continuous operational practices across other federal congressional debates during the 2024 and 2026 election cycles.
28. An analysis of federal candidate debates staged and broadcast by Gray Media television stations confirms that candidate fundraising levels far below \$1,000,000 satisfy Gray Media's debate participation standards. Attached as Exhibit G.
 - a. On October 15, 2026, Gray Media station WCAX (Burlington, VT) plans to stage a televised general election debate for Vermont's At-Large Congressional District

featuring candidates Rebecca "Becca" Balint (Becca Balint for Vermont, FEC ID: C00797175) and Gerald Malloy (Gerald Malloy for U.S. Congress, FEC ID: C00950048). According to official FEC filings: Candidate Balint qualified having raised approximately \$952,758.42. Candidate Malloy qualified having raised \$58,279.96.

- b. On October 8, 2026, Gray Media station WHNS (Greenville, SC) plans to stage a televised congressional debate featuring candidate Courtney McClain (Courtney McClain for Congress, FEC ID: C00922120), whose total campaign receipts were approximately \$32,993.15.
 - c. On October 8, 2024, Gray Media station WNDU (South Bend, IN) staged a televised congressional debate featuring candidate Lori Camp (Lori Camp for Congress, FEC ID: C00870055), whose total campaign receipts were approximately \$130,984.60. The opponent William Henry (FEC: C00821827) had no verified Net Receipts for this time period.
29. Respondent Broadcaster has presented no uniform corporate policy, published benchmark, or non-discriminatory explanation demonstrating why federal candidates raising between \$32,000 and \$952,000 were qualified for debate broadcast across other Gray Media stations, whereas a heightened \$1,000,000 threshold was imposed to exclude Complainant in this specific race.
30. An empirical analysis of official Federal Election Commission disclosure data for all federal House candidates who raised at least \$50,000 as of the July Quarterly filing demonstrates that Respondent's purported \$1,000,000 threshold operates as a structural barrier that distorts electoral competition and insulates incumbents.
31. According to official FEC candidate filings across 1,559 active candidate committees:
- a. Systemic Disqualification of Challengers: Among non-incumbent challengers facing an incumbent ("Opponents"), 82% (597 out of 729 candidates) had not reached \$1,000,000 in receipts. Consequently, in more than 8 out of 10 races against an incumbent, applying Respondent's threshold would cancel general election debates entirely due to the opponent failing this threshold.
 - b. Disproportionate Suppression of Open Seats: In open-seat races - where voter information and debate access are most vital - 72% of candidates (286 out of 399) had not raised \$1,000,000. Applying Respondent's standard would eliminate debate opportunities in roughly three-quarters of all open-seat contests nationwide.
 - c. While 75% of incumbents (325 out of 431) crossed the \$1,000,000 threshold, more than one-quarter of sitting federal incumbents (25%, or 106 members) failed to reach Respondent's \$1,000,000 threshold.
 - d. Across all 1,559 candidate committees, over 60% of all federal candidates (63%, or 989 candidates) did not cross the \$1,000,000 threshold. Because 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b)(1) requires a debate to include at least two candidates, imposing a \$1,000,000 threshold ensures only approximately one-third of congressional districts in the United States would host a debate.
32. Complainant attaches as Exhibit H a true and correct copy of the statistical analysis of FEC House Candidate Financial Summaries establishing these figures.

B. Facts Alleged Upon Information and Belief

33. Complainant alleges upon information and belief that Respondent Broadcaster did not formulate or apply objective selection criteria prior to candidate outreach, but instead constructed an ad-hoc, 2-person format specifically to accommodate the refusal of Respondents Christina Bohannon and Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks to participate in the objective Iowa PBS forum.
34. Complainant alleges upon information and belief that Respondent Broadcaster structured its debate in direct consultation with or for the benefit of Respondents Christina Bohannon and Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks, in violation of 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b)'s mandate that debates must not be structured to promote or advance specific candidates over others.
35. Complainant alleges upon information and belief that Respondent Broadcaster formulated its debate criteria post-hoc, following the public disclosure of Complainant's campaign finance filings, and deliberately calibrated an arbitrary, exclusionary financial threshold based on Complainant's reported total receipts to ensure Complainant's exclusion, in violation of 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(c).

V. Legal Arguments & Causes of Action

Count I: Safe Harbor Forfeiture and Unlawful Corporate Contribution by Respondent Broadcaster (52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 110.13)

36. Complainant realleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully set forth herein.
37. Under 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(c), a debate staging organization must use objective criteria established in advance.
38. The objective evaluation conducted by Iowa PBS proves that non-partisan, objective standards existed in the Iowa media market, and that Complainant the No Party candidate fully met those standards alongside Respondents Christina Bohannon the Democratic Party candidate and Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks the Republican candidate.
39. By discarding objective market benchmarks and offering a two-candidate stage only after the major-party candidates boycotted the Iowa PBS debate, Respondent Broadcaster failed the objective criteria requirement of § 110.13(c) and violated § 110.13(b) by structuring the event to favor specific candidates.
40. Consequently, Respondent Broadcaster cannot claim the safe-harbor protections of 11 C.F.R. § 110.13. The entirety of the broadcast production, studio access, and airtime constitutes an illegal corporate expenditure and in-kind contribution to the participating rival committees under 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a).
41. The \$1,000,000 fundraising threshold fails the 'objective criteria' mandate of 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(c). In federal races, an exorbitant financial barrier that bears no relationship to certified ballot access or demonstrable public support functions as a de facto major-party exclusion proxy, violating the express prohibition against party nomination as the sole selection metric.
42. Respondent's \$1,000,000 threshold cannot withstand scrutiny under 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(c) for three distinct reasons:

a. Arbitrary and Discriminatory Application: Gray Media's willingness to stage televised congressional debates for candidates with receipts of \$32,993.15 (WHNS, 2026), \$58,279.96 (WCAX, 2026), \$130,984.60 (WNDU, 2024), and \$952,758.42 (WCAX, 2026) proves that the required \$1,000,000 threshold is not a bona fide, pre-established corporate standard of viability. In particular, the October 15, 2026 WCAX debate featured an entire general election slate where neither candidate met the \$1,000,000 bar, and one candidate was admitted with less than \$60,000 in receipts. Imposing an unprecedented fundraising barrier in this race constitutes disparate, arbitrary treatment that negates any claim of neutrality.

