

Fulford, Millie

OCT 06 2026

From: Lillian Evans <lillianevansdogs@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 10:57 PM
To: Fulford, Millie
Subject: RE: In re: Jackie Espinosa Florida Commission on Ethics Complaint Nos. 26-034 and 26-035

RECEIVED

October 5, 2026

Florida Commission on Ethics
P.O. Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, Florida 32317-5709

RE: In re: Jackie Espinosa
Florida Commission on Ethics Complaint Nos. 26-034 and 26-035
Consolidated Proceedings

Dear Members of the Florida Commission on Ethics:

My name is **Lillian Evans**, and I am writing regarding the proceedings involving Jackie Espinosa, specifically **Florida Commission on Ethics Complaint Nos. 26-034 and 26-035**.

Please accept this correspondence as formal notice that I intend to be personally present at the hearing or meeting at which the Commission considers the disposition of these matters.

I am also writing to respectfully express my serious concern regarding the proposed **\$2,000 civil penalty**.

When an ethics matter involves an alleged financial benefit or transaction of approximately **\$50,000**, resolving the matter with a \$2,000 penalty risks sending the wrong message not only to the public, but also to elected officials throughout the State of Florida.

From the public's perspective, the numbers are difficult to ignore. A matter involving approximately \$50,000 followed by a \$2,000 penalty can create the appearance that the financial consequences of an ethics violation are simply a cost of doing business.

Put another way, if an elected official were to believe that conduct involving approximately \$50,000 could ultimately result in only a \$2,000 financial penalty, the difference is **\$48,000**. That creates the appearance that the financial consequences are minimal compared with the amount involved.

Such an outcome raises serious concerns regarding deterrence and accountability.

Public office is a public trust. Elected officials are entrusted with authority, public resources, and the confidence of the citizens they serve. That trust carries an obligation to place the public interest above private interests and to comply with the ethical standards established by law.

In my view, the conduct at issue in these complaints represents a serious violation of that public trust. When that trust is violated in a matter involving a substantial financial interest, a minimal financial penalty does not adequately restore public confidence or demonstrate meaningful accountability.

For that reason, I believe **Jackie Espinosa should be removed from public office through the lawful process available under Florida law**, and I respectfully urge the Commission to impose, recommend, or refer for consideration the strongest lawful sanctions available to address the seriousness of the conduct.

A \$2,000 fine in a matter involving approximately \$50,000 risks creating the perception that an elected official can violate ethics requirements, pay a comparatively small penalty, and simply continue in office.

That should not become the message sent to elected officials throughout Florida.

Ethics enforcement must provide a meaningful deterrent. It should never create the impression that an ethics violation involving a substantial financial amount can be resolved through what amounts to an inexpensive payout.

There is no meaningful victory for the public if the consequence is so small that future elected officials may view the potential penalty as an acceptable risk.

The purpose of governmental ethics enforcement should include protecting public confidence, ensuring accountability, preserving the integrity of public office, and discouraging future violations.

This concern extends beyond Jackie Espinosa or any single elected official. Decisions made in these cases send a message to every public official in Florida regarding the consequences of violating the ethical responsibilities that accompany public service.

The citizens of Florida should be able to believe that ethics laws have meaningful consequences and that violating the public trust cannot become a simple financial calculation.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Commission to carefully consider whether a **\$2,000 penalty is proportionate to the conduct and financial circumstances at issue in Complaint Nos. 26-034 and 26-035**, whether that penalty provides sufficient accountability and deterrence, and whether stronger sanctions are necessary to protect the integrity of public office.

I will be present for the hearing and respectfully ask that this correspondence be maintained with the records relating to:

Complaint No. 26-034 – In re: Jackie Espinosa
Complaint No. 26-035 – In re: Jackie Espinosa

Thank you for your consideration and for your responsibility in protecting the integrity of public service in the State of Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Evans
Kissimmee, Florida

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone