

<b>Respondent Name(s)</b>
Tom Crowson
<b>Complainant Name(s)</b>
Jonathan Meyer
<b>Complaint Description</b>
<p><u><a href="#">Jonathan Meyer</a></u> reported via the portal (<i>Tue, 20 Sep 2022 at 10:06 AM</i>)</p> <p>Mr. Crowson is an appointed member of the Lewis County Board of Equalizations and a candidate for Lewis County Assessor. Recently, Mr. Crowson approached Lewis County Commissioner Sean Swope in the Historic Courthouse (County Administrative Building) seeking an endorsement for his campaign. Mr. Crowson was sent an email from this Office advising against such political activity on County property. Subsequent to that, Mr. Crowson, after the conclusion of a Board of Equalizations' meeting, Mr. Crowson vocally advocated for the gathering of signatures in support of an initiative that would impact property taxes.</p> <p>RE Campaigning in public facilities.msg 108.54 KB</p>
<b>What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?</b>
May impact public confidence in the political process.
<b>List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found</b>
Email string to Mr. Crowson
<b>List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them</b>
Lewis County Commissioner Sean Swope ( <a href="mailto:sean.swope@lewiscountywa.gov">sean.swope@lewiscountywa.gov</a> ) Assessor Dianne Dorey ( <a href="mailto:dianne.dorey@lewiscountywa.gov">dianne.dorey@lewiscountywa.gov</a> )
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.

**From:** Jonathan Meyer  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 1:46 PM  
**To:** 'crowsonforassessor@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Amber Smith  
**Subject:** RE: Campaigning in public facilities

Mr. Crowson:

I have reviewed the email from Ms. Smith of this Office (below). At the time, Ms. Smith was unaware of your role with the Board of Equalization. Your role with that Board somewhat changes the analysis. Your actions *do* appear to be in violation of RCW 42.17A.555.

More troubling is that, after the admonishment for your earlier actions, this Office received a report that, after the conclusion of a meeting of the Board of Equalization on September 16, 2022, you openly and vocally advocated for the gathering of signatures for initiative that would impact property taxes. This appears to again be in violation of RCW 42.17A.555.

Because of this conduct, this Office is referring this matter to the Public Disclosure Commission for review pursuant to RCW 42.17A.750. Please refrain from further activities of this nature.

Jonathan L. Meyer  
Lewis County Prosecutor  
345 W. Main, Fl. 2  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
(360) 740-2638 (Desk)



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**From:** Amber Smith <amber.smith@lewiscountywa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 15:28  
**To:** 'crowsonforassessor@gmail.com' <crowsonforassessor@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Jonathan Meyer <Jonathan.Meyer@lewiscountywa.gov>

**Subject:** Campaigning in public facilities

Mr. Crowson,

It is my understanding that you had contact with Commissioner Swope today while at the Historic Courthouse Building and requested his endorsement for your campaign. RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits county employees and elected officials from using public facilities to support or oppose an elections campaign. While your request did not necessarily violate RCW 42.17A.555 on the prohibition on the use of public facilities in campaigns because you yourself are not an elected official or County employee, the County would ask you to not actively campaign while at County facilities.

This does not mean you are completely prohibited from seeking such endorsements or campaign support from county employees or elected officials. It means they cannot express that position or engage in campaign activities while in County facilities or during their work hours. See WAC 390-05-271.

If you have any questions regarding this email, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Best,

*Amber Smith*

**Sr. Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Lewis County Prosecutor's Office  
345 W. Main Street, Second Floor  
Chehalis, WA 98532-1900  
(360) 740-2750 (desk)  
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