b. Impermissible Proxy for Major-Party Exclusivity: Under 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(c), debate organizers are expressly prohibited from using nomination by a major political party as the sole criterion in general elections. Setting an excessive \$1,000,000 threshold in this race - which Gray Media discards in other markets - functions as a pretextual mechanism designed to ensure that only Democratic and Republican Party nominees appear on stage.

c. Violation of 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b) (Structuring to Favor Specific Candidates): The timing and selective stringency of the \$1,000,000 threshold demonstrate that the debate was structured specifically to promote or advance the two participating campaigns. After Respondents Christina Bohannon and Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks refused to appear alongside Complainant in the objective Iowa PBS forum, Gray Media accommodated their boycott by establishing a post-hoc financial standard calibrated to reported FEC totals while disqualifying Complainant.

43. The \$1,000,000 Threshold Violates 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b) by Structuring Debates to Promote and Protect Incumbents:

a. Under 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b), the Commission's safe harbor requires that a debate "shall not be structured to promote or advance one candidate over another."

b. FEC disclosure filings confirm that Respondent's criterion does not measure candidate viability or public interest; instead, it functions as an incumbent-protection barrier. Because 82% of challengers to incumbents have raised under \$1,000,000 during this period, conditioning a debate on this threshold systematically guarantees that incumbents are insulated from public scrutiny and debate challenges in over 80% of incumbent-contested races.

c. A threshold that would mathematically eliminate over 70% of open-seat candidates and cancels general election debates in over 60% of all congressional districts nationwide cannot be characterized as "objective" or "neutral." It is an exclusionary mechanism that contravenes the fundamental purpose of the debate safe harbor, which is to foster genuine, non-partisan public discourse.

44. Disregard of Recognized Indicators of Viability:

a. While debate staging organizations may consider financial activity as a secondary factor, the FEC and reviewing courts have never sanctioned an excessive fundraising threshold that supersedes official ballot qualification and demonstrable voter support.

b. Complainant is certified on the ballot, has demonstrated verifiable public standing, and was certified as qualified by the non-partisan, objective criteria established by Iowa PBS. Respondent's invocation of a threshold that excludes 63% of all federal candidates

nationwide is arbitrary, pretextual, and designed to manufacture an exclusive two-candidate stage featuring only Democratic and Republican Parties.

Count II: Unlawful Coordinated Communication and Prohibited In-Kind Contribution (11 C.F.R. § 109.21 and 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a))

45. Complainant realleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully set forth herein.
46. Under 11 C.F.R. § 109.21, a communication that is paid for by a third party, satisfies the content standard, and satisfies any conduct standard constitutes a prohibited in-kind contribution under 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) when provided by an incorporated entity.
47. The proposed broadcast debate satisfies the payment prong as Respondent Broadcaster is absorbing all commercial production, promotion, staging, facility, and airtime expenses.
48. The proposed broadcast debate satisfies the content prong under 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(c)(4)(i) as it is a public broadcast distributed within the congressional district within 90 days of a federal general election that clearly identifies federal candidates Christina Bohannon and Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks.
49. The proposed broadcast debate satisfies the conduct standard under 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(d) as Respondent Broadcaster and Respondent Candidate Committees engaged in non-public negotiations and bilateral assent regarding the structure, terms, and roster of the broadcast following Respondents' joint boycott of the open Iowa PBS debate.
50. By structuring a two-candidate forum tailored to the demands of Respondents Christina Bohannon and Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks to insulate them from an open debate stage, Respondent Broadcaster acted in coordination with the participating campaigns, stripping the event of any press or debate exemption and rendering the broadcast an unlawful coordinated corporate in-kind contribution under 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a).

Count II: Unlawful Receipt of Corporate Contributions by Rival Committees (52 U.S.C. § 30118(a))

51. Complainant realleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully set forth herein.
52. Under 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a), candidate committees are prohibited from knowingly receiving or accepting corporate in-kind contributions.
53. Respondents Christina Bohannon for Congress and Miller-Meeks for Congress declined an objective, multi-candidate debate platform (Iowa PBS) and subsequently negotiated or accepted exclusive debate airtime from Respondent Broadcaster.
54. Respondents knew or had reason to know that Respondent Broadcaster lacked contemporaneous, pre-established objective criteria under 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(c) and that the debate was structured specifically to advance their candidacies in violation of 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b).
55. By accepting exclusive broadcast access and production resources financed by Respondent Broadcaster under non-qualifying, discriminatory criteria, Respondents Christina Bohannon for Congress and Miller-Meeks for Congress are knowingly

accepting an unlawful corporate in-kind contribution of substantial commercial value in direct violation of 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 114.2(d).

VI. Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE, Complainant respectfully requests that the Federal Election Commission:

1. Immediately notify Respondents of this Complaint pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) and require a formal written response within fifteen (15) days;
2. Find "Reason to Believe" that Respondent Broadcaster violated 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 110.13;
3. Find "Reason to Believe" that Respondents Christina Bohannon for Congress and Miller-Meeks for Congress violated 52 U.S.C. § 30118(a);
4. Issue subpoenas for all communications between Respondent Broadcaster and Respondent Candidate Committees concerning debate attendance conditions, candidate exclusion, and Iowa PBS debate boycotts; and
5. Impose civil penalties and grant all further relief authorized by FECA.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 29, 2026

By: 

Michael Scott Bridgford
1051 Carriage Place Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722
309-582-6222
michael@bridgfordforiowa.com

Andrew Finko
Andrew Finko P. C.
773-480-0616 | finkolaw@fastmail.fm
Counsel for Complainants

II. Mandatory Verification & Notarization

VERIFICATION

STATE OF IOWA , COUNTY OF Scott , ss.

