



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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August 18, 2021

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint regarding the Committee to Recall Adam Fortney, PDC Case 95967

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 9, 2021. Your complaint alleged that the Committee to Recall Adam Fortney, a recall committee in 2020, may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to accurately disclose the Top 5 Contributors on political advertising.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the applicable PDC reports filed by the Committee to Recall Adam Fortney (Committee); and reviewed their data in the PDC database, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On May 20, 2020, the Committee filed a Committee Registration (C-1pc) selecting the Full Reporting option and listing Eric Halvorson and Colin McMahon as Treasurer and Campaign Chair, respectively.
- RCW 42.17A.320(2)(b) states in part that, "If the sponsor is a political committee, the statement: "Top Five Contributors," followed by a listing of the names of the five persons making the largest contributions."
- On or about February 11 and 18, 2021, the Committee placed two advertisements in the *Edmonds Beacon* without identifying the Top Five Contributors in violation of RCW 42.17A.320(2)(b).

- In its response to this allegation, the Committee, through its treasurer, Eric Halvorson, stated: “Every other ad we placed had the correct verbiage. As did our website. No one was trying to hide anything, and it certainly didn’t help us gather enough signatures.”

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, the Committee’s failure to correctly identify the Top Five Contributors on the two advertisements placed on the *Edmonds Beacon*, does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

However, staff will remind the Committee about the importance of making sure that political advertisements depict the Top Five Contributors in the future in accordance with statutory scheme codified in RCW 42.17A.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina at 360-586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

s/_____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

s/_____
Kim Bradford, Deputy Director
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Eric Halvorson, Recall Adam Fortney Committee Treasurer

