

From: [Heather A. Jones](#)
To: [Jack MacDonald](#)
Subject: RE: Candidate Report
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:30:29 AM

Yes, let's talk this afternoon.

From: Jack MacDonald
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:07 AM
To: Heather A. Jones <hajones@oge.gov>
Subject: Candidate Report

Hi Heather,

Do you have time to go over a few questions I have on the Trump responses for Part 6?

Jack

From: [Heather A. Jones](#)
To: [Lorna A. Syme](#)
Subject: RE: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 12:09:23 PM

Thanks I'm talking to Deb about it.

From: Lorna A. Syme
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:54 AM
To: Heather A. Jones <hajones@oge.gov>
Subject: FW: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response

From: Scott Gast [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:(b)(6)@oge.gov)]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:34 AM
To: Lorna A. Syme <lasyme@oge.gov>; Jack MacDonald <jjmacdon@oge.gov>
Cc: Derek Ross <[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:(b)(6)@oge.gov)>
Subject: Re: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response

Lorna and Jack,

Following up on the responses sent yesterday, a question has come up as to whether the filer may report income as of the same record date (April 30, 2023) used to value assets and liabilities. As accounting records are based on month-end dates, it is less burdensome for the filer to use the month-end record date for reporting income.

Please let us know if you'd like to have a call to discuss.

Thanks,
Scott

Scott Gast
Compass Legal Group
300 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.937.2309

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From: [Lorna A. Syme](#)
To: [Jack MacDonald](#)
Subject: FW: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 12:30:53 PM

From: Heather A. Jones
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 12:21 PM
To: Lorna A. Syme <lasyme@oge.gov>
Subject: RE: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response

I talked to Deb. We should say the following:

“The statute requires that income be reported through filing date, as opposed to asset value and liability amount which allows the filer to pick a date within 31 days before the filing date. See 5 U.S.C.13104(b)(1). The requirement is stated more clearly in our regulations at 5 CFR 2634.310(b)(2):

Income. For purposes of [§ 2634.302](#), the report must include all income items specified by that section which are received during the period beginning on January 1 of the preceding calendar year and ending on the date on which the report is filed, except as otherwise provided by [§ 2634.606](#) relating to updated disclosure for nominees.

Because it is it a statutory requirement, we are unable to negotiate the reporting requirement.”

From: Lorna A. Syme
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:54 AM
To: Heather A. Jones <hajones@oge.gov>
Subject: FW: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response

Remainder of thread duplicative/already produced above and in third rolling response



From: [Lorna A. Syme](#)
To: "Scott Gast"
Cc: [Derek Ross](#); [Jack MacDonald](#)
Subject: Re: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response - [Message contains CUI]
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 12:38:30 PM

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Scott:

The statute requires that income be reported through filing date, as opposed to asset value and liability amount which allows the filer to pick a date within 31 days before the filing date. See 5 U.S.C.13104(b)(1). The requirement is stated more clearly in our regulations at 5 CFR 2634.310(b)(2):

Income. For purposes of [§ 2634.302](#), the report must include all income items specified by that section which are received during the period beginning on January 1 of the preceding calendar year and ending on the date on which the report is filed, except as otherwise provided by [§ 2634.606](#) relating to updated disclosure for nominees.

Because it is it a statutory requirement, we are unable to negotiate the reporting requirement.

Lorna

Remainder of thread duplicative/already produced above and in third rolling response



From: [Jack MacDonald](#)
To: [Lorna A. Syme](#)
Subject: Candidate Report
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:36:04 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT Part 6 Third Round Questions \(Trump\).docx](#) Draft WIF (b)(5)

Lorna,

Attached is a draft of my third round questions on Part 6 of the Trump report.

Thanks,

Jack

From: [Lorna A. Syme](#)
To: "Scott Gast"
Cc: [Derek Ross](#); [Jack MacDonald](#)
Subject: Fwd: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response - [Message and attachment(s) contain CUI]
Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:44:31 AM
Attachments: [Third Round Questions \(Trump\).docx](#) 1st att. - nonresponsive (questions only)
[OGE CUI Coversheet .pdf](#)

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Email and attachment(s) contain CUI.

