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## STATE ETHICS

## COMMISSION

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**For Immediate Release:**

**2/5/2024**

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### PRESS RELEASE

*State Ethics Commission settles with Representative Stefani Lord for Campaign Reporting Act violation*

Albuquerque, NM, February 5, 2024 – Today, the State Ethics Commission announces it has entered into a settlement agreement with Representative Stefani Lord. This settlement relates to Administrative Case No. 2023-025, *Rael v. Lord*, in which the complainant alleged that Representative Lord made prohibited expenditures with campaign funds. Following an investigation, Commission staff determined that Representative Lord improperly used campaign funds to cover expenses related to legislative session housing and apparel, in direct violation of the Campaign Reporting Act (CRA).

To settle this matter, Representative Lord agreed to pay a \$500 civil penalty for a single violation of the CRA. This settlement took into account that Representative Lord reimbursed the misused campaign funds before the complaint was filed.

On February 2, 2024, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission approved the settlement agreement, and the administrative case was made public.

For access to the settlement agreement and related documents, please refer to the docket for *Rael v. Lord*, publicly available on the State Ethics Commission's Case

Management & Filing System: [State Ethics Commission: Case Management & Filing System \(nm.gov\)](#)

Meeting records and minutes can be found on the commission's meetings page at: [Meetings | New Mexico State Ethics Commission \(nm.gov\)](#).

### **About the State Ethics Commission**

The State Ethics Commission is an independent, constitutional state agency with the authority to enforce civil violations of New Mexico's governmental ethics and disclosure statutes, including the Campaign Reporting Act. The Commission is comprised of three Democratic Commissioners, three Republican Commissioners, and one independent Commissioner who is registered as "decline to state."

For more information about the State Ethics Commission, visit [www.sec.nm.gov](http://www.sec.nm.gov).