

Cade Walker replied

(Fri, 8 Sep 2023 at 2:30 PM)

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Cc: [info@thurstondemocrats.org](mailto:info@thurstondemocrats.org) , [griff@thurstondemocrats.org](mailto:griff@thurstondemocrats.org)

External Email

Dear PDC and Ms. Blacksmith –

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the complaint filed against Thurston County Democrats (TCD) by Glen Morgan that we received notice of on August 18, 2023.

As a bit of background, the current TCD board is in its first term of service, with only one member having served on the board during a previous term. This includes our treasurer, who is in their first term as a treasurer for a political organization. All TCD's board members are volunteers; TCD has no employees nor does any member receive compensation for the services they provide the organization. It is fair to say that we are all amateurs or "rookies" this year, and we have greatly appreciated the help from the PDC as we continue to learn the nuances of our reporting responsibilities.

*Allegation One: Alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.205(4) for failure to timely amend C-1pc report within 10 days of a material change (officers)*

TCD was unaware of this requirement. We had maintained a current list of our officers on TCD's website ([thurstondemocrats.org](http://thurstondemocrats.org)), so there was no effort to conceal our officers. Rather, this was merely an administrative lapse that will not occur again now that we are aware of the requirement. TCD has since updated its C1PC twice since receiving notice from the PDC.

*Allegation Two: Alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 for failure to timely & accurately report contributions & expenditures in election years 2018-2023*

TCD recognizes that since 2018, there have been some reports that have been filed late, though none of these reports have apparently been filed untimely in any sort of effort to deceive or disregard the reporting timing requirements. Rather, for most of the untimely reports listed in the complaint, the filings are less than a week late (with many being a day late).

Further, the reports that had been filed late this year were the result of a simple administrative error, where the due date of these reports had been switched with the due date of other reports; a simple mistake that has since been fixed. While most of the late filings occurred under prior leadership, it is the current board's intent to be as diligent as possible in filing these reports timely.

It should also be noted that some of the listed reports, such as 100927008 C3 report from 2018, were not late as suggested in the complaint. Rather, there were reports that were amended reports that were filed after the initial report had been timely filed.

It continues to be a learning opportunity for us to do better, and we trust that our future performance will evidence our capacity to do so.

*Allegation Three: Alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 by failing to provide required details for in-kind contributions on reports in election years 2018-2023*

TCD has spent a significant amount of time and effort looking into the listed donations that are alleged to be violations of PDC rules and regulations. In short, TCD could find not find a single issue amongst the listed donations that were not in compliance. Not a single one was missing information or contained inaccurate details on the donor.

It appears that the complaint filer neglected to click on any of the reported donations to see that the requisite information is indeed included for each donation. Perhaps we are mistaken in what is required, but based on the review that was performed by several individuals, including past treasurers, no errors or omissions could be found.

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TCD welcomes the opportunity to continually improve its reporting and seeks to comply fully with PDC's rules and regulations. We appreciate Mr. Morgan's diligent and everlasting efforts to ensure TCD's compliance, even when such efforts appear to be devoid of substantive issues.

TCD welcomes any additional questions you or anyone else at the PDC have for us regarding these allegations. It is our intent to be fully compliant with the rules and regulations; thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Sincerest regards,

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