



PUBLIC COMPLAINT

Ohio Secretary of State - Public Integrity

180 S. Civic Center Drive, Columbus, OH, 43215 Phone: (614) 696-8564
<https://www.ohiosos.gov/public-integrity/>

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION

WRONGDOING

Summary**Statement of Facts**

The campaign committee Vivek Ramaswamy and Rob McColley for Ohio has not itemized the expenditures it made with its campaign credit card from April 2025 to June 2026. By not doing so the campaign committee is masking the purpose of each purchase. The Ramaswamy & McColley campaign instead reports the campaign's monthly American Express bill as a single expenditure, listing "American Express" as the payee and "credit card payment" as the purpose. This violates the spirit and the letter of the law. The lack of crystal-clear transparency casts suspicion on the GOP ticket and creates doubt on the trustworthiness of the Republican ticket in the minds of Ohio voters.

In the campaign's most recent four reports; July 2025 Semiannual, January 2026 Annual, April 2026 Pre-Primary and the May 2026 Post Primary, the campaign committee reported 15 payments to American Express. These payments are from 4/11/25 to 6/2/26 and total \$509,473.01 in unitemized expenditures. Instead of listing the vendor or business, the individual amount, the date of the expenditure, and the purpose of each transaction, they are listed as fifteen single monthly expenditures. The list of the 15 monthly campaign expenditures is attached to this complaint.

The complainant's personal knowledge comes from over twenty years of submitting campaign finance reports and from reviewing the committee's campaign finance reports filed with the Ohio Secretary of State, which are public record.

Reference to Applicable Ohio Law

R.C. 3517.10 (A) states that every campaign committee must file campaign finance reports that set forth in detail the contributions and expenditures of the committee. At issue here is a pre-primary report under R.C. 3517.10 (A)(1), a post primary report under R.C. 3517.10 (A) (2), an annual report under R.C. 3517.10 (A)(3), and a semiannual report under R.C. 3517.10 (A)(4).

Under R.C. 3517.10 (B)(5) campaign committees must report itemized expenditures on campaign finance reports. It is clear under the law and under Secretary of State guidance that this extends to credit card payments. In order to comply fully with R.C. 3517.10 (B)(5) campaign committees must provide the following information on each itemized expenditure: date; vendor name & address; purpose and amount.

Further the Secretary of State has promulgated a rule under O.A.C. 111:2-4-13 (C) (3) that clarifies this statute stating:

(C) In addition to the accounts that must be kept as provided in this rule, each campaign committee, political action committee, ballot issue committee, political party, political contributing entity, or legislative campaign fund shall retain all records related to its contribution and expenditure activity. These records shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following.

(3) For credit card transactions, the monthly billing statement or customer receipt for each credit card transaction. In addition the Secretary of State has provided thorough guidance regarding the reporting of credit card purchases within the campaign finance handbook under Chapter 2 on page 19:

Credit Cards

"A campaign committee may obtain a credit card to purchase good and service on behalf of the committee. If the committee pays the credit card company directly, each credit card purchase should be listed separately as an expenditure on Form 31-B, Statement of Expenditures, or on Form 31-F, Statement of Expenditures for a Social or Fund-Raising Event, with the vendor name, address, date, and amount of purchase. The credit card statement should be attached to the report along with a copy of the canceled check to the credit card company."

By failing to provide underlying receipts for credit card purchases, the campaign has failed to file a complete and accurate report with the Secretary of State and therefore is in violation of R.C. 3517.13 which states the "[n]o campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall fail to file a complete and accurate statement required under division (A) (1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code" and violations of R.C. 3517.13 (C) and R.C. 3517.13 (D). Additionally, there is a violation of R.C. 3517.13 (G) (1) for knowingly concealing or misrepresenting expenditures made, if the credit card used is in the committee's name, since the committee had the required information on a credit card statement but chose not to itemize each expenditure.

Occurred

From: 4/11/2025

Thru: 6/2/2026

Location Name

Vivek Ramaswamy and Rob
McColley for Ohio - Campaign
Finance Reports

Description

The Semiannual (July 2025),
Annual (January 2026), Pre-
Primary (April 2026), and Post-
Primary (May 2026) campaign
finance reports of the campaign
committee Vivek Ramaswamy
and Rob McColley for Ohio.

Address

350 East 1st Ave Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43201

PERSON(S) INVOLVED

Involvement

Subject

Name	Primary Phone	Email	Address
Kevin Broghamer			

Comment

Treasurer for Vivek Ramaswamy and Rob McColley for Ohio

Employer*Name:* Vivek Ramaswamy and Rob McColley for Ohio*Address:* 350 East 1st Ave, Suite 100

Columbus, OH 43201

Title: Treasurer, Vivek Ramaswamy and Rob McColley for Ohio**Involvement**

Subject

Name	Primary Phone	Email	Address
Robert McColley			

Comment

Candidate for Lietenant Governor

Employer*Name:* Vivek Ramaswamy and Rob McColley for Ohio*Address:* 350 East 1st ve, Suite 100

Columbus, OH 43201

*Title:***Involvement**

Subject

Name	Primary Phone	Email	Address
Vivek Ramaswamy			

Comment

Candidate for Governor

Employer*Name:* Vivek Ramaswamy and Rob McColley for Ohio*Address:* 350 East 1st Ave, Suite 100

Columbus, OH 43201

Franklin Count

Title:

RELATED FILES

File	Description
Ramaswamy Campaign Expenditure Credit Card Reports April 25 June 26.xlsx	

Kent Smith

 Complainant Signature