

[Pam Stuart](#)

replied

Tue, 8 Aug 2023 at 4:36 PM

To: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

External Email

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is in response to PDC case number 140539.

The complaint alleges that my campaign is violation of RCW 42.17A.335 & WAC 390-18-040 for misuse of the term "re-elect" in campaign advertising (EY '23; AUG '23)

"Candidate is using the term "re-elect" even though she was APPOINTED to her current position. She was currently a council member a few years ago but she held a different position # at that point and chose not to run for re-election at that point. "

[WAC 390-18-040](#): states

Use of the terms "reelect," "retain," and "return."

(1) The term "reelect" when used in an advertisement represents that the candidate is presently holding the office being sought, was elected to it, and is seeking another term in that same office in the same district or political subdivision.

(2) The term "reelect" may be used in an advertisement by a nonincumbent candidate who has previously been elected to the office being sought provided that in the same advertisement it is clearly stated that the candidate is not the incumbent.

(3) The term "retain" in an advertisement represents that the candidate is the incumbent but does not necessarily imply that the candidate attained the office by election.

(4) The term "return" in an advertisement represents that the candidate now holds, or has previously held, the office being sought, but does not represent that the office was necessarily attained by election.

(5) Whenever the boundaries of a district or political subdivision are officially altered through redistricting, consolidation or other official procedures, the candidate holding an office in the affected district or political subdivision may, in an advertisement, use the term "reelect," "retain" or "return," as appropriate, if the candidate is seeking the same office in the revised district or political subdivision.

Per the above, I am in full compliance with the law as I presently hold the office being sought, I was previously elected to the office being sought (2017) and I am currently seeking election to said office in the same district or political subdivision.

Per the definition of political subdivision, the City of Sammamish is all one political subdivision (see FEMA definition below). In the city of Sammamish, all council positions are at-large. MRSC makes a clear distinction between at-large representation and district representation. Sammamish has no districts, therefore, I cannot be running for a different district and it must be concluded that it is the same district.

[MRSC - District-Based Elections and Redistricting](#)

District Versus At-Large Representation

While many local governments in Washington elect members of their governing body at-large, especially cities and towns, others have chosen to establish wards or districts in which some or all of the councilmembers/commissioners are elected by and represent a specific geographic area. It should be noted that redistricting must take place far in advance of a municipal general election.

Per FEMA, Political Subdivision

A unit of government created by and under the authority of a higher level of government. If a state divides itself up into counties, the counties are political subdivisions of the state. If those counties divide themselves up into county subdivisions, the county subdivisions are political subdivisions of the counties, which are in turn political subdivisions of the state.

Respectfully,
Pam Stuart