



**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](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov)**

October 16, 2023

Delivered electronically to [ron@seattle4ron.com](mailto:ron@seattle4ron.com) , [info@seattle4ron.com](mailto:info@seattle4ron.com) ,  
[abbot@abbotttaylor.com](mailto:abbot@abbotttaylor.com) and [michael@ulstrategies.com](mailto:michael@ulstrategies.com)

Subject: Complaint filed by Wendy Sykes, PDC Case 140537

Dear Ron Davis:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Wendy Sykes concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Wendy Sykes, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-586-8929, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

Electronically signed Tabatha Blacksmith  
Tabatha Blacksmith  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed Kim Bradford  
Kim Bradford  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Frey Lavallee  
Executive Director



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October 16, 2023

Delivered electronically to [sykes.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:sykes.wendy@gmail.com)

Subject: Complaint regarding Ron Davis, PDC Case 140537

Dear Wendy Sykes:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 24, 2023. The complaint alleged that Ron Davis, a 2023 Seattle City Council candidate, may have violated [RCW 42.17A.320](#) by failing to sufficiently identify the sponsor of political advertising on letters it mailed in July of 2023.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations and evidence you submitted; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Ron Davis (the “Respondent”); and other relevant information to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- The Respondent is a 2023 candidate for City Council Member of City of Seattle. The Respondent filed a *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report) with the PDC on March 22, 2023 for his campaign “Ron for Seattle.” The Respondent participated in the 2023 Primary Election and will participate in the 2023 General Election.
- In July of 2023, the Respondent mailed two letters to Seattle residents requesting support for his 2023 election campaign that did not contain sufficient sponsor identification. The evidence provided by the Complainant shows the candidate was identified in the introduction of the letter and the campaign’s return address was provided on the envelope. However, the letters did not contain the required “Paid for by” or “Sponsored by” language, followed by the sponsor’s name and address, which should appear on the first page of the advertisement and be set apart from other text.
- On August 11, 2023, the Respondent provided a written response to the complaint allegation wherein he stated that the campaign’s failure to comply with sponsor identification requirements was an accident, apologized, and acknowledged the mistake. The Respondent said that non-compliance was caused by a last-minute change to an out-of-state vendor for the mailers, and that there was no intent to conceal the identity of the sponsor. He indicated that this matter was also under investigation by the Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission (SEEC).

- This activity falls under the jurisdiction of the SEEC, which investigates and enforces alleged violations of the sponsor identification requirements set forth in [Title 2.04.290](#).
- According to the SEEC, this matter was resolved by its Commission on October 4, 2023 via a Settlement Agreement with the Respondent and the assessment of a \$1,000 penalty.

Based on these findings, PDC staff has deferred this matter to the SEEC pursuant to [WAC 390-37-061\(4\)](#) because the alleged violation was addressed under an analogous local ordinance. The PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not pursue further investigation or enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-586-8929, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

*Electronically signed Tabatha Blacksmith*  
Tabatha Blacksmith  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

*Electronically signed Kim Bradford*  
Kim Bradford  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Frey Lavalley  
Executive Director

cc: Ron Davis