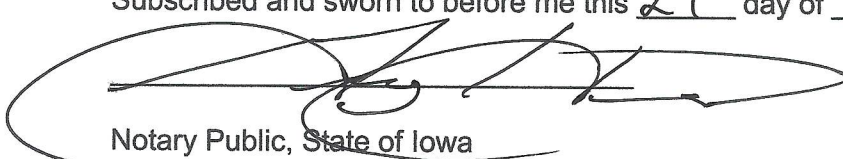
I, Michael Scott Bridgford, being first duly sworn, depose and state as follows under penalty of perjury:

1. I am the Complainant in the above-captioned matter.
2. The facts stated in Section IV.A are true and correct based upon my own personal knowledge.
3. The facts stated in Section IV.B are made upon information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

Michael Scott Bridgford

Michael Scott Bridgford

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29 day of September, 2026.


Notary Public, State of Iowa

[SEAL]

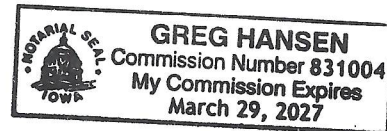


Exhibit A - Iowa Secretary of State Ballot Confirmation

Attached true and correct copy of email sent by Bailey Kelley (Iowa Secretary of State office) to Complainant Michael Scott Bridgford on June 10, 2026 re: Acceptance of Candidate Paperwork.

bob@bridgfordforiowa.com

From: Michael Bridgford <mbridgford@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:22 AM
To: bob@bridgfordforiowa.com
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Acceptance of Candidate Paperwork

See below multiple emails

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kelley, Bailey <Bailey.Kelley@sos.iowa.gov>
Date: Wed, Jun 10, 2026 at 8:13 AM
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Acceptance of Candidate Paperwork
To: Michael Bridgford <mbridgford@gmail.com>

Good morning,

We did not receive any objections to your filing by yesterday's deadline. Good luck with your campaign!

Best wishes,

Bailey Kelley, CERA

Director of Elections

Office of Iowa Secretary of State Paul D. Pate

[\(515\) 435-7583](tel:(515)435-7583)

bailey.kelley@sos.iowa.gov



From: Michael Bridgford <mbridgford@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 10:56 PM
To: Kelley, Bailey <Bailey.Kelley@sos.iowa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Acceptance of Candidate Paperwork

****Secretary of State Notice****

This email is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments. If you believe this email is phishing, please email this as an attachment to the SOS Help Desk.

Bailey - I hope you are doing well! I did not hear any word of a potential challenge to our signatures but wanted to email you to confirm? Thanks for your time and for all that you do!

Best,

Michael

On Tue, Jun 2, 2026 at 11:40 AM Kelley, Bailey <Bailey.Kelley@sos.iowa.gov> wrote:

Dear Michael Bridgford,

Your affidavit of candidacy and nomination petitions for the office of United States Representative for the 1st Congressional District, not affiliated with any organization, have been received by the Iowa Secretary of State's Office and appear to meet the basic requirements for filing. Your name will be certified to the appropriate county commissioners of elections for inclusion on the ballot at the November 3, 2026 General Election. Please note that the deadline to withdraw your name from this ballot is Friday August 14, 2026; the deadline for written objections to nomination papers to be filed is Tuesday June 9, 2026.

A file-stamped copy of your affidavit of candidacy is attached for your files. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

Best wishes,

Bailey Kelley, CERA

Director of Elections

Office of Iowa Secretary of State Paul D.

Pate

(515) 435-7583

bailey.kelley@sos.iowa.gov



Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00947432/> on September 28, 2026

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY HOUSE - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE ID: C00947432 REGISTRATION DATE: APRIL 16, 2026

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$189,523.47
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$89,523.47
Total individual contributions	\$61,852.37
Itemized individual contributions	\$60,452.37
Unitemized individual contributions	\$1,400.00
Party committee contributions	\$0.00
Other committee contributions	\$5,000.00
Candidate contributions	\$22,671.10
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES	\$0.00
TOTAL LOANS RECEIVED	\$100,000.00
Loans made by candidate	\$0.00
Other loans	\$100,000.00
OFFSETS TO OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$0.00

Christina Bohannon for Congress Financial Summary as of July 1, 2026 filing date.
Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00787820/> on September 28, 2026

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🔍 fec.gov/data/committee/C00787820/

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CHRISTINA BOHANNAN FOR CONGRESS

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY | HOUSE - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE | ID: C00787820 | REGISTRATION DATE: AUGUST 24, 2021

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total raised

Total spent

Cash summary

ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE

RAISING

SPENDING

FILINGS

 **BOHANNAN, CHRISTINA**
Authorizing candidate

Financial summary

TWO-YEAR PERIOD

2025-2026 ▼

Total raised

 Browse receipts

Coverage dates: 01/01/2025 to 06/30/2026

TOTAL RECEIPTS 	\$7,051,745.42
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$6,157,988.27
Total individual contributions	\$5,648,339.98
Itemized individual contributions	\$4,554,100.63
Unitemized individual contributions	\$1,094,239.35
Party committee contributions	\$10,720.79
Other committee contributions	\$491,927.50
Candidate contributions	\$7,000.00
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES	\$856,878.72
TOTAL LOANS RECEIVED	\$0.00
Loans made by candidate	\$0.00
Other loans	\$0.00

Miller-Meeks for Congress Financial Summary as of July 1, 2026 filing date.
Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00558825/> on September 28, 2026

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fec.gov/data/committee/C00558825/

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MILLER-MEEKS FOR CONGRESS

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY | HOUSE - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE | ID: C00558825 | REGISTRATION DATE: MARCH 05, 2014

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial summary

Total raised

Total spent

Cash summary

ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE

RAISING

SPENDING

FILINGS

MILLER-MEEKS,
MARIANNETTE JANE

Authorizing candidate

TWO-YEAR PERIOD

2025-2026

Total raised

Browse receipts

Coverage dates: 01/01/2025 to 06/30/2026

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,208,271.35
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$5,366,550.11
Total individual contributions	\$2,945,343.16
Itemized individual contributions	\$2,009,252.89
Unitemized individual contributions	\$936,090.27
Party committee contributions	\$5,000.00
Other committee contributions	\$2,416,206.95
Candidate contributions	\$0.00
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES	\$1,686,037.07
TOTAL LOANS RECEIVED	\$0.00
Loans made by candidate	\$0.00
Other loans	\$0.00

