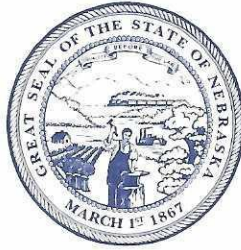


State of Nebraska

Accountability and Disclosure Commission

P.O. BOX 95086
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
nadc.nebraska.gov



Centre Terrace, 1225 L St. #400
Phone (402) 471-2522
Fax (402) 471-6599

Synopsis Case #26-16

Action Taken on August 21, 2026

Respondent: Cindy De La Cruz

The Respondent is Cindy De La Cruz, a resident of Peru, Nebraska. The Complainant is Theresa Westfall. The allegation is that the Respondent, in May, 2026, paid for the production, distribution, or posting of printed matter relating to a candidate without stating the name and street address of the person who did so. This was alleged to be a violation of Section 49-1474.01(1) of the NPADA.

After discussions with the Respondent, she entered into a Settlement Agreement. Under the terms of the Agreement, the Respondent denied that she had intended to violate the terms of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act. However, she admitted that there was sufficient evidence from which the Commission could find a violation of Section 49-1474.01(1) of the Act: failure to state the name and address of the person or entity who paid for the production, distribution or posting of printed matter relating to a candidate. She agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$150.00.

The Commission adopted the Settlement Agreement with six (6) Commissioners concurring, no Commissioners dissenting, and no Commissioners abstaining.

Violation: Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Commission found a violation of §49-1474.01(1) of the NPADA in May, 2026, and the Commission assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$150.00.

Civil Penalty: \$150.00.

Attorney for the Commission: Neil B. Danberg

Synopsis Prepared by: Scott Danigole, Executive Director, NADC.

P.O. Box 95086, Lincoln, NE 68509 (402)-471-2522

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

ORDER

Theresa Westfall v. Cindy De La Cruz

Case #26-16

Now on this 21st day of August, 2026, this matter comes before the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Commissioners Christensen, Chung, Davis, Gloor, Spray and Sullivan are present with Commissioner Christensen presiding. The Respondents are not present. The Commission notes the submission of a proposed Settlement Agreement.

Whereupon, the Commission with six (6) Commissioners concurring, no Commissioners dissenting, and no Commissioners abstaining, finds that the attached Settlement Agreement should be and hereby is approved and incorporated into this Order. Pursuant to that Agreement, the Commission finds that the Respondent failed to state the name and address of the person who paid for the production, distribution or posting of printed matter relating to a candidate in 2026, in violation of §49-1474.01(1) of Nebraska Revised Statutes, as recited in the attached Settlement Agreement.

In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the Commission imposes a civil penalty of \$150.00 upon the Respondent.

Issued this 21st day of August, 2026.

Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission



Scott Danigole
Executive Director

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of this Order was sent by certified U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested on this 21st day of August, 2026 to the following persons and at the following addresses: Cindy De La Cruz, 1208 6th Street, Peru, NE 68421; Theresa Westfall, 1000 7th St., Peru, NE 68421.



Scott Danigole Executive Director

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

ORDER

Theresa Westfall v. Cindy De La Cruz

Case #26-16

Now on this 21st day of August, 2026, this matter comes before the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Commissioners Christensen, Chung, Davis, Gloor, Spray and Sullivan are present with Commissioner Christensen presiding. The Respondents are not present. The Commission notes the submission of a proposed Settlement Agreement.

Whereupon, the Commission with six (6) Commissioners concurring, no Commissioners dissenting, and no Commissioners abstaining, finds that the attached Settlement Agreement should be and hereby is approved and incorporated into this Order. Pursuant to that Agreement, the Commission finds that the Respondent failed to state the name and address of the person who paid for the production, distribution or posting of printed matter relating to a candidate in 2026, in violation of §49-1474.01(1) of Nebraska Revised Statutes, as recited in the attached Settlement Agreement.

In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the Commission imposes a civil penalty of \$150.00 upon the Respondent.

Issued this 21st day of August, 2026.

Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission

Scott Danigole
Executive Director

Certificate of Service

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Scott Danigole Executive Director

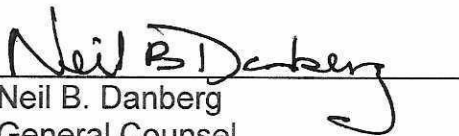
SETTLEMENT MEMORANDUM

Case #26-16

Theresa Westfall v. Cindy De La Cruz

- I. **Nature of the Case.** On May 6, 2026, the Complainant, Theresa Westfall filed a Complaint against the Respondent, Cindy De La Cruz. The basis for the Complaint was that the Respondent had participated in running a political advertisement on behalf of the Peru Recall Committee. However, the advertisement did not contain a street address for the Committee, as required by Section 49-1474.01 of the NPADA.
- II. **Investigation.** After a Notice of Preliminary Investigation had been sent to the Respondent, she answered by admitting that she had participated in placing the advertisement in question. She said that she did not know that there was a disclaimer requirement. She stated that she was at fault, and that she wished to get this matter behind her as soon as possible.
- III. **Settlement Agreement.** At the request of the Respondent, a Settlement Agreement was prepared. In the Agreement, the Respondent admits that there is sufficient evidence to find a violation—even though she was ignorant of the requirements of the Statute at the time. She agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$150.00. She signed the Agreement as presented to her, and she has prepaid the civil penalty.
- IV. **Recommendation.** A copy of the proposed Settlement Agreement has been appended to this Memorandum as **Exhibit "A."** We recommend it's acceptance.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of August, 2026.


Neil B. Danberg
General Counsel

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

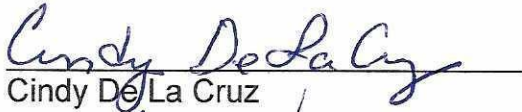
CASE No. 26-16

CINDY DE LA CRUZ

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

- 1) Parties: The parties to this Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") are the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, hereafter referred to as the "Commission," and Cindy De La Cruz, hereinafter, the "Respondent."
- 2) Jurisdiction: The Respondents acknowledge that the Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to the terms of Nebraska Statutes 49-1401 et seq., known as the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("NPADA").
- 3) Intention: The parties hereby agree and intend that this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of any further proceedings in this matter, thereby resolving the matter without further delay and expense to the parties.
- 4) The Alleged Violation: In its Notice of Preliminary Investigation in this case, the Commission has alleged that the Respondent, on or before May, 2026, paid for, produced, distributed or posted printed matter in a newspaper, without stating the name and street address of the person who had done so, in violation of Section 49-1474.01 of the NPADA.
- 5) Stipulation: The Respondent and the Commission stipulate and agree that at the time of the alleged violation, the newspaper advertisement was published in support of a recall question.
- 6) The Alleged Violation, Agreement: The Respondent states that it was not her intent to violate the NPADA as alleged, but she agrees and stipulates that there is sufficient evidence to support the Commission's findings of a violation of Section 49-1474.01 of the NPADA, as stated in the Notice of Preliminary Investigation in this matter, and as described in Paragraph 4, above. The Respondent further agrees that she will not contest the Commission's Order in this case.
- 7) Civil Penalty and Agreement: The parties have agreed that, in view of the Respondent's willingness to resolve this matter and accept the finding of the Commission in this case, the Commission will impose a civil penalty in this matter in the amount of \$150.00.
- 8) The Commission must approve this Agreement in order for it to be effective: The parties agree that for this Agreement to become effective, the Commission must approve it and enter an Order according to the terms of the Agreement.

- 9) Effective Date of Agreement: This Agreement shall not be binding upon the parties until the date it is approved by the Commission, and the Commission issues an Order in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The date of the Order shall be deemed its effective date. If this Agreement is not approved by the Commission, this Agreement shall be void and may not be used in this or any other proceeding. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement and any subsequent Order shall be announced at an open public meeting of the Commission. The parties further acknowledge that, upon adoption, this Agreement, the Order, and the Commission's file pertaining to this matter shall become open and public.
- 10) Right to Address the Commission: The Respondent has a right to address the Commission on the matter of the approval of this Settlement Agreement.
- 11) Advice of Counsel: The Respondent acknowledges that she has had an opportunity to seek the advice of an attorney concerning this Agreement.


Cindy DeLa Cruz

8-3-26
Date


Scott Danigole, Executive Director
Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission

8-2-2026
Date