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## Publication of Information in the Public Interest

### Related to Case 2026-09

#### **Ethic Rule 6.9 Confidentiality of Complaint or Investigation.**

“Unless the Commission determines that a complaint or a formal investigation should be made public, all complaints and formal investigations, including documents and discussions in executive session, shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed[.] ... The Commission may make a complaint or formal investigation and any documents relating thereto public at any time it deems release of that information to be in the public interest.”

At the June 5, 2026 Ethics Commission Meeting, the Commission determined that the following information relative to Case 2026-09 was necessary for the purpose of public transparency and education:

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The Oklahoma Ethics Commission voted to pursue action in Oklahoma District Court and make public Case 2026-09 which alleges that Michael Whelan, the Chair and Treasurer for Working Families PAC, failed to file multiple required campaign finance reports, failed to maintain current contact information with the Commission, and has not provided updated public accounting for funds previously reported by the committee.

The most recent report filed with the Commission reflected a committee balance exceeding \$122,000. Because no subsequent reports have been filed, the public currently lacks information regarding the disposition of those funds. The case seeks to determine whether the committee has complied with Oklahoma's campaign finance reporting requirements.

Transparency is the cornerstone of Oklahoma's campaign finance system. The public has a right to know how political funds are received, maintained, and spent, and committees have an ongoing obligation to file reports and maintain accurate contact information with the Commission.

The filing of a complaint is not a determination that a violation has occurred. The allegations remain subject to the action in district court proceedings, and the respondent will have the opportunity to respond.