



Office of the City Clerk

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[www.cabq.gov/clerk](http://www.cabq.gov/clerk)

Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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December 5, 2025

**SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY**

Daymon Ely  
1228 Central Ave SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
[daymon@daymonely.com](mailto:daymon@daymonely.com)

Paul Gessing  
400 Gold Ave SW Suite 909  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
[info@riograndefoundation.com](mailto:info@riograndefoundation.com)

Re: *BOE 08-2025 Ely v. Gessing*

Dear Mr. Ely and Mr. Gessing:

On December 4, 2025, Daymon Ely filed a complaint with our office against Paul Gessing. As is required by the *Rules by the Board of Ethics & Campaign Practices for the Election Code, the Open and Ethical Election Code, and the Code of Ethics of the City Charter*, the City Clerk reviewed the complaint for facial sufficiency. I am writing to provide you with the results of the City Clerk's review.

The complainant alleges that an expenditure exceeding \$250 was made for election-related messaging without the required registration of a Measure Finance Committee, and cites Article XIII, Sec. 2(y) of the City of Albuquerque Charter, which defines a Measure Finance Committee as any person or entity making such expenditures. The complaint further notes that the financier of the sweatshirts is unknown to the public and that Mr. Gessing acknowledged during a KOAT-TV interview that he knows the identity of the financier but will not disclose it. Mr. Ely requests an investigation to determine the source of the expenditure and whether a violation of the Election Code occurred.

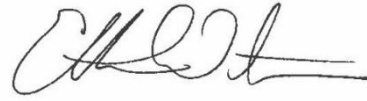
The complaint satisfies the facial sufficiency criteria set forth in Rule 5(A)(3) of the Rules of the Board of Ethics & Campaign Practices, including timeliness, identification of a single Respondent, notarized certification, and a detailed allegation citing the relevant section of the Election Code.

Having thoroughly reviewed the complaint for facial sufficiency in accordance with the Rules, I have determined that the complaint is facially sufficient and may warrant further review.

Therefore, in accordance with Rule 5(A)(2), I am referring this claim to the Board of Ethics for further investigation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ethan Watson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ethan Watson  
Albuquerque City Clerk

Cc: Cristobal Rocha, Program Administrator  
Jason Marks, Board of Ethics & Campaign Practices, Chair  
Ian Alden, Board Attorney

#### **IMPORANT DATES TO NOTE:**

Respondents must file an answer to the complaint within ten (10) days of receiving notice from the City Clerk, which is **December 17, 2025**.

1. The City Clerk's staff will reach out to you to schedule an evidentiary hearing that must be held within thirty (30) days of the Board receiving a complaint, except when the hearing falls within a "blackout period," in which case seven (7) additional days are added.
2. A Respondent may request a settlement conference at any time after the complaint is filed.
3. A settlement conference offer must be accepted within ten (10) days, or it is automatically withdrawn.
4. A Complainant may file a motion to dismiss a complaint at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled hearing.
5. Both parties must submit a list of witnesses and documentary evidence at least ten (10) days before the hearing.
6. Any party objecting to the authenticity of exhibits must do so in writing at least three (3) days before the hearing.
7. The Board must send a written decision to all Parties within three (3) days after the hearing.
8. Any party may appeal the Board's decision to the District Court of the 2nd Judicial District within five (5) days of the action or order.