

Respondent Name
Melissa McMahon Do
Complainant Name
Glen Morgan
Complaint Description
<p><u>Glen Morgan</u> reported via the portal (Thu, 20 Jul 2023 at 6:08 PM) To whom it may concern,</p> <p>It has come to my attention that Melissa McMahon Do has violated Washington State's Campaign Finance laws (RCW 42.17A) during her current 2023 campaign for Tukwila City Council.</p> <p>1) Total concealment of all donors, expenditure information from the public (Violation of RCW 42.17A.240, 42.17A.235)</p> <p>I was stuck at a coffee shop in Yakima today, waiting for my next meeting to begin, so I had some time to kill. I thought I would scan the PDC website and see which violator I missed the last time I looked at the airport. There is always someone. Then, I remembered some research I did last week, which I sorta left hanging, so I wanted to compile this and get it over to the PDC. Right now, it looks like Melissa McMahon Do and her secretive, illegal political campaign caught my eye, and I might as well get the ball rolling here.</p> <p>It is obvious that her campaign has had multiple expenses already, yet she has not reported any expenses to the PDC. She's had Campaign signs installed on Tukwila streets for at least six weeks, yet no related expenses were ever reported to the PDC. (Photos attached as just a sampling of the many campaign signs – I asked a few people to take photos of these signs so I could attach them for reference) It takes weeks to design and order campaign signs ahead of time, so this violation is perhaps a month or older already.</p> <p>In addition, she clearly failed to report the filing fee for this office – which should be around \$150. There is no good reason to conceal this information from the public. This has been concealed from the public. For clarification of the need to report this expenditure, I've attached the relevant AGO (AGO 1974:16 attached) which clearly spells this out as it applies in this case.</p> <p>It appears she has professional photos on her website, so the cost of a photographer should be included. and the page source (attached) shows "Copyright The Closure Library Authors" so evidently professional web development was involved as well. The WHOIS Search Results (attached) for her domain name shows it was created 6-9-2023, so someone paid for this expense more than a month and a half ago, yet again, nothing was ever reported and all this information has been concealed from the public.</p> <p>The election is just a few days away. The ballots were mailed (often multiple ballots to the same address as has been the habit of the King County elections Department) weeks ago, and they are being harvested from homeless camps, dumpsters, election worker trunks, and elsewhere as they have been for weeks now. We are in the critical phase of this election cycle and the public has been kept in the dark by this flagrantly illegal political campaign.</p> <p>2) Willful and malicious failure to identify who has paid for and sponsored her website (Violation of RCW 42.17A.320)</p> <p>Her website does not say who paid for it. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.320) It should also be noted that she has a "Donation" button on her website and when I last looked at the donation page last week it shows</p>

that she's had at least 6 donations, totaling \$322.37, but none of these 6 donors have been identified on her C3s, In fact, no C3s have ever been submitted for her campaign, so it is a mystery to everyone who has funded this illegal, secretive campaign.

The public has been kept entirely in the dark on this campaign, and even though it should be a full-reporting campaign, this candidate decided that the law didn't apply to her and she could just willfully ignore everything in her quest for power in this city. Some politicians will do anything to get into public office, so I realize this shouldn't surprise anyone, but this candidate is just in the early phases of this process, and it would be refreshingly nice if she would at least pretend to care about the law and the people who she is attempting to deceive by her actions.

Let me know if you need any further information on this one. She seems like someone who will continue to break the law in the future, unfortunately, so it is worth keeping a close eye on this campaign.

Best Regards,

Glen Morgan

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

The public has a right to know who is funding a politician and their political quest for power. The public has a right to know how they are spending their campaign funds, and the public should not have to file PDC complaints just to get a rogue politician to follow the law - or at least pretend to do so.

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

All referenced and attached as exhibits

List of potential witnesses

I would recommend subpoenas for everyone associated with this campaign and probably the bank records just to make sure they are going to be semi-accurate, if not honest with this situation.

