

September 29, 2022

Corey Amundson
Chief, Public Integrity Section
Department of Justice, Criminal Division
1301 New York Avenue, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Amundson:

I am writing to request that you investigate Yesli Vega for her ongoing violation of federal law by failing to file an accurate Financial Disclosure Statement, as required by the amended Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (the “Act”).¹

Vega’s failure to disclose accurate and complete information regarding her finances is a breach of public trust and a violation of the law. The Act was designed to “preserve and promote the integrity of public officials and institutions” by ensuring that federal candidates are not able to conceal their financial interests, including those that may conflict with official duties, from voters and members of the public.² Vega’s failure to properly file her Financial Disclosure Statement is in blatant disregard for those important objectives. This disregard for the law is alarming for someone who is a candidate for federal office. Virginia voters must have the opportunity to review properly filed reports to assess Vega’s fitness for elected office. I respectfully request that you promptly investigate this matter.

I. Factual Background

Yesli Vega is currently a candidate for the 7th Congressional district seat in Virginia. Vega’s 2022 Financial Disclosure Report (“FDR”) filed March 1, 2022³ shows zero reported assets, even though Vega had reported at least one other asset in a filing she made acknowledged in another jurisdiction.

On February 1, 2022, Vega filed a Statement of Economic Interest (“SEI”) in her capacity as a member of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.⁴ Her SEI instructed her to “list the issuer and type of each security” she owned the previous year that was “valued in excess of \$5,000.” She reported owning a \$5,001-\$50,000 interest in “VRS,” presumably referring to the “Virginia Retirement System (the only asset disclosed in her previous SEI).”⁵

¹ 5a U.S.C. app. §§ 101-111.

² *Id.*

³ U.S. House of Representatives, Yesli Vega – Financial Disclosure Statement (March https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2022/10044477.pdf)

⁴ Yesli Vega, Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council State and Local Statement of Economic Interest, <https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/2022-02/2022%20Vega%20-%20Redacted.pdf> (Feb. 1, 2022).

⁵ Yesli Vega, Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council State and Local Statement of Economic Interest, <https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/documents/bcs/Vega%202021%20SOEI.pdf> (Feb. 5, 2021).

II. Legal Background and Analysis

Candidates are subject to civil and criminal penalties for failing to properly file their Financial Disclosure Statements.⁶ Specifically, the Act authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action against any individual who knowingly and willfully fails to file a required financial disclosure report.⁷ In addition, such a violation exposes the individual to criminal liability under Title 18 of the U.S. Code.⁸

Vega likely failed to properly disclose reportable assets

In her Financial Disclosure Statement, Vega does not report any assets on Schedule A. The guidelines published by the U.S. House Committee on Ethics⁹ state that pensions are a reportable asset.

Defined-Benefit Pensions. You must disclose each non-federal pension held by you, your spouse, or a dependent child. Only the name of the plan or location of the account and its overall value at the end of the reporting period need be shown. You may also indicate that your pension value is “undetermined” or “determined at retirement.” You may indicate “none” for type and amount of income (Blocks C and D, respectively) for those accounts where you are not receiving income.

Despite the clear requirement to include reportable assets on her Financial Disclosure Statement, Vega did not include the Virginia Retirement System pension that she included on her Prince William County Board of Supervisors SEI. Vega omitting a known asset suggests there could be further deficiencies in her Financial Disclosure Statement.

III. Request for Action

I respectfully request that you commence an immediate investigation into whether Vega violated federal law. Prompt action is necessary to ensure that both Vega complies with federal law and that the public is granted full disclosure of Vega’s finances as a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



End Citizens United
Tiffany Muller
100 M St. SE
Washington, DC 20003

⁶ 5 U.S.C. App. 4 § 104(a).

⁷ *Id.* § 104(a)(1).

⁸ *Id.* § 104(a)(2).

⁹ House Ethics Instruction Guide, at 16.