



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

March 14, 2024

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3 **TO:** The Commission
4
5 **FROM:** Lisa J. Stevenson
6 Acting General Counsel
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8 Charles Kitcher
9 Associate General Counsel for Enforcement
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11 Adrienne Baranowicz
12 Deputy Associate General Counsel for Enforcement
13
14 **BY:** Mark Shonkwiler
15 Assistant General Counsel *MS by act*
16
17 Kimberly D. Hart *KDH*
18 Attorney
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20 **SUBJECT:** MUR 8175 (Straight Talk Politics)
21 Recommendation to Accept Signed Conciliation Agreement
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23 On October 3, 2023, the Commission found reason to believe that Straight Talk Politics
24 and Wesley Smith in his official capacity as treasurer (“Committee”) violated 52 U.S.C.
25 § 30104(g)(1) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.4(c), provisions of the Federal Campaign Election Act of
26 1971, as amended (the “Act”) and the Commission’s regulations.¹ The Commission authorized
27 the Office of General Counsel to engage in pre-probable cause conciliation with the Committee
28 and approved a conciliation agreement.²
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¹ Certification ¶ 2(b) (Oct. 3, 2023); Factual and Legal Analysis at 5-6, MUR 8175 (Straight Talk Politics) (Oct. 3, 2023).

² Cert. ¶ 2(e); Straight Talk Politics RTB Notif. Letter at 1-2 (Oct. 10, 2023) (explaining the calculation of the civil penalty).

³ See Attachs. 1-2.

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8 We recommend that the Commission accept the attached signed conciliation agreement
9 and close the file effective 30 days from the date of certification of this vote (or on the next
10 business day after the 30th day, if the 30th day falls on a weekend or holiday).

11 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12 1. Accept the attached signed conciliation agreement with Straight Talk Politics
13 PAC and Wesley Smith in his official capacity as treasurer;
- 14 2. Approve the appropriate letters; and
- 15 3. Close the file effective 30 days from the date of certification of this vote (or on
16 the next business day after the 30th day, if the 30th day falls on a weekend or
17 holiday).

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