Scott:

Attached please find the next round of comments/questions.

Thanks,

Lorna

Duplicate/already produced in third rolling response





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From: [Scott Gast](#)
To: [Lorna A. Syme](#)
Cc: [Derek Ross](#); [Jack MacDonald](#)
Subject: Re: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response - [Message and attachment(s) contain CUI]
Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:46:46 AM

Thanks, Lorna. We are in receipt.

Scott Gast

Compass Legal Group
300 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.937.2309



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On Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 10:44 AM Lorna A. Syme <lasyme@oge.gov> wrote:

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Email and attachment(s) contain CUI.

Scott:

Attached please find the next round of comments/questions.

Thanks,

Lorna

From: Scott Gast [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:(b)(6)@oge.gov)]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 4:48 PM
To: Lorna A. Syme <lasyme@oge.gov>; Jack MacDonald <jjmacdon@oge.gov>
Cc: Derek Ross <[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:(b)(6)@oge.gov)>
Subject: Fwd: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 2Response

Lorna and Jack, attached please find the following:

1. OGE Form Part 2 Schedule 1 with the requested updates highlighted in yellow;
2. OGE Form Part 6 with the requested updates; and
3. Responses to OGE's questions, Round 2.

Remainder of thread produced in third rolling response

From: [Deborah J. Bortot](#)
To: ["Scott Gast"](#)
Cc: [Heather A. Jones](#); [Lorna A. Syme](#); [Jack MacDonald](#); [Derek Ross](#)
Subject: Presidential Candidate Report of Former President Trump - [Message contains CUI]
Date: Friday, September 8, 2023 12:38:06 PM

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Good afternoon Scott,

As you know, I am the Chief of the Presidential Nominations Branch, the unit within the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) responsible for reviewing the Presidential Candidate report filed by former President Trump. Jack MacDonald and Lorna Syme have been in contact with you regarding our review of the report and have provided several rounds of comments and questions.

I am just following up to note that, although OGE generally has 60 days to review a Candidate report, we are required to release such reports within 30 days of receipt. Therefore, whenever possible, we try to have all outstanding comments and questions addressed by then so that the released report reflects a completed review process. The 30-day period for former President Trump's Candidate report ends on September 13, 2023.

I also want to inform you that according to our procedures for candidate reports, if a review cannot be completed within 60 days, OGE will send a formal letter establishing a 30 day deadline for resolving all outstanding issues. If the candidate is making progress on the report and resolution of all outstanding issues is imminent, however, the General Counsel may delay issuance of the letter by up to 10 days upon request by the candidate's representative. Please be advised, should OGE send a letter, the letter will be posted on OGE's website.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you or if you have any questions about the review process.

Please respond to this message to confirm receipt.

Very Respectfully,
Deborah Bortot

Deborah J. Bortot
Chief, Presidential Nominations Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Telephone: (202) 482-9227

From: [Scott Gast](#)
To: [Lorna A. Syme](#); [Jack MacDonald](#)
Subject: Fwd: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 3 Response - [Message and attachment(s) contain CUI]
Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023 2:35:44 PM
Attachments: [Third Round Questions w Trump.Resp \(Rcvd. 9.7.23\).docx](#)
[Part 2 Schedule 1 Round 3Qs.hilgited \(9.8.23\).pdf](#)

First att follows. Second wif
per (b)(3) 28 pp.

Lorna and Jack,

Attached please find the following:

1. OGE Form Part 2 Schedule 1; and
2. Responses to OGE's questions.

We are still working on Part 6,

Thanks,
Scott

Scott Gast
Compass Legal Group
300 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.937.2309



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Donald J. Trump: Round 3, OGE Comments

9/8/2023 Donald J. Trump's Responses to OGE comments dated 9/7/2023 to the 278(e)-submittal dated 8/9/2023 (see responses below):

Part 6

* Page 52 of 107, line 197: (b)(3) – The filer's prior report disclosed a bond named "(b)(3)" (see page 66, line 308). OGE asked if the filer can explain the change in the description of the asset for this report, including the year, and the filer's representative has stated the following: "No value and no income at 4/30/2023," and the change is "because it is a different asset."