Exhibit C - Iowa PBS Debate Confirmation

Attached is a true and correct copy of an email sent by Travis Graven of Iowa PBS to Complainant Michael Scott Bridgford on August 11, 2026 regarding Iowa Press Debate Submission.

bob@bridgfordforiowa.com

From: Michael Bridgford <michael@bridgfordforiowa.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:24 AM
To: Robert Lytle
Subject: Fwd: Iowa Press Debate Submission - Michael Bridgford, IA-01 Independent Candidate
Attachments: 2026 Iowa Press Debate Logistics - First Congressional District.pdf

Iowa Press invitation

Michael Bridgford
Bridgford for Iowa

 309.582.6222

 michael@bridgfordforiowa.com

 www.bridgfordforiowa.com

Connect: | Instagram @bridgfordforiowa | Facebook @bridgfordforiowa

—
Michael Bridgford for Congress IA-01
Let's Work Together to Bridge the Divide

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Graven, Travis <travis.graven@iowapbs.org>
Date: Tue, Aug 11, 2026 at 1:25 PM
Subject: Re: Iowa Press Debate Submission - Michael Bridgford, IA-01 Independent Candidate
To: Patricia Petersen <patricia@bridgfordforiowa.com>, <michael@bridgfordforiowa.com>
Cc: Dave Miller <miller@iowapbs.org>, Andrew Batt <andrewb@iowapbs.org>

Mr. Bridgford and Ms. Petersen,

Thank you for reaching out about a potential *Iowa Press Debate* for Iowa's 1st Congressional District. I appreciate your detailed letter and your patience while we reviewed the information.

We've determined you meet the candidate criteria. Therefore, we extend an invitation for you to participate in an *Iowa Press Debate* for the 1st Congressional District. I'm attaching a logistics document for your review that outlines some of the general information about time, format, etc. Please take a look at your convenience and let me know if you accept our invitation and agree to these general terms.

Please note: We do not hold debates with empty chairs. We require a minimum of two candidates to agree to debate in order to proceed. If all three candidates on the ballot for this race agree to participate and can agree on a date that works for all parties involved, we'd have three candidates side-by-side at our table for the debate. If one candidate declines to participate and we still have two candidates on

board, we may proceed. If we only have one candidate agreeing to participate, there would not be a debate hosted by Iowa PBS.

I will keep you posted on any new developments. If we get multiple candidates and move forward, I'll work with everyone to identify dates that work. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,
Travis Graven
Producer and Director
travis.graven@iowapbs.org | Office [515.201.8746](tel:515.201.8746)



Valued. Trusted. Essential.

On Wed, Jul 29, 2026 at 2:49 PM Patricia Petersen <patricia@bridgfordforiowa.com> wrote:

Hello Iowa Press,

Today, Independent candidate Michael Bridgford is officially submitting a formal request for inclusion in the upcoming Iowa PBS General Election Debate for Iowa's 1st Congressional District.

While criteria rules for political party nominees do not apply to an Independent ("No Party") campaign, the campaign has documented that it meets the criteria established by Iowa PBS for general election federal debates:

1. **Publicly Accessible Policy Statements:** Detailed policy positions available on the official website.
2. **FEC Financial Threshold:** Reported \$89,523 in net contributions on the July 15 FEC quarterly filing (exceeding the \$50,000 threshold).
3. **Bona Fide News Coverage:** Featured in substantive local, state, and national news reporting.
4. **Independent Polling Threshold:** Reached 11% support in a post-primary benchmark survey of 705 likely IA-01 voters.

With 55% of District 1 voters expressing a desire for an independent choice, including Michael Bridgford alongside Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Christina Bohannon ensures Eastern Iowans receive a complete picture of their ballot options this November.

The full letter submitted to the Iowa Press Debate Selection Committee is attached to this email for your coverage and review.

Please let us know if you would like to schedule an interview with Michael regarding the debate or the IA-01 race.

Best regards,

Patricia Petersen

Director of Communications | Bridgford for Iowa

 [805.252.2515](tel:805.252.2515)

 patricia@bridgfordforiowa.com

 www.bridgfordforiowa.com

Connect: | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Michael Bridgford for Congress IA-01

Let's Work Together to Bridge the Divide



Exhibit D - Email Correspondence with Media Outlets

Attached is a true and correct copy of an email thread sent between Complainant staff for Bridgford for Iowa and Respondent KWQC on September 16 and September 17, 2026 regarding KWQC Debate Criteria. Thread edited for formatting.

bob@bridgfordforiowa.com

From: bob@bridgfordforiowa.com
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 2:22 PM
To: 'Robert Lytle'
Subject: RE: Inquiry Regarding Debate Criteria for Iowa's 1st Congressional District

Email chain between the campaign and the station, no further response received on this thread.

From: Michael Bridgford <michael@bridgfordforiowa.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:59 AM
To: bob@bridgfordforiowa.com
Cc: Patricia Petersen <patricia@bridgfordforiowa.com>; Greg Ridenour <greg@bridgfordforiowa.com>
Subject: Re: Inquiry Regarding Debate Criteria for Iowa's 1st Congressional District

Mareah,

Thank you for the response. Can you please share the exact criteria regarding fundraising? Again, we met published requirements, including fundraising, as outlined by the Iowa Press who hosted the debate previously for the district and most recently proposed a debate this cycle.

Additionally our Sept 30 FEC fundraising filing will be available prior to the October 21 debate.

We believe it's in the best interest of Iowans to observe a debate with all candidates on the ballot.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to your detailed response.

Michael Bridgford
Bridgford for Iowa

 309.582.6222
 michael@bridgfordforiowa.com
 www.bridgfordforiowa.com

Connect: | Instagram @bridgfordforiowa | Facebook @bridgfordforiowa

Michael Bridgford for Congress IA-01
Let's Work Together to Bridge the Divide

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patricia Petersen** <patricia@bridgfordforiowa.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2026 at 11:07 AM

Subject: Fwd: Inquiry Regarding Debate Criteria for Iowa's 1st Congressional District
To: Michael Bridgford <michael@bridgfordforiowa.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mareah Ruefer <Mareah.Ruefer@kwqc.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2026 at 11:05 AM
Subject: Re: Inquiry Regarding Debate Criteria for Iowa's 1st Congressional District
To: Patricia Petersen <patricia@bridgfordforiowa.com>
Cc: Matthew Christensen <Matthew.Christensen@kwqc.com>

Hey Patricia- thank you for your inquiry regarding participation in the upcoming debate. Your campaign did not meet the minimum fundraising threshold required for inclusion. We established this threshold through our legitimate journalistic judgment to ensure a substantive discussion among candidates with demonstrated viability and public support.