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.








Elect THOMAS
M. LEON
Den
Mart

Tukwila City Council
Position 4

 **MELISSA**
DO
VOTE
TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL
POSITION 4
melissa4tukwila.com

VOTE YES

1

**OUTSOURCING
FIRE SAFETY!**
NO
PROP 1



Donate



Donate

\$322.37

6

\$5,000

Raised

Donations

Goal

Choose amount



- One-time
- Weekly
- Biweekly
- Monthly

- \$ 10
- \$ 20
- \$ 50
- \$ 100
- \$ 500

\$ Custom Amount

☐ Write us a comment

Next →

Powered by Donorbox ([https://poweredby.donorbox.org?utm_source=Poweredby&utm_campaign=Melissa 4 Tukwila&utm_content=464003&utm_org=Melissa 4 Tukwila](https://poweredby.donorbox.org?utm_source=Poweredby&utm_campaign=Melissa+4+Tukwila&utm_content=464003&utm_org=Melissa+4+Tukwila)).



Donate



Donate



WHOIS search results

Domain Name:
MELISSA4TUKWILA.COM
Registry Domain ID:
2788550964_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registrar WHOIS Server:
whois.google.com
Registrar URL:
<http://domains.google.com>
Updated Date: 2023-06-09T16:39:46Z
Creation Date: 2023-06-09T16:39:45Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2024-06-09T16:39:45Z
Registrar: Google LLC
Registrar IANA ID: 895
Registrar Abuse Contact Email:
registrar-abuse@google.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone:
+1.8772376466
Domain Status:
clientTransferProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>
Name Server: NS-CLOUD-D1.GOOGLEDOMAINS.COM
Name Server: NS-CLOUD-D2.GOOGLEDOMAINS.COM
Name Server: NS-CLOUD-D3.GOOGLEDOMAINS.COM
Name Server: NS-CLOUD-D4.GOOGLEDOMAINS.COM
DNSSEC: signedDelegation
DNSSEC DS Data: 52232 8 2
A863020A804322CCC20F042ADDF57DBA79DA1C5EFFB94ED4C37E6EEC2A3B6F3
URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy
Complaint Form:
<https://www.icann.org/wicf/>
>>> Last update of whois database:
2023-07-13T00:15:00Z <<<
For more information on Whois status codes, please visit
<https://icann.org/epp>
NOTICE: The expiration date displayed in this record is the date the registrar's sponsorship of the domain name registration in the registry is currently set to expire. This date does not necessarily reflect the expiration date of the domain name registrant's agreement with the sponsoring registrar. Users may consult the sponsoring registrar's Whois database to view the registrar's reported date of expiration for this registration.
TERMS OF USE: You are not authorized to access or query our Whois database through the use of electronic processes that are high-volume and automated except as reasonably necessary to register domain names or modify existing registrations; the Data in VeriSign Global Registry Services' ("VeriSign") Whois database is provided by VeriSign for

