
STATE OF COLORADO
SECRETARY OF STATE
Administrative Hearing Office
1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, CO 80290

Case number:

2026 AHO 12 CPF
(in re ED Nos. 2025-45 & 2025-103)

IN THE MATTER OF:

ELECTIONS DIVISION of the SECRETARY OF STATE

Complainant

v.

MICHAEL BENNET AND BENNET FOR GOVERNOR,

Respondents

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO RESET AND RESCHEDULE

1. Complainant Elections Division of the Colorado Secretary of State alleges that Respondents Michael Bennet and Bennet for Governor violated Colorado campaign finance law in two respects. First, following Respondent Bennet's announcement of his candidacy for Governor on April 16, 2025, his federal candidate committee, Bennet for Colorado, made 39 separate payments to third parties — including airlines, car services, and hotels — totaling \$24,440.59 for travel expenses incurred in furtherance of Respondent Bennet's gubernatorial campaign, in violation of the prohibition on contributions between candidate committees under article XXVIII, section 3(6) of the Colorado Constitution. Second, Respondents failed to report those expenditures in their quarterly reports due July 15, 2025 and October 15, 2025, and did not disclose them until January 15, 2026 — depriving the electorate of timely and accurate information about the sources and expenditures of their gubernatorial campaign for up to six months, in violation of § 1-45-108, C.R.S.

2. The Complaint was filed April 30, 2026. On May 1, I issued a Scheduling Order setting deadlines leading to a hearing on June 16, 2026.

3. Respondents filed yesterday, May 14, an unopposed MOTION TO RESET HEARING DATE AND MODIFY THE SCHEDULING ORDER of May 1, 2026, pushing all deadlines off for a month until after the primary election. No declaration is attached to the Motion. The reason offered is the suggestion of a conflict articulated in passive voice—“a scheduling conflict on June 16, 2026 that cannot be avoided”—followed by the assertion that “good cause exists for a continuance of the trial and the resetting of the case deadlines.” I disagree.

4. The Motion seeks to avoid even an Answer to the Complaint until after [the primary election on June 30, 2026](#). The unopposed Motion declares that “[n]o party will be prejudiced by this request, and the relief sought has been agreed to by the parties.”

5. Colorado campaign finance laws were not enacted by the people in statewide referenda and by the General Assembly for the benefit of the parties to this proceeding. They were enacted by the people and their representatives to inform the electorate about money used in the political process. The closer to an election, the more important it is that there be timely resolution of allegations of campaign finance violations, because this is the very time that the electorate is paying close attention.

6. Colo. Const. art. xxviii and the Fair Campaign Practices Act are very clear about the importance of timely disclosure, timely resolution and strong enforcement of campaign finance requirements.

[T]he interests of the public are best served by limiting campaign contributions, establishing campaign spending limits, providing for full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions, independent expenditures, and funding of electioneering communications, and strong enforcement of campaign finance requirements.

Colo. Const. art. xxviii, § 1- Purpose and Findings.

7. The legislative declaration in Sec. 1-45-102 near the beginning of the Fair Campaign Practices Act uses virtually identical language to emphasize the right of people to have fully and timely disclosure of how and by whom money moves through political campaigns.

8. Colorado voters twice — in 1996 (Amendment 15, 928,148 YES; 482,551 NO) and 2002 (Amendment 27, 890,390 YES; 448,599 NO) — specifically chose laws designed to ensure “full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions.” The 2002 vote placed that goal in the Colorado Constitution itself. The breadth of those electoral majorities speaks to

how seriously the people of Colorado take timely enforcement. A continuance whose effect is to push resolution of the issues raised in the administrative complaint until a point in time after the primary is not consistent with what the voters and the General Assembly have enacted.

9. I find that there is no good cause that requires a change to the dates set in the Scheduling Order. The Unopposed Motion to Reset and Reschedule this matter until after the primary is antithetical to the purpose of Colorado’s campaign finance laws. **The Motion is DENIED.**


10. **Hearing in this matter**, pursuant to §1-45-111.7(6)(a) and §24-4-105, C.R.S. will begin Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 10 AM and continue thereafter until completed, in the hearing room of the Secretary of State at 1700 Broadway, Suite 550, Denver, CO 80290.

11. I will entertain a motion for an earlier hearing date, if the parties can agree to such.

12. The pleadings, actions and events in this case shall happen on the schedule below, just as stated in the May 1, 2026 Scheduling Order.

Pleading or event	Date of event
Respondents’ Answer to the Complaint	Monday, June 1, 2026
Pre-hearing statements due and exhibits filed and exchanged	Monday, June 8, 2026
Objections to exhibits due	Monday, June 15, 2026
Hearing	Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 10 AM

SO ORDERED this 15th day of May 2026.



Macon Cowles, Hearing Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that one true copy of this Order Denying Motion to Reset and Reschedule was sent via email on May 15, 2026 to the following:

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