

## State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 ● E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov ● Website: www.pdc.wa.gov March 12, 2021

Delivered electronically to admin@thurstoncountyrepublicans.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Jim Lazar, PDC Case 77232

Dear Thurston County Republican Central Committee:

Enclosed is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Jim Lazar concerning a complaint filed September 18, 2020 with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

On March 11, 2021, the PDC received the completed Statement of Understanding (SOU) acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.235 for failing to timely report contributions and expenditures on Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports. The payment of the \$500 civil penalty in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule) resolves the issue of failing to timely report contributions and expenditures on C-4 reports.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), this letter serves as a formal written warning concerning violations of RCW 42.17A.225 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution (C-3) reports. Staff expects you will, in the future, timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures as required by law. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

The PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or take any further enforcement action in this matter. Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed the case in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and WAC 390-37-070. If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov

| Sincerely,         | Endorsed by,       |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| /s                 | /s                 |
| Alice Fiman        | Peter Lavallee     |
| Compliance Officer | Executive Director |



## State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 ● E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov ● Website: www.pdc.wa.gov March 12, 2021

Delivered electronically to jim@jimlazar.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Thurston County Republican Central Committee, PDC Case 77232

## Dear Jim Lazar:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint you filed September 18, 2020. The complaint alleged the Thurston County Republican Central Committee (Committee), a Continuing Bona-fide County Political Party Committee, may have violated RCW 42.17A.225, .235 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution (C-3) reports and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the Committee during the 2020 election year.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the applicable PDC reports; and the response from the Committee, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On, February 10, 2021, the Thurston County Republican Central Committee (Committee) filed its most recent Committee Registration with the PDC as a Continuing Bona-fide County Political Committee, selecting the "Full Reporting" Option, and listing Kelley Payne as Chairwoman and Sherry Beardslee as Treasurer. The Committee has been registered with the PDC and reporting as a Bona fide County Political Committee dating back to at least 2007.
- The Committee filed 12 C-3 reports for election year 2020 reporting \$22,568 in cash and \$7,016.00 in in-kind contributions. The reports disclosed contributions from two low-cost fundraisers totaling \$2,232.10 and contributions from businesses and individuals. The C-3 reports were filed between 199 and 14 days late.

- In response to the complaint, former Committee treasurer Tamie Maxim stated she was new to the position, sought help from the PDC over the phone but was unable to attend any training due to her full-time job. Maxim stated "I was filing the C3 reports and thought for whatever reason that the C4 report was an annual report. This was unintentional. Now that I know that the C4 reports need to be filed I will file."
- On October 26, 2020, the Committee filed C-4 reports covering the period of January 1 through October 12, 2020, disclosing \$44,598 in total contributions received and \$26,128 in total expenditures made. The C-4 reports included both the 21-day and 7-day preprimary C-4 reports disclosing seven 2020 candidate contributions totaling \$6,000 made between July 22 and August 21, 2020. The seven candidate contributions made by the Committee included: \$500 to Garry Holland; \$500 to JD Ingram; \$250 to Marty McClendon; \$2,000 to Dan Giffey; \$2,000 to Drew MacEwen; \$250 to Dusty Pierpoint; and a \$500 contribution to C Davis.
- The \$6,000 in candidate contributions reported on the 21-day and 7-day pre-primary C-4 reports filed by the Committee were disclosed between 103 and 89 days late, and only eight days before the 2020 General Election.

On March 11, 2021, the PDC received a completed Statement of Understanding (SOU) from the Committee acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely report contributions and expenditures on C-4 reports. The Committee paid a \$500 civil penalty in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule), which resolves the issue.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), the Committee will receive a formal written warning concerning violations of RCW 42.17A.225 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately file C-3 reports. Staff expects, in the future, the Committee will timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures as required by law. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

The PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or take any further enforcement action in this matter. Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed the case against Thurston County Republican Central Committee, in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and WAC 390-37-070.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

| Sincerely,         | Endorsed by,       |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| /s                 | _/s                |
| Alice Fiman        | Peter Lavallee     |
| Compliance Officer | Executive Director |