Line wrap

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1 <!DOCTYPE html><html lang="en-US" itemscope itemtype="http://schema.org/WebPage"><head><meta charset="utf-8"><script nonce="4w37An06oNRoDQ63I_18kQ">var
2 "><meta itemprop="name" content="Home"><meta itemprop="description" content="Melissa McMahon Do
3 "><meta itemprop="url" content="https://www.melissa4tukwila.com/home"><link href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Oswald%3A400%2C600%2C700%7CQ
4
5 Copyright The Closure Library Authors.
6 SPDX-License-Identifier: Apache-2.0
7 */
8 var a=(this||self)._jsa||{};a._cfc=void 0;a._aeh=void 0;}).call(this);
9 </script><script nonce="4w37An06oNRoDQ63I_18kQ">const imageUrl = 'https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/e-Qy-qKFbDBx6mQB7-07JVSqQ7r7KpUwe0l3mcSyz2caB7-
10 function bgImgLoaded() {
11   if (!globals.headerBgImgLoaded) {
12     globals.headerBgImgLoaded = new Date().getTime();
13   } else {
14     globals.headerBgImgLoaded();
15   }
16 }
17 if (imageUrl) {
18   const img = new Image();
19   img.src = imageUrl;
20   img.onload = bgImgLoaded;
21   globals.headerBgImgExists = true;
22 } else {
23   globals.headerBgImgExists = false;
24 }
25 </script></head><body dir="ltr" itemscope itemtype="http://schema.org/WebPage" id="yDmH0d" css="yDmH0d"><div jscontroller="pc62j" jsmodel="iTeaX
26
27 img {
28   float: left;
29
30 }
31
32 &lt;/style&gt;&lt;/head&gt;
33
34 &lt;body&gt;
35
36
37
38 &lt;p style="font-family:georgia;font-size:120%;&quot;&gt;&lt;img src="https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/drive-viewer/AFGJ81pwTC5-eM9bVfCQ_okp
39
40 Dear residents of Tukwila,&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;
41 I am Melissa McMahon Do, and I am honored to announce my candidacy for Tukwila City Council, Position 4. I am deeply committed to serving our community
42 Tukwila is a remarkable city, filled with diverse and vibrant communities. I believe in the power of diversity to drive positive change. If elected, I
43 One of my primary focuses is fostering economic development that benefits all residents. I recognize the importance of attracting new businesses and jo
44 Healthcare accessibility and mental health support are crucial aspects of our well-being. As a healthcare professional, I understand the significance c
45 Environmental sustainability is another key priority. Tukwila&#39;s natural beauty is a valuable asset that must be preserved for future generations. I
46 Collaboration and partnerships are fundamental to achieving our goals. I believe in working closely with community organizations, local businesses, and
47 I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you, the residents of Tukwila. With integrity, transparency, and a genuine commitment to your best interests
48 Thank you, Melissa McMahon Do&lt;/p&gt;
49
50 &lt;/body&gt;&lt;/html&gt;" jsaction="rcuQ6b:WYd;"><div class="EmVfjc qs41qe UzswCe" data-loadingmessage=" " jscontroller="qAKInc" jsaction="animation
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Attorney General Slade Gorton

**ELECTIONS -- INITIATIVE NO. 276 -- FILING FEES AS REPORTABLE EXPENDITURES
UNDER INITIATIVE NO. 276**

A candidate for elective office who is required to pay a filing fee under RCW 29.18.050 must treat that fee as an expenditure under the campaign expenditure reporting requirements of Initiative No. 276.

July 29, 1974

Honorable Kenneth Kennedy
Chairman, Washington Public
Disclosure Commission
Insurance Building
Olympia, Washington 98504

Cite as: AGO 1974 No. 16

Dear Sir:

By letter previously acknowledged the commission has requested our opinion on a question which we paraphrase as follows:

Must a candidate for elective office who is required to pay a filing fee under RCW 29.18.050 treat that fee as an expenditure under the campaign expenditure reporting requirements of Initiative No. 276?

We answer this question in the affirmative for the reasons set forth in our analysis.

ANALYSIS

Your question involves the campaign financing provisions of Initiative No. 276 (now codified as chapter 42.17 RCW), insofar as they relate to expenditures by candidates or [[Orig. Op. Page 2]] political committees.^{1/}

This new disclosure law, which was approved by the voters at the November, 1972, state general election, contains several provisions relating to the reporting of political campaign

expenditures. First, § 8 (now codified as RCW 42.17.080) provides that when a campaign treasurer is designated by a candidate or political committee there must be filed a "report of all contributions received and expenditures made in the election campaign prior to that date." (Emphasis supplied.) Then, RCW 42.17.090 (codifying § 9) sets out the general requirements for the reporting of such expenditures. Among the items of information that must be reported pursuant to this section are "the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure was made in the aggregate amount of \$25.00 or more, and the amount, date and purpose of each such expenditure." (RCW 42.17.090(1)(f).) Further, subsection (1)(g) of RCW 42.17.090 requires the continual reporting of the total sum of a candidate's campaign expenditures.

