

Respondent Name
Jamie Smith
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
<p>Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Wed, 13 Dec 2023 at 7:03 AM)</p> <p>Because the respondent failed to timely file the post-general election C4, members of the public are unable to tell whether the candidate received certain types of contributions or made expenditures during the relevant timeframe, significantly reducing transparency available to the public.</p> <p>PDC staff must take prompt action on this complaint to help render the assistance necessary to bring this filer into compliance.</p> <p>The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing filing requirements. The agency's failure to actively monitor the filings of candidates and enforce filing requirements damages both the public and the candidates themselves.</p> <p>I have tried many different times to get the PDC to take action on this type of issue with no tangible results whatsoever. Having exhausted all of my other options to pursue reform, the only remaining option available to me to compel the agency to take action here is to file PDC complaints against these noncompliant filers in an effort to force the agency to take action.</p> <p>By highlighting the agency's failure to meaningfully enforce current reporting deadlines, my hope is that the agency will look to improve its own enforcement procedures and help candidates and treasurers comply with the law.</p> <p>Notice to Respondents</p> <p>I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint; it is not my intention. No campaign treasurer or campaign/committee is perfect. Trying to comply with the myriad of requirements and deadlines the PDC enforces can be extremely difficult, even for those who have been doing this for years. The agency could adopt any number of strategies to help filers "get it right" when it comes to deadlines and other requirements.</p> <p>Some of these strategies might include: a) automated electronic filing reminders to a filer when they have missed a deadline, b) mandatory attendance in a PDC training course before a person is allowed to serve as treasurer, c) giving filers 48 hours to file 21- & 7-day pre-election reports as opposed to the 24 hours candidates currently get, and d) improvements to the ORCA online campaign finance filing system to improve useability.</p> <p>In my opinion, the agency has failed to provide many filers with the knowledge and tools that they need to file reports on time and be compliant.</p> <p>If you are confused by the filing requirements that the agency enforces or are experiencing technical difficulties and/or usability issues with the ORCA system, please be sure to indicate this in your response to the PDC: your comments will provide extremely valuable feedback for the agency.</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
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List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
See PDC website.
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
See PDC website, also candidate.
Certification (Complainant)
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.