

Respondent Names
Toppenish School District
Complainant Name
Neeland Pendlebury
Complaint Description
<p><a href="#">Neeland G Pendlebury</a> (Tue, 9 Nov 2021 at 6:51 AM)</p> <p><b>RCW <a href="#">42.17A.550</a></b>  <b>Use of public funds for political purposes.</b>  <u>Public funds, whether derived through taxes, fees, penalties, or any other sources, shall not be used to finance political campaigns for state or school district office.</u></p> <p><b>RCW <a href="#">42.52.180</a></b>  <b>Use of public resources for political campaigns.</b>  (1) <u>No state officer or state employee may use or authorize the use of facilities of an agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of a person to an office or for the promotion of or opposition to a ballot proposition. Knowing acquiescence by a person with authority to direct, control, or influence the actions of the state officer or state employee using public resources in violation of this section constitutes a violation of this section.</u> Facilities of an agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of state employees of the agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the agency.</p> <p>Toppenish School District used school resources and school district employees' paid time to support Rosa Ortiz's campaign for the school board.</p> <p>The high school used their large format printer to print 100 political signs for Rosa Ortiz, these signs were to be paid for by Eligio Jimenez (<a href="https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/cases/80241">https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/cases/80241</a>, <a href="https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/cases/10056">https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/cases/10056</a>, <a href="https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/cases/16-271">https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/cases/16-271</a> ). The order to print the signs was delivered to the employee on Sept 8th, then the \$1200 bill was sent on Sept 15th. When the printing was done the school employee tried to charge a fair price of \$1200, but they were called by another district employee (Mike Romero, who while he was being paid by the district acted for Ortiz's benefit ) and told to lower the price. At this point the employee printing the signs went to his supervisor to report that this was not proper, but was told that "If they do it for one person they will have to do it for anyone", and the price of the signs was lowered to \$600 for 100 signs. This amount paid for the signs and given to her exceeds the \$500 limit Roza Ortiz can accept since she filed the C1 form for simple reporting. The signs were picked up by Maria Jimenez and then distributed around town, and some were placed on school</p>

property( <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/cases/99943> ). The \$600 does not represent a fair price and the school district employee was on contracted time and extra time-sheet time when printing the signs.

**What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?**

It creates the impression that the school district supports one candidate over their opponent and also gives Roza Ortiz an unfair advantage since she had the school printers and district employees available for her campaign. The contribution to her campaign also exceeded the \$500 limit she claimed by filing a C1 form for financial disclosure. With the vote totals on 10-9-21 only being 4 votes apart this advantage may have affected the outcome.

**List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found**

I can be reached for copies of the emails and contacts who were involved.

**List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them**

I can be reached for copies of the emails and contacts who were involved.

**Certification (Complainant)**

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.