The term "expenditure" itself is defined in § 2 of the act (RCW 42.17.020(12)) as meaning:

". . . a payment, contribution, subscription, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of value, and includes a contract, promise, or agreement, [[Orig. Op. Page 3]] whether or not legally enforceable, to make an expenditure. The term 'expenditure' also includes a promise to pay, a payment or a transfer of anything of value in exchange for goods, services, property, facilities or anything of value for the purpose of assisting, benefiting or honoring any public official or candidate, or assisting in furthering or opposing any election campaign."

In other words, an expenditure, for the purposes of the act, includes any transfer or payment of anything of value which is made for the purpose of assisting a public official or candidate in furthering his election campaign. This leads us to your present question; i.e., whether the statutory filing fee provided for in RCW 29.18.050 constitutes such an "expenditure."

Insofar as is here material, this statute provides as follows:

"A fee of one dollar must accompany each declaration of candidacy for a precinct office without salary; a fee of ten dollars for any office with a compensation attached of one thousand dollars per annum or less; a fee equal to one percent of the annual compensation for any office with a compensation attached of more than one thousand dollars per annum."

The significance of this filing fee will readily be seen when the foregoing statute is read in conjunction with RCW 29.18.030, which provides that:

"The name of no candidate shall be printed upon the official ballot used at a state primary, unless not earlier than the last Monday of July nor later than the next succeeding Friday, a declaration of candidacy is filed in the form hereinafter set forth . . ."

Although situated in a chapter of the election code dealing with partisan primaries and elections, these two statutes (RCW 29.18.030 and 29.18.050) apply not only to elections for partisan offices but, as well, to elections for nonpartisan offices under chapter 29.21 RCW. See, RCW 29.21.020. In [[Orig. Op. Page 4]] AGO 1974 No. 12 [[to A. Ludlow Kramer, Secretary of State on June 28, 1974]], copy enclosed, however, we recently advised that the filing fee requirement of RCW 29.18.050 is no longer constitutionally enforceable, in view of a recent United States Supreme Court decision, in the case of indigent persons who are financially unable to pay the fee required for the particular office they are seeking.

With this exception, however, it is readily to be seen that for the purposes of the election law, a person seeking election to a particular office for which a filing fee is prescribed may not become an official candidate unless he has paid the required filing fee in conjunction with the filing of his

declaration of candidacy. From this it follows, in our opinion, that the filing fee does constitute an "expenditure," for the purposes of Initiative No. 276, in view of the definition contained in § 2 (RCW 42.17.020(12)),supra.

In simplest terms, this payment (in those cases in which it is required) is a necessary part of the candidate's financial outlay if he is to have his name appear on the ballot and, in that manner, become eligible to be elected to the office he is seeking. Moreover, the payment is very clearly a transfer of something of value and it cannot be doubted that it is for the purpose of assisting the candidate and furthering his election campaign. Payment of the filing fee is thus precisely within the broad definition of "expenditure" as set forth above. We must therefore answer your question, as above paraphrased, in the affirmative.

We trust the foregoing will be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

SLADE GORTON
Attorney General

JAMES VACHE
Assistant Attorney General

***** FOOTNOTES *****

1/The terms "candidate" and "political committee" are defined in RCW 42.17.020(5) and (22), respectively, as follows:

"(5) 'Candidate' means any individual who seeks election to public office. An individual shall be deemed to seek election when he first:

"(a) Receives contribution or makes expenditures or reserves space or facilities with intent to promote his candidacy for office; or

"(b) Announces publicly or files for office.

". . .

"(22) 'Political committee' means any person (except a candidate or an individual dealing with his own funds or property) having the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in support of, or opposition to, any candidate or any ballot proposition."