- Please explain what happened to the old asset.
 - If the old asset was sold and had any reportable income for the reporting period of January 1, 2022 to May 15, 2023, the asset and the income must be reported.
 - **RESPONSE:** We have made the appropriate adjustments to the 278(e).

Please confirm (1) if there was any reportable income during this period while the asset was still held and (2) if there was any income from the sale.

- **RESPONSE:** Added income through 5/15/2023.

* Page 62 of 107, Donald J Trump Revocable Trust: Missing entry - On the original filing for this report, the filer reported four entries for "(b)(3)". (see page 55, lines 7-10 of original filing). Now the filer reports three accounts. OGE asked if the filer can explain what happened to the missing account with a reported value of (b)(3), and the filer's representative responded "(b) (4)".

- Was there any reportable income for the account during the reporting period of January 1, 2022 to May 15, 2023 (i.e., interest)? If yes, the asset and the income must be reported.
 - **RESPONSE:** Corrected.

* Page 105 of 107, Family Trust 2, lines 1-3: The filer's representative has indicated that income was reported through 4/30/2023. The reporting period for income is through 5/15/2023. Please update the income amount through 5/15/2023 and confirm that the change has been made.

RESPONSE: The (b) (4)

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* Page 106 of 107, Family Trust 3, line 3: The filer's representative has indicated that income was reported through 4/30/2023. The reporting period for income is through 5/15/2023. Please update the income amount through 5/15/2023 and confirm that the change has been made.

RESPONSE: The (b) (4)

Asset that appeared to be Missing from Prior Report

* Page 23 of prior report, line 412: (b)(3) (value (b)(3)). OGE asked if this asset was sold during the reporting period with no income from the sale. The filer's representative responded "No it wasn't sold" and "(b) (4)."

- When the fund was sold to invest in other assets, were there any capital gains? Was there any reportable income for the fund during the reporting period through 5/15/23 before the fund was sold (for example interest or dividends)? In either case, any income of \$201 or more must be reported. Please confirm.
 - **RESPONSE:** See line 2 under investment account #1 - same investment; added income through 5/15/23. We have made the appropriate adjustments to the 278(e).

Attachment – Part 2

*Line 106: Pending with filer/representative.

RESPONSE: At this current report period, there is no receivable from (b)(3).

*Line 140.3: Pending with filer/representative.

RESPONSE: We have made the appropriate adjustments to the 278(e).

* Line 195: Thank you for making this change. Would you please also update to indicate "value not readily ascertainable" since there is only one trademark (i.e. make the word "value" singular).

RESPONSE: We have made the appropriate adjustments to the 278(e).

*line 264 and 268: These are asset management companies. You now indicate that the value is not readily ascertainable. An operating business cannot be valued solely on its cash receipts. In addition, the value of an operating business cannot be "not readily ascertainable." Please review the methods of valuation listed below and provide categories of value in the Value column for lines 264 and 268.

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5 CFR 2634.301(e). *Valuation of interests in property.* A good faith estimate of the fair market value of interests in property may be made in any case in which the exact value cannot be obtained without undue hardship or expense to the filer. If a filer is unable to make a good faith estimate of the value of an asset, the filer may indicate on the report that the “value is not readily ascertainable.” Value may also be determined by:

- (1) The purchase price (in which case, the filer should indicate date of purchase);
- (2) Recent appraisal;
- (3) The assessed value for tax purposes (adjusted to reflect the market value of the property used for the assessment if the assessed value is computed at less than 100 percent of that market value);
- (4) The year-end book value of nonpublicly traded stock, the year-end exchange value of corporate stock, or the face value of corporate bonds or comparable securities;
- (5) The net worth of a business partnership;
- (6) The equity value of an individually owned business; or
- (7) Any other recognized indication of value (such as the last sale on a stock exchange).

*Endnote. The endnote is unnecessary and can be removed.

RESPONSE: We have made the appropriate adjustments to the 278(e).

*Pending with filer/representative: Please confirm that the filer reported income through May 15, 2023. Income is required to be current through the date of filing by the EIGA.

RESPONSE: Confirmed.

From: [Scott Gast](#)
To: [Lorna A. Syme](#); [Jack MacDonald](#)
Subject: Fwd: Candidate Report 8/9/2023- Round 3 Response/Part 6
Date: Monday, September 11, 2023 5:29:26 PM
Attachments: [Part 6 \(Final 09.11.23\).pdf](#)

Att. WIF/(b)(3) - 107 pages

Lorna and Jack,

Attached please find a revised Part 6 of President Trump's financial disclosure report.

Please note that the lines highlighted in yellow reflect changes based either on OGE's third round of questions or updated income amounts for the relevant reporting period January 1, 2022 to May 15, 2023

Thanks,
Scott

Scott Gast
Compass Legal Group
300 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.937.2309



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From: [Jack MacDonald](#)
To: [Heather A. Jones](#)
Subject: RE: Candidate Report
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:54:02 AM

Thanks.

From: Heather A. Jones
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Jack MacDonald <jjmacdon@oge.gov>
Subject: RE: Candidate Report

I think 2:30 should work.

From: Jack MacDonald
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Heather A. Jones <hajones@oge.gov>
Subject: Candidate Report

Hi Heather,

I have reviewed the latest updates to the Trump report and would like to discuss a few items with you. Is there a good time today or tomorrow for you to talk?

Thanks,

Jack

From: [Lorna A. Syme](#)
To: ["Scott Gast"](#)
Cc: [Derek Ross](#); [Jack MacDonald](#)
Subject: Candidate report - [Message and attachment(s) contain CUI]
Date: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:15:50 PM
Attachments: [Round 4 questions Trump.docx](#)
[OGE CUI Coversheet .pdf](#)

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Email and attachment(s) contain CUI.

Scott:

We have reviewed the documents you forwarded on September 12, 2023 and I have attached some follow-up questions. Please let me know if you would like to discuss.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

Lorna

Lorna Syme
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
Telephone: (202) 482-9277

Donald J. Trump: Round 4, OGE Comments

Part 6

- * Page 8 of 117, line 2: Please change the EIF category for this fund to “Yes.”
- * Page 59 of 117, lines 198 and 198: Please renumber the duplicate line number.
- * Page 64 of 117, lines 379 and 380: These line numbers are reversed in order. Please correct the error.
- * Pages 113 and 114 of 117, Family Trust 3: The filer’s representative noted the following about this trust and Family Trust 2: (b) (4)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]”
 - Why do some of the assets in Family Trust 3 still have a value of more than “None (or less than \$1,001)”? OGE would expect that the reported value of all assets held in this trust would be “None (or less than \$1,001).” Can you please explain?

Part 8:

*The Part 8 (Liabilities) page that was included in the report that you emailed on September 12, 2023 (with initialed pages) does not seem to be the same page you submitted with the initial report signed August 9, 2023. This page seems to be the same as the Part 8 page from the previous report. Would you confirm you have used the correct version of Part 8.

ATTACHMENT – Part 2

- *Line 25: Since you have added 25.2, please change the note in the income amount column to indicate “See lines 25.1 to 25.10 below.”
- *Line 25.2. Please confirm there was no advance payment and that the only income the filer receives from “(b)(3)” is (b)(3) from sales.
- *Line 106: You indicate that “At this current report period, there is no receivable from (b)(3) [REDACTED].” Please confirm that there was no income over \$200 from (b)(3) [REDACTED] during the reporting period.
- *Line 140.2 is now listed as “(b)(3) [REDACTED].” On the previous report there was an entry for the “(b)(3) [REDACTED].” Please confirm that these are for the same individual, that the name is correctly listed as (b)(3) [REDACTED]” and that the receivable is from (b)(3) [REDACTED] and not from his (b)(3) [REDACTED].



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