Thanks,



MAREAH RUEFER

News Director

Office: [563-383-7000](tel:563-383-7000)

Mobile: [608-235-3854](tel:608-235-3854)



From: Patricia Petersen <patricia@bridgfordforiowa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3:44 PM
To: Mareah Ruefer <Mareah.ruefer@kwqc.com>
Cc: Matthew Christensen <Matthew.Christensen@kwqc.com>
Subject: Inquiry Regarding Debate Criteria for Iowa's 1st Congressional District

Hello Mareah & Matt,

We saw KWQC's announcement regarding the upcoming debate for Iowa's 1st Congressional District featuring Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Christina Bohannon.

As Michael Bridgford is an officially qualified candidate on the general election ballot representing the largest group of voters (No Party) across the district, we are respectfully writing to request the pre-established objective criteria KWQC utilized to determine candidate inclusion for this debate.

Our campaign has consistently met qualification benchmarks across the district for broadcast participation:

- **Iowa PBS (Iowa Press):** Our campaign qualified and formally accepted the invitation for the statewide general election debate (which both major party candidates subsequently declined).
- **Regional Broadcast Partners:** Representatives from WHBF (Jim Niedelman) and Iowa News Now / KGAN (Ray Baccari) confirmed that our ballot standing and campaign metrics meet their standards for debate participation.

Under federal broadcast guidelines (including 11 CFR § 110.13), staging organizations are required to use objective, pre-established criteria when selecting debate participants and may not rely solely on major-party nomination to exclude ballot-qualified candidates.

Given our ballot qualification, active presence across all 20 counties in IA-01, and our ongoing media investments across Quad Cities outlets, we want to ensure our constituents receive complete and equal representation and the respect they deserve to hear from all qualified candidates in Iowa's 1st Congressional Campaign, on your platform.

We respectfully request you share KWQC's written debate candidate criteria with our team at your earliest convenience. If criteria are currently being evaluated or finalized, **we welcome the opportunity to submit our campaign metrics for your review so Michael Bridgford can participate on stage.**

Thank you for your time, leadership, and continued commitment to providing unbiased reporting to Quad Cities voters.

We look forward to hearing from you.

--

Patricia Petersen

Director of Communications | Bridgford for Iowa

 [805.252.2515](tel:805.252.2515)

 patricia@bridgfordforiowa.com

 www.bridgfordforiowa.com

Connect: | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

—

Michael Bridgford for Congress IA-01

Let's Work Together to Bridge the Divide



Exhibit E - Demand Letter to Respondent Broadcaster

Attached is a true and correct copy of the Complainant's Demand sent to Respondent KWQC/KWCR and Gray Media, Inc. on September 18, 2026

ANDREW FINKO P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

20 N. Clark Street
Suite 3300
Chicago, IL 60602

Ph: (773) 480-0616
Fx: (773) 453-3266
FinkoLaw@fastmail.FM

September 18, 2026

VIA EMAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL

Email: managersgroup@kwqc.com | dmca-legal@graymedia.com

General Counsel & Station Manager
KWQC-TV, a subsidiary of Gray Media, Inc.
805 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

**RE: FORMAL DEMAND FOR COMPLIANCE UNDER 11 C.F.R. § 110.13, DEMAND
FOR PRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE SELECTION CRITERIA, AND LITIGATION
HOLD / EVIDENCE PRESERVATION NOTICE**

Dear Counsel and Management:

This office represents Michael Bridgford and Bridgford for Iowa ("the Campaign") regarding the televised candidate debate currently scheduled to be broadcast on October 20, 2026 by KWQC ("the Station").

On September 17, 2026, the Campaign submitted an informal inquiry requesting clarification regarding candidate participation and the specific qualifying criteria for the upcoming debate. As of this writing, the Station has failed to respond in detail, failed to produce any written selection criteria, and excluded Michael Bridgford from the stage.

Take notice that the broadcast of a political debate utilizing corporate broadcast facilities constitutes a prohibited corporate contribution under the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA), 52 U.S.C. § 30118, unless the event qualifies for the regulatory safe harbor set forth in **11 C.F.R. § 110.13**. To retain this safe harbor, the staging organization must establish that it relied on **pre-established, objective criteria** and did not structure the event to promote or advance one candidate over another (11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b)-(c)).

Because the Station has neither published nor produced contemporaneous proof of objective selection benchmarks established prior to participant selection, the Station has jeopardized its safe-harbor exemption. If the Station proceeds with the broadcast under these conditions, the event may constitute an unlawful corporate in-kind contribution to the participating candidates, exposing the Station to severe civil penalties under 52 U.S.C. § 30109 and administrative scrutiny under the public-interest obligations of 47 U.S.C. § 309.

KWQC-TV, a subsidiary of Gray Media, Inc.
September 18, 2026
Page 2

Formal Demands

To resolve this matter without immediate regulatory intervention, the Campaign demands that the Station provide the following within **forty-eight (48) hours** of receipt of this letter (**5:00 PM CST on September 22, 2026**):

1. **Production of Criteria:** Contemporaneous, written documentation establishing the exact criteria used to select debate participants, including the precise date and time such criteria were formalized and published.
2. **Standard of Application:** Written verification of how each selected participant satisfied these criteria, along with the specific data, polling sources, or thresholds applied.
3. **Inclusion / Opportunity to Cure:** An immediate invitation to Michael Bridgford to participate in the broadcast on identical terms as other invited candidates.

Formal Litigation Hold and Spoliation Notice

The Station is hereby placed on formal notice to preserve and retain all records, tangible documents, and electronically stored information (ESI) relating directly or indirectly to the planning, criteria formulation, participant selection, and financing of the debate.

