

# State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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## Public Disclosure Commission Statement of Understanding Grays Harbor Democrats PDC Case 141468

I, <u>Bethany Whipple-Boling</u>, in my capacity as Chair/Treasurer of Grays Harbor Democrats (the "Respondent"), hereby acknowledge that the Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 by failing to timely disclose contributions and expenditures on C-4 reports for election year 2022.

#### The facts are as follows:

- The Respondent's post-primary C-4 report for 2022 was filed 115 days late, after the general election that year. The original report disclosed one general election-related expenditure of \$498.22 for "printed material." The report was later amended, per the PDC's request, which revealed the "printed material" consisted of fliers for fair/doorbelling that included support for candidates Derek Kilmer, Mike Chapman, and Steve Tharinger.
- The Respondent's 21-day pre-general C-4 report for 2022 was filed 79 days late, after the general election that year. The original report disclosed \$1,992, \$2,000, and \$1,008 in radio advertising expenditures and \$607.62 in expenditures for "literature." The report was later amended, per the PDC's request, which revealed the "literature" consisted of canvassing handout cards that included support for candidates Derek Kilmer, Mike Chapman and Steve Tharinger.

The Respondent would like to avoid the time and expense of a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing). Therefore, in lieu of a hearing, the Respondent acknowledges that it violated Washington State law as described above and agrees to enter into this *Statement of* 

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Understanding (SOU) to resolve the above matter with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

In accordance with the penalty schedule adopted by the Commission for Brief Enforcement Hearings set forth in WAC 390-37-143, the Respondent agrees to pay a combined \$300 penalty for acknowledged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 for failing to timely disclose \$6,105.84 in election-related expenditures on two C-4 reports for election year 2022.

The Respondent understands that, by signing this SOU, it acknowledges the violations of Chapter 42.17A RCW and Title 390 WAC set forth above and waives its right to a hearing in this matter. The Respondent further understands that signing this SOU and returning it to the PDC with a payment for the \$300 civil penalty will resolve the issue of the two late-filed C-4 reports for election year 2022 indicated above.

Bethany Whipple-Boling
Chair/Treasurer

Date Signed

Kindly sign and submit this SOU and your payment using one of the options below by no later than **December 30, 2024**.

## **Inline Payment Option**

To initiate an electronic payment, please email the following information to payments@pdc.wa.gov (see below):

- Your PDC Case Number (141468)
- The Respondent's Name (Grays Harbor Democrats)

A payment link containing further instructions will be emailed to you. Processing fees may apply.

Email a scanned image of your signed SOU to the Compliance Officer assigned to you case prior to making your online payment.

### Mailed or In-Person Payment Option

To submit a physical payment, make your check or money order payable to "Washington State Treasurer," write your PDC Case Number in the Memo field, and <u>mail</u> or <u>deliver</u> the payment and your signed SOU to one of the addresses shown below: