

Grays Harbor Democrats replied

(Thu, 7 Sep 2023 at 10:34 PM)

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

External Email

Hello PDC Support,

The first thing we want to mention is this is a fairly aggressive complaint and categorizing us malicious lawbreakers is not necessary or true. We are a small group of volunteers just trying to do the best we can.

Before going into each of his points I want to make an argument that will be used multiple times in our response. This relates to a previous case of ours that the complaint references. The conclusion of that case was a signing of a Statement of Understanding. On case #26838 our then Treasurer signed a Statement of Understanding on 2/7/2020. The reason I bring this up is because many of the allegations have to do with filings before 2020. We would ask these be dismissed as they should be covered by our Statement of Understanding. As I get into his points, I will be bringing this up as it relates to his allegations.

The most recent allegation he titled " Failure to identify, or willfully conceal the true source of PAC contributions (Violation of RCW 42.17A.240, .235, possibly Violation of RCW 42.17A.220 as well)" relates to a filing attributed to PayPal. While we agree this should have been filed better, the filing was made in 2018 which is before our Statement of Understanding and should be covered under it. I am looking into this to see if I can track down the source of this but it is worth noting this was 5 years ago and we have had many changes in our board. Most of our current board was not involved in the party at the time so I may have a bit of trouble figuring it out but either way this should be dismissed due to our Statement of Understanding.

On the initial complaint he alleges we were " Attempting to conceal the truth about political activity from the public by waiting weeks, months, or until the election is over to report what they did or who funded them". We disagree with the phrasing of this. He claims we are Attempting to conceal the truth but that is not true. We want to be as transparent as possible but as mentioned we are a very small volunteer organization. We try to do the best we can but it does seem there were some mistakes. Some of the filings he mentioned in his spreadsheet were before 2020 so those should be dismissed due to the Statement of Understanding. We are constantly trying to do better at this with our limited resources. We have a new treasure and they are already signed up for Compliance Training through our State party and has gone through PDC provided resources to understand her responsibility and prevent issues like this in the future. We ask that there be some grace from the PDC due to our organization being small and volunteer run, in addition we are seeking out more training and volunteers to help prevent issues.

The next allegation is we had a " Failure to properly identify as a sponsored committee". This allegation makes 2 factual errors. First, he claims we did not have any contributions other than the 24th LD Democrats at the start of this year. On filing #110167995 we had a total of \$690.25 in contributions. This goes against his first claim that we only had a single contribution at the start of the year. He then claims that we participated in the primaries. He says "They were involved in the primary elections earlier this year, and they should change their name to "Grays Harbor Democrats

PAC, sponsored by the 24th LD Democrats PAC" in order to conform to the law". This is untrue, we have not participated in the 2023 primary election. As an organization, we did not hold or participate in any event intended to influence the election, increase voter turnout or support a specific candidate. We also did not make any endorsements until after the primary (We made our first endorsement of the year yesterday). Because neither of his claims hold water, we ask this be dismissed as the allegation is not true.

Lastly, he alleges we did not provide enough information in our filings. Some of these are not well founded. For example he claims that we hid our source of fliers as he says Vini Samules was not the printer. She was in fact the printer, she purchased the supplies and provided us fliers. Attached is a receipt from this showing what we reimbursed her for. Both of the mentions of her are for reimbursements (the receipts only show the first mention of her but if needed we may be able to find receipts for the second mention). In both instances, she provided materials and/or services and we reimbursed her. The claims around the Radio Advertising and Biden/Harris signs are well founded. We should have provided more information and I am in the process of gathering this information. We are contacting the radio channels and providers of the signs to get receipts. We will amend the reports as soon as we have the information. We appreciate this chance to fix this mistake. Again, we are small and volunteer run so there were some mistakes that we are happy to fix.

We truly want to work with the PDC and fully support the mission of the organization to ensure transparency in Politics. We are doing our best and will continue to improve. The characterization of being intentional lawbreakers is simply not true.

Please let us know if you need any further information and we are happy to work with you.

Sincerely,

Jacob B.



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Sale

Store: 516 Register: 1
Date: 7/7/22 Time: 7:59 PM
Transaction: 15800 Cashier: 1879978

REWARDS NUMBER 5351807028

Qty	Item	Price	Amount
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***** Order Number 2231714699*****

350	DOCUMENTS CCT 24502067	0.77	268.45
1	EXPRESS GUARANTEE 2623897	80.53	80.53

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Subtotal		348.98
WASHINGTON 9.08%		31.69
Total		380.67

VISA CREDIT USD\$380.67
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Transaction: 6261 Cashier: 1995258

REWARDS NUMBER 5351807028

Qty	Item	Price	Amount
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***** Order Number 2231903626*****

1,450	DOCUMENTS CCT 24502067	0.32	456.75
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Subtotal		456.75
WASHINGTON 9.08%		41.47
Total		498.22

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