This preservation directive encompasses, without limitation:

- All internal and external emails, text messages, messaging application logs, and internal memoranda of newsroom personnel, producers, station executives, and sales staff concerning debate participants, thresholds, or candidate invitations.
- All communications with third-party co-sponsors, political parties, and rival campaigns or their agents.
- All records of political advertising purchased, booked, or negotiated by or on behalf of any candidate invited to the debate, including records required to be retained in the Station's political file under 47 U.S.C. § 315(e).

Failure to comply with these demands within forty-eight (48) hours may result in the immediate filing of a sworn, notarized administrative complaint with the Federal Election Commission under 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) and an emergency petition for relief with the Federal Communications Commission Media Bureau.

Sincerely,



Andrew Finko

Exhibit F - Response to Demand from Respondent Broadcaster

Attached is a true and correct copy of the Respondent KWQC/KCRG/Gray Media Response to Demand sent by counsel to Complainant on September 25, 2026

Ari Meltzer
202.719.7467
ameltzer@wiley.law

wiley

Wiley Rein LLP
2050 M St NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202.719.7000

September 25, 2026

wiley.law

VIA E-MAIL

Andrew Finko, Esq.
20 N. Clark Street
Suite 3300
Chicago, IL 60620

Re: KWQC-TV/KCRG-TV/KTIV(TV) Iowa 1st Congressional District Debate

Dear Mr. Finko:

Our firm represents Gray Television Licensee, LLC ("Gray"), the licensee of television stations KWQC-TV, Davenport, Iowa, KCRG-TV, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and KTIV(TV), Sioux City, Iowa ("the Stations"). We write in response to your letter dated September 18, 2026, on behalf of Michael Bridgford and Bridgford for Iowa regarding the Iowa 1st Congressional District debate scheduled for October 20, 2026 ("the Debate").

Gray appreciates Mr. Bridgford's interest in participating in the Debate. However, Mr. Bridgford does not satisfy the objective criteria that the Stations established for Debate participation.

The central premise of your letter is incorrect. Neither the Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or "Commission")'s regulations nor the Commission's precedents require a broadcaster to publish debate participation criteria before determining which candidates qualify for a debate. Your contrary assertion is unsupported by the text of the regulation and inconsistent with longstanding Commission guidance.

As an initial matter, the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA") exempts from regulation all costs "incurred in covering or carrying a news story, commentary, or editorial by any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical publication, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate."¹ This exemption, known as the "Press Exemption" or "Media Exemption," applies to press activity under a two-part test. First, the organization must be a "press entity." Second, the press activity at issue must represent a "legitimate press function."²

The Stations qualify for the first prong of the Press Exemption because they are bona fide press entities. The Stations qualify for the second prong of the Press Exemption because, as the Commission has recognized, "a news organization's presentation of a debate is a 'news story'

¹ 52 U.S.C. § 30101(9)(B)(i).

² See *Reader's Digest Association v. FEC*, 509 F.Supp. 1210, 1215 (S.D.N.Y. 1981); *FEC v. Phillips Publishing, Inc.*, 517 F.Supp. 1308, 1312-13 (D.D.C. 1981).

within the meaning of this provision of the FECA [the Press Exemption].”³ Accordingly, the Debate is not subject to regulation under FECA.

Even if it were, the Stations reasonably determined that restricting the Debate to candidates who satisfied certain objective criteria would allow the moderators to engage in a more in-depth discussion and better inform viewers and potential voters in the days leading up to the election. Under the FEC’s debate regulation, “[b]roadcasters (including a cable television operator, programmer or producer) bona fide newspapers, magazines and other periodical publications” are specifically permitted to stage candidate debates.⁴ The debate regulation properly leaves the structure of the debate to the discretion of the staging organization. The only requirements are that: (1) the debate includes at least two candidates; (2) the organization does not structure the debates to promote or advance one candidate over another; and (3) the staging organization uses “pre-established objective criteria to determine which candidates may participate in the debate.”⁵

The Commission has explained that the purpose of requiring objective criteria is not to maximize the number of debate candidates, but rather, to “ensure that staging organizations do not select participants in such a way that the costs of a debate constitute corporate contributions to the candidates taking part.”⁶

Here, the Stations established an objective and content-neutral threshold requiring candidates to have raised more than \$1 million in campaign contributions.⁷ That benchmark was applied uniformly to all candidates. The fact that Mr. Bridgford did not satisfy the threshold does not render the criterion improper.

The suggestion in your letter that the Stations were required to publish their selection criteria in advance also lacks any legal basis. Indeed, while the Commission has at times encouraged staging organizations to disclose participation criteria publicly,⁸ it also has made clear that doing

³ MUR 5224 (Boston Globe & WBZ-TV), Statement of Reasons of Chairman David Mason, Vice Chairman Karl Sandstrom, Commissioner Bradley Smith, Commissioner Michael Toner (Sept. 3, 2002) at 2. The Commission majority’s treatment of WBZ-TV’s debate as “news coverage” is consistent with the Federal Communication Commission’s treatment of debates sponsored by broadcast station as “news coverage.” See *Petitions of Henry Geller and the National Association of Broadcasters and the Radio-Television News Directors Association to Change Commission Interpretations of Certain Subsections of the Communications Act*, Report and Order, 95 FCC.2d 1236 (1983).

⁴ 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(a)(2).

⁵ 11 C.F.R. § 110.13(b)-(c).

⁶ Explanation & Justification, Corporate and Labor Organization Activity; Express Advocacy and Coordination with Candidates, 60 Fed. Reg. 64,260, 64,262 (Dec. 14, 1995) (E&J); see MUR 6869R & 6942R.

⁷ See MURs 7484 & 7514, Factual and Legal Analysis at 9 (finding \$50,000 fundraising threshold in Nevada senate race an objective debate criterion).

⁸ See E&J, 60 Fed. Reg. at 64,262; F&LA at 10, MURs 7484 & 7514 (Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc., et al.).

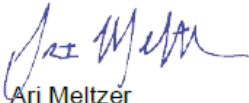
Andrew Finko, Esq.
September 25, 2026
Page 3

so is not required.⁹ Thus, while advance disclosure may be a recommended practice, it is not a legal requirement, and the suggestion in your letter to the contrary is misguided.

Although Mr. Bridgford did not satisfy the criteria established for the Debate, the Stations will continue to exercise their journalistic discretion regarding coverage of Mr. Bridgford's candidacy.

We trust that this clarifies Gray's position and resolves this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ari Meltzer", is positioned above the printed name.

Ari Meltzer
Joan Stewart
Counsel to Gray Television Licensee, LLC

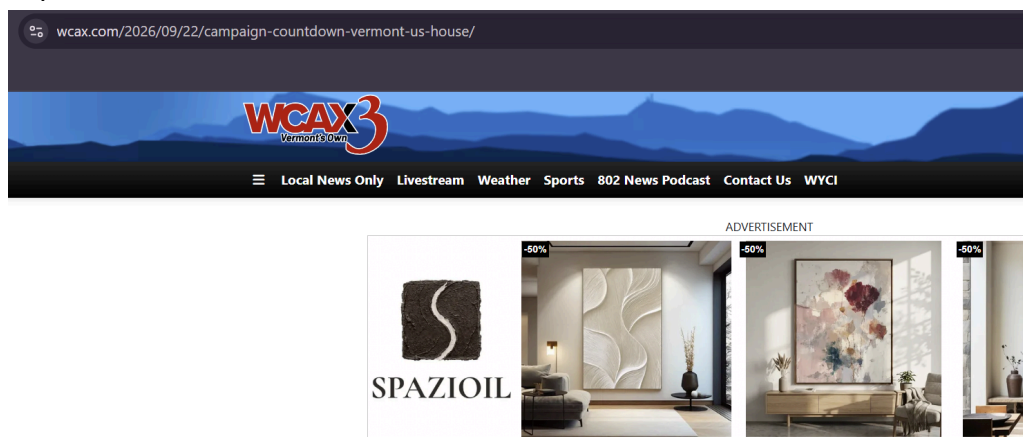
⁹ See E&J, 60 Fed. Reg. at 64,262.

Exhibit G - Respondent Debates with Lower Thresholds

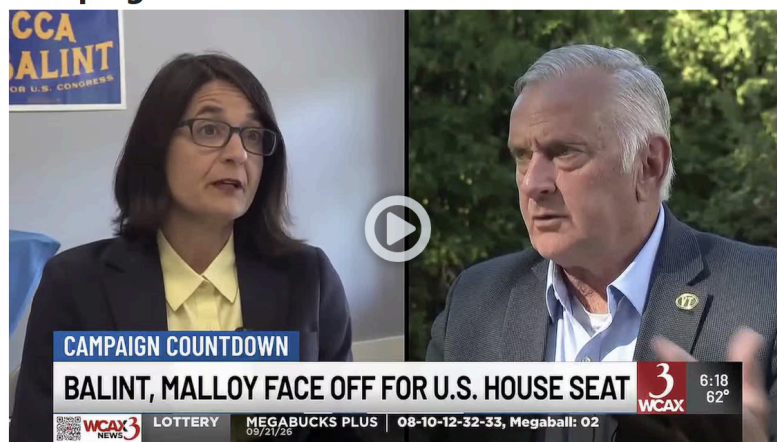
The following debates scheduled or conducted by Respondent stations nationwide in the 2024 and 2026 General Election periods contained at least one candidate who did not meet the Respondent's financial threshold of \$1,000,000 by July 1, 2026.

Entity	Date	District	Candidate A	Candidate B
WCAX Burlington VT	10/15/2026	VT At-large Congressional District	Rebecca Balint FEC: C00797175 \$952,758.42	Gerald Malloy FEC: C00950048 \$58,279.96

Retrieved from <https://www.wcax.com/2026/09/22/campaign-countdown-vermont-us-house/> on September 28, 2026



Campaign Countdown: Vermont US House



By Michael Buchanan
Published: Sep. 22, 2026 at 4:46 PM CDT

Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00797175/> on September 28, 2026

[←](#) [→](#) [↺](#) [fec.gov/data/committee/C00797175/](#)



BECCA BALINT FOR VERMONT

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY | HOUSE - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE | ID: C00797175 | REGISTRATION DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2021

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

[Total raised](#)
[Total spent](#)
[Cash summary](#)

[ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE](#)
[RAISING](#)
[SPENDING](#)
[FILINGS](#)

 **BALINT, REBECCA**
'BECCA'
Authorizing candidate

Financial summary

TWO-YEAR PERIOD
2025-2026 ▼

Total raised [Browse receipts](#)

Coverage dates: 01/01/2025 to 07/22/2026

TOTAL RECEIPTS ⓘ	\$956,338.66
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$952,758.42

Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00950048/> on Sep 28, 2026

[←](#) [→](#) [↺](#) [fec.gov/data/committee/C00950048/](#)



GERALD MALLOY FOR U.S. CONGRESS

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY | HOUSE - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE | ID: C00950048 | REGISTRATION DATE: MAY 08, 2026

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

[Total raised](#)
[Total spent](#)
[Cash summary](#)

[ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE](#)
[RAISING](#)
[SPENDING](#)
[FILINGS](#)

 **MALLOY, GERALD MR.**
Authorizing candidate

Financial summary

TWO-YEAR PERIOD
2025-2026 ▼

Total raised [Browse receipts](#)

Coverage dates: 04/01/2026 to 07/22/2026

TOTAL RECEIPTS ⓘ	\$58,279.96
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$41,523.95

Entity	Date	District	Candidate A	Candidate B
WHNS Greenville SC	10/8/2026	SC - CD04	William Timmons FEC: C00797175 \$1,595,724.66	Courtney McClain FEC: C00922120 \$32,993.15

Retrieved from

<https://www.foxcarolina.com/2026/09/09/timmons-mcclain-agree-face-off-fox-carolina-congressional-debate/> on September 28, 2026

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a Fox Carolina news article. The URL in the address bar is <https://www.foxcarolina.com/2026/09/09/timmons-mcclain-agree-face-off-fox-carolina-congressional-debate/>. The page features a navigation bar with links to Live, Videos, News, First Alert Weather, Traffic, Investigations, Palmetto Sports, and En Español. The main headline reads "Timmons, McClain agree to face off in FOX Carolina congressional debate". Below the headline is a graphic for the "4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT" debate, featuring portraits of William Timmons and Courtney McClain. The graphic includes the text "YOU DECIDE", "LIVE ON FOX CAROLINA OCT 8TH | 7PM", and the Fox Carolina logo. A small weather widget in the bottom right corner shows the time as 6:11 and the temperature as 86°.

