

Reports: AG's office looking at money from Griego political committee

Written by By Matthew Reichbach NM Political Report
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The case against Phil Griego is growing.

The former State Senator may have a “slush fund” where he took money from political donations to a political committee.

Griego is already facing trial on nine public corruption charges related to a real estate deal the then-Senator profited from that was only made possible by legislation passed by the Legislature.

Now, it appears the investigation is going into the San Jose Democrat's political campaign accounts.

That latest revelation, reported by by the *Albuquerque Journal* and *Santa Fe New Mexican*, comes after a district judge granted a warrant to an investigator in the AG's office to examine Griego's bank records with Griego's political committee, Advance New Mexico (not to be confused with the Susana-Martinez-aligned Advance New Mexico Now).

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A \$4,000 donation went from his campaign account to Advance New Mexico, but that report was not in campaign finance reports for the political committee. Another \$3,800, between two checks, went into the account from the Carlisle Solutions Group, an IT firm.

In 2014, Griego took all of the money left, nearly \$2,800, out of the account.

NM Political Report reported that in 2015, Griego was still spending campaign cash to reach out to constituents even after he was no longer in office. Griego said at the time he was not intending to run for office again.

Griego resigned from his seat in the state Senate because of the real estate deal. His resignation came ahead of a possible vote to remove him from office.

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