

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM

DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR 8258

Respondents: Louie Sanchez for New Mexico and
Rob Duncan in his official capacity
as treasurer
Louie Sanchez

Complaint Receipt Date: May 6, 2024

Response Receipt Dates: May 20, 2024; May 23, 2024

[REDACTED]

Alleged Statutory/

Regulatory Violations:

52 U.S.C. §§ 30101(2), 30102(e)(1), (g), 30103(a)
11 C.F.R. §§ 100.3, 101.1, 102.1

The Complaint alleges that Louie Sanchez, a candidate for New Mexico’s 1st Congressional District in the 2024 election cycle,¹ failed to file a Statement of Candidacy within 15 days of becoming a candidate, and alleges that his principal campaign committee, Louie Sanchez for New Mexico and Rob Duncan in his official capacity as treasurer (the “Committee”),² similarly failed to file a Statement of Organization within 10 days of its designation, in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the “Act”).³ The Complaint states that “it has been suggested” that Sanchez entered into a contract to pay a campaign consultant more than \$5,000 by December 24, 2023, at the latest,⁴ thereby exceeding the \$5,000 registration threshold, yet Sanchez and the Committee did not file their Statements of Candidacy and Organization until April 2024.⁵

¹ Louie Sanchez, Statement of Candidacy at 1 (Apr. 15, 2024), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/680/202404159632789680/202404159632789680.pdf>.

² Louie Sanchez for New Mexico, Statement of Organization at 2 (Apr. 10, 2024), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/924/202404109627522924/202404109627522924.pdf>.

³ Compl. at 1-2 (May 6, 2024).

⁴ *Id.* at 2.

⁵ *See id.* at 2-4. The Complaint also alleges violations of state law outside the Commission’s jurisdiction. *Id.*

1 The Complaint also alleges, without providing specific information, that Sanchez or the Committee
2 made disbursements during the period beginning January 13, 2024, through April 10, 2024, “in
3 excess of the \$5,000 threshold,” and alleges, also without providing specific information, that the
4 Committee’s disclosure reports do “not reflect all loans, receipts[,] and disbursements actually
5 received and disbursed” by the Committee.⁶

6 In Response, Sanchez and the Committee state that the Complaint “appears to be based on
7 hearsay, innuendo, and unsubstantiated allegations,” that the speculative nature of the Complaint
8 leaves both Sanchez and the Committee unable to respond to the Complaint in detail, and that the
9 Committee had not hired a consultant or campaign manager.⁷

10 During the 2024 election cycle, as of the date of this Report, the Committee received \$275
11 in contributions, received loans totaling \$28,070.57 from the candidate, and disbursed \$4,494.22 in
12 operating expenditures.⁸

13 Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement
14 Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and
15 assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These
16 criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity
17 and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the
18 electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in
19 potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for
20 Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating, low

⁶ *Id.* at 1, 3-4.

⁷ Sanchez Resp. at 1 (May 20, 2024); Committee Resp. at 1 (May 23, 2024).

⁸ Louie Sanchez for New Mexico, Financial Summary, FEC.GOV, <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00875849/?tab=summary> (last visited Nov. 26, 2024).

MUR 8258 (Louie Sanchez for New Mexico, *et al.*)
EPS Dismissal Report
Page 3 of 3

1 apparent dollar amount at issue, and the speculative nature of the Complaint, we recommend that
2 the Commission dismiss the Complaint, consistent with the Commission's prosecutorial discretion
3 to determine the proper ordering of its priorities and use of agency resources.⁹ We also recommend
4 that the Commission close the file effective 30 days from the date of certification of this vote is
5 signed (or on the next business day after the 30th day, if the 30th day falls on a weekend or holiday)
6 and send the appropriate letters.

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8
9
10 12/12/2024
11 _____
12 Date

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

BY:



Claudio J. Pavia
Deputy Associate General Counsel

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15 *Wanda D. Brown*
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Wanda D. Brown
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⁹ *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985).