



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: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

November 21, 2023

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Citizens Committee for Education-Puyallup, PDC Case 141991

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 28, 2023. The complaint alleged that Citizens Committee for Education-Puyallup, a continuing political action committee registered with the PDC, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 for failure to accurately and timely disclose contribution and expenditure reports, including failure to properly breakdown/fully describe the purpose of committee expenditures/details on the Summary, Full Report Receipts and Expenditures (C-4) reports, as required in WAC 390-16-037, during election years 2019 - 2023.

To determine whether a formal investigation or enforcement action is warranted, PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint; the applicable statutes, rules; the October 31, 2023, response provided by Tina Filori, Treasurer; the applicable PDC reports filed by Citizens Committee for Education-Puyallup (Committee); and queried the Committee's data in the PDC contribution and expenditure database, 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:

- During election years 2019 – 2023, the Committee was registered with the PDC under the “Full Reporting” option.
- You alleged that the Committee failed to timely and accurately report contributions (C-3) and expenditure (C-4) reports during election years 2019 – 2023. You included an Excel spreadsheet depicting alleged late reports for election years 2019 – 2023, as evidence of the alleged violation(s). Additionally, you also alleged that the Committee failed to properly breakdown/fully describe the purpose of expenditures undertaken by the Committee in 2019, 2020 and 2022. You included/attached copies of four C-4 reports showing expenditures that you alleged lacked the proper description or breakdown of expenditures made by the Committee.
- Staff reviewed the C-3 and C-4 reports filed by Committee in the above-referenced election years and noted that some of the C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Committee were late. For the 63 alleged late reports in the spreadsheet you submitted with the complaint, staff noted that there were some reports that

were filed between 1 and 9 days late, while a few were over 10 days late. While there were some late reports on the spreadsheet you submitted with the complaint, staff also noted the alleged late reports on the spreadsheet are based on “projected due date,” which alone is insufficient evidence of a violation.

- Regarding expenditure breakdown, staff reviewed the four C-4 report attachments you submitted with the complaint and noted that there were some expenditures made by the Committee either to a vendor or as an in-kind contribution for which a more detailed description/purpose should have been provided, such as the number/quantity of items, name and address of the vendors and other required items on the Schedule B to the C-4 report. For example, the Committee failed to include sufficient/proper expenditure descriptions for the expenditures made October 27, 2020, paid to “Print NW” for “Vote Yes Postcards” in the amount of \$8,978.17. The Committee also made another expenditure to the same vendor (“Print NW”) on October 24, 2022, for \$10,428.73 for “Printing literature, fliers, postcards, etc.: Campaign Mailer.” Lastly, the Committee also made another campaign expenditure on October 10, 2022, for “Campaign mailer and door hanger,” for \$1,650, payable to “BROFSKY.” The Committee should have provided the quantity/number of items bought for all the three expenditures noted supra.
- In its response to the complaint, the Committee, by way of Tina Filori, stated: “The filing of late reports was not to ‘conceal the truth’ of the campaign’s activities or intentionally ‘break the law’ as the complaint states. Some of the reports were late due to the lack of knowledge and not fully understanding the laws. I will file the requested amended [reports].”
- On November 13, 2023, the Committee amended a few reports for 2020 – 2022, to better depict and correct the expenditure breakdown/description discrepancies raised in your complaint.
- The Committee has acknowledged its deficiencies in filing the required reports and has taken responsibility by amending the relevant reports.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, the Committee’s failure to timely and accurately report C-3 and C-4, including failure to properly and accurately describe the purpose of the expenditures to include the number/quantity of items bought, does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), the Committee will receive a formal written warning concerning its failure to timely/accurately disclose C-3/C-4 reports and properly breakdown/describe the purpose of expenditures on C-4 reports in the 2020 -2022 election years. The Committee will be informed the Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws/rules.

Accordingly, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at 360.586.2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by email at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/_____

s/_____

Erick O. Agina, Compliance Officer

Peter Frey Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Citizens Committee for Education-Puyallup