4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

YOU DECIDE

LIVE ON FOX CAROLINA
OCT 8TH | 7PM

William Timmons

Courtney McClain

FOX CAROLINA

6:11 86° FOX CAROLINA

Incumbent Republican Congressman William Timmons and Democratic nominee Courtney McClain have agreed to face off in a debate hosted by FOX Carolina next month.

By [Anisa Snipes](#)

Published: Sep. 9, 2026 at 1:11 PM CDT

Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00797175/> on September 28, 2026

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fec.gov/data/committee/C00668491/

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⌵

WILLIAM TIMMONS FOR CONGRESS

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY | HOUSE - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE | ID: C00668491 | REGISTRATION DATE: FEBRUARY 02, 2018

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial summary

Total raised

Total spent

Cash summary

ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE

RAISING

SPENDING

FILINGS

TIMMONS, WILLIAM R IV

Authorizing candidate

TWO-YEAR PERIOD

2025-2026

Total raised

Coverage dates: 01/01/2025 to 06/30/2026

TOTAL RECEIPTS ⓘ

\$1,595,724.66

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$930,257.85

Browse receipts

Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00922120/> on September 28, 2026

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fec.gov/data/committee/C00922120/

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MCCLAINFORCONGRESSSC

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY | HOUSE - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE | ID: C00922120 | REGISTRATION DATE: OCTOBER 03, 2025

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial summary

Total raised

Total spent

Cash summary

ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE

RAISING

SPENDING

FILINGS

MCCLAIN, COURTNEY

Authorizing candidate

TWO-YEAR PERIOD

2025-2026

Total raised

Coverage dates: 10/01/2025 to 09/30/2026

TOTAL RECEIPTS ⓘ

\$32,993.15

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

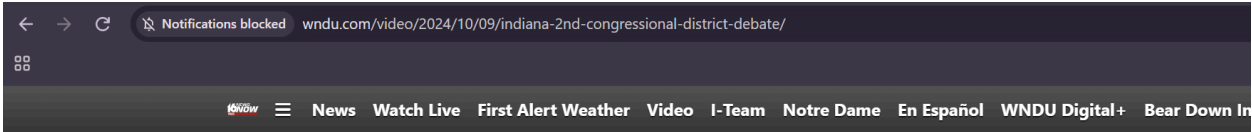
\$32,993.15

Browse receipts

30

Entity	Date	District	Candidate A	Candidate B
WNDU South Bend IN	10/8/2024	IN - CD02	Lori Camp FEC: C00870055 \$130,984.60	William Henry FEC: C00821827 Unreported

Retrieved from
<https://www.wndu.com/video/2024/10/09/indiana-2nd-congressional-district-debate/> on
September 28, 2026



Indiana 2nd Congressional District Debate

Published: Oct. 9, 2024 at 12:33 AM CDT

Share Add as a preferred source on Google



Democratic candidate Lori Camp and Libertarian candidate William Henry squared off on an extensive number of prominent issues.

Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00870055/?cycle=2024> on September 28, 2026

← → ↺

fec.gov/data/committee/C00870055/?cycle=2024

☰

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY

HOUSE - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

ID: C00870055

REGISTRATION DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE

RAISING

SPENDING

FILINGS

CAMP, LORI ANN MS.

Authorizing candidate

Financial summary

TWO-YEAR PERIOD

2023-2024 ▼

Total raised

Coverage dates: 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024

TOTAL RECEIPTS ⓘ

\$130,984.60

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$130,984.60

Browse receipts

Retrieved from <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00821827/> on September 28, 2026. The missing reporting is most often attributed to a campaign that raised less than \$5,000

← → ↺

fec.gov/data/committee/C00821827/

☰

● ADMINISTRATIVELY TERMINATED

HOUSE - AUTHORIZED BY A CANDIDATE

ID: C00821827

REGISTRATION DATE: JULY 29, 2022

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE

RAISING

SPENDING

FILINGS

HENRY, WILLIAM E.

Authorizing candidate

Financial summary

TWO-YEAR PERIOD

2023-2024 ▼

i

We don't have COMMITTEE TO ELECT WILLIAM HENRY TO U.S. HOUSE for 2023-2024.

This can be because:

- We're still processing the data. Try looking for [raw versions of committee filings](#). Raw files are only available for electronic filers.
- No one filed this type of activity during the time period.
- The filing deadline hasn't passed yet.

Exhibit H - Analysis of FEC Candidate Revenues and Threshold

The following analysis was conducted on data downloaded from the FEC website on August 28, 2026 containing aggregate filing data for the July 1, 2026 period on which Respondent's threshold measurement was based.

<https://www.fec.gov/files/bulk-downloads/2026/web126.zip> contains a list of each candidate and the total amounts reported as of the download date.

The following table counts the number and percentage of each candidate in the list according to the parameters:

- Running for House District in 2026
- Raised at least \$50,000 (the criteria specified by Iowa PBS)
- Actively running for office in the General Election (not retired or withdrawn)

	Open Seat		Opponent		Incumbent		Total	Total
Raised > 1M?								
FALSE	286	72%	597	82%	106	25%	989	63%
TRUE	113	28%	132	18%	325	75%	570	37%
Grand Total	399		729		431		1559	

Analysis - If Respondent's financial criteria were applied across all races:

- One-quarter of Incumbents would not make the debate stage
- Debates would be tilted towards incumbents, with more than 80% of debates against incumbents cancelled since their opponent didn't raise \$1M
- Almost three-quarters of Open Seat candidates, theoretically the time where debates are most needed, would be cancelled
- In total: only 40% of congressional seats would have a debate at all.