



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.pdc.wa.gov

November 30, 2023

Steve Wellein
PO Box 217
Soap Lake WA 98851

And delivered electronically to steve_wellein831@gmail.com

Subject: PDC Order, Case 144245

Dear Steve Wellein,

Enclosed is a copy of the Public Disclosure Commission's Order Imposing Fine that was entered in the above-referenced case.

At the November 16, 2023 Full Enforcement hearing, the Commission assessed a total civil penalty of \$1000, of which \$500 is suspended in accordance with WAC 390-37-182. The \$500 non-suspended penalty is payable within 30 days of the date of this Order, which is **January 2nd, 2024**.

Please make the check or money order payable to "WA State Treasurer" and mail the payment to the following address:

Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

It is also ordered that you file the missing F-1 reports for Calendar Years 2020, 2021 and 2022 within 30 days of this order.

Please contact the collection agency PMT Solutions directly at (425) 882-4800 to pay the outstanding penalty from your prior violation (110569).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have questions, please contact us by email at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Electronically Signed by Tabitha Townsend
PDC Staff

Enclosure: Final Order

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8 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

9 In Re: The Matter of Enforcement Action
10 Against:

PDC CASE NO. 144245

FINAL ORDER

11 STEVE WELLEIN,
12 Respondent.
13
14

15 This matter was heard remotely by the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
16 (Commission) at a November 16, 2023, Special Meeting by telephonic, and online streaming
17 access. Respondent Steve Wellein was provided notice on October 30, 2023, and November 2,
18 2023, of the hearing date and did not appear on his own behalf. The hearing was held in
19 accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17A RCW, and Chapter 390-37 WAC.

20 Commissioners present online were Nancy Isserlis, Commission Chair (presiding); Allen
21 Hayward, Commission Vice-Chair; and Commissioners Fred Jarrett, and J. Robert Leach. Also
22 present both online were Assistant Attorney General John S. Meader representing the
23 Commission, and Tabitha Townsend, PDC Compliance Coordinator. The proceeding was open
24 to the public and recorded.

25 The Commissioners had before them the following materials:
26

- 1 1. Case memorandum dated November 8, 2023, prepared by Tabitha Townsend, PDC
2 Compliance Coordinator;
3

4 **I. FINDINGS OF FACT**

5 The matter involves Respondent Steve Wellein, a Commissioner for Grant County
6 Hospital District 4 since January 1, 2012. Respondent is alleged to have violated RCW
7 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 Report) with
8 the Public Disclosure Commission no later than April 17, 2023, disclosing financial information
9 for calendar year 2022. The Respondent has two prior violations within the last five years.
10

- 11 1. From March 9, 2023, through April 13, 2023, PDC staff emailed reminders to all
12 elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar
13 year 2022.
14
- 15 2. On October 30, 2023, and November 2, 2023, PDC staff mailed and emailed the
16 Respondent a hearing notice to his email and physical address of record for a
17 November 16, 2023, Enforcement Hearing along with instructions on how to
18 participate in the hearing remotely, before the full Public Disclosure Commission
19 concerning his failure to file the F-1 report.
20
- 21 3. As of the date of the hearing, the Respondent has not filed the missing F-1 report
22 covering calendar year 2022 that was due no later than April 17, 2023.
23
- 24 4. There are two prior cases for violation of RCW 42.17A.700:
25
26

- PDC Case 94223. At a July 15, 2021, Brief Enforcement Hearing, Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failing to file the F-1 report for calendar year 2020, which was due not later than April 15, 2021. A total civil penalty of \$250, with \$150 suspended, was assessed in accordance with the penalty schedule adopted by the Commission that was in effect at that time. The Respondent has not filed the missing F-1 report but has paid the \$250 civil penalty.
- PDC Case 110569. At a September 1, 2022, Brief Enforcement Hearing, the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failing to file the F-1 report for calendar year 2021, which was due not later than April 15, 2022. A total civil penalty of \$500 was assessed, with \$250 suspended, in accordance with the penalty schedule adopted by the Commission that was in effect at that time. The Respondent has not filed the missing F-1 report and has not paid the civil penalties.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter 42.17A. RCW, the State campaign finance and disclosure law; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC.

2. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in 2022 was required to file an F-1 Report, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2022 no later than April 17, 2023.

III. ORDER

This Order will be the Final Order. After consideration of the mitigating and aggravating factors, the Findings of Fact, and the Conclusions of Law, the Commission assesses a civil penalty of \$1,000 for failing to file the F-1 report for calendar year 2022, with \$500 suspended on the following conditions:

1.
 - a. The \$500 non-suspended portion of the civil penalty due for failure to timely file the F-1 report for calendar year 2022 in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 is paid by the Respondent within 30 days of the date of this Final Order or through an approved payment plan.
 - b. The past due civil penalties for failure to timely file the F-1 report for calendar year 2021, in violation of RCW 42.17A.700, totaling \$500 plus collection fees are paid by the Respondent within 30 days of the date of this Final Order or through an approved payment plan.
 - c. The missing F-1 reports for calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022, are filed within 30 days of the date of this Final Order.
 - d. The Respondent remains in full compliance with all PDC reporting

requirements and is not found to have committed any further violations of Chapter 42.17A RCW or Title 390 WAC within four years of the date of this Final Order. The suspended penalty shall not be assessed based solely upon any remediable violation, minor violation, or error classified by the Commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.

2. If the Respondent fails to meet the conditions in Section III(1) of this order within 30 days of the date of this order, the suspended portion of the penalty for calendar year 2022 shall immediately become due without further action by the Commission and all past due penalties may be sent to collections or to Superior Court for enforcement.

SO ORDERED this ^{Nov 30, 2023} _____ day of November, 2023.

WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

FOR THE COMMISSION:


Nancy Isserlis (Nov 30, 2023 08:26 PST)

Nancy Isserlis, Commission Chair (presiding)
Public Disclosure Commission

This order sent by email to:

Steve Wellein, Respondent,
P.O. Box 217
Soap Lake, WA 98851
frdjad@aol.com
stevewellein831@gmail.com

Tabitha Townsend,
PDC Compliance Coordinator,
pdc@pdc.wa.gov

I, Tabitha Townsend, certify that I emailed a copy of this order to the Respondent at his respective email address.

Electronically Signed by Tabitha Townsend November 30, 2023
Signed _____ Date _____

1 **NOTICE: RECONSIDERATION**

2 Pursuant to the provisions of RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 390-37-150, you may file a Petition for
3 Reconsideration with the PDC within ten (10) days from the date this Final Order is served upon
4 you. Any Request for reconsideration must state the specific grounds for the relief requested.
5 Petitions must be delivered or mailed to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission,
6 711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Box 40908, Olympia WA 98504-0908.

7 **NOTICE: PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

8 You have the right to appeal this Final Order to Superior Court, pursuant to the Petition for
9 Judicial Review provisions of RCW 34.05.542. Any Petition for Judicial Review of this Final
10 Order must be filed with the court and also served upon both the Commission and the Office of
11 the Attorney general within thirty (30) days after the date this Final Order is served upon you.