Respondent Name

Demetria A. "Demi" Chatters

Complainant Name

Michael Swanson

Complaint Description

Michaelswanson

reported via the portal

12 hours ago (Tue, 24 Oct 2023 at 8:22 PM)

Notice of PDC Violations by 2023 Everett City Council Candidate Demi Chatters

Everett voters received a political mail piece on 10/23/2023 and 10/24/2023 (Exhibits 1 & 2) in support of Everett City Council candidate Demi Chatters. The mail piece was "Sponsored by The Snohomish Ebony PAC." Setting aside the factual inaccuracies of this advertising, the mailing was produced in blatant violation of Washington State laws and Public Disclosure Commission requirements summarized by the following:

1. Coordination between Demi Chatters and the PAC.

- First and foremost, the supported candidate, Demi Chatters, is listed on the PAC's PDC registration (Exhibit 3) and most recent filings as its Treasurer (Exhibit 4). A Treasurer is responsible for reporting all contributions and expenditures (see RCW 42.17A.235). PAC's may not coordinate political advertising with campaign committees. Serving as both Treasurer of the PAC <u>and</u> the candidate that benefited from the PAC's advertising is clearly coordination.
- The campaign mailer sent by the PAC is remarkably similar to two previous mailers sent by the candidate. Same image, same use of campaign logo, same color font, etc. Placed side-by-side, as in Exhibit 5, they appear indistinguishable. Exhibit 6 includes the reverse to see which mailer was from the candidate vs. the PAC.
- Further evidence of coordination is that the image used does not exist in the public domain. While a similar version is available on the candidate's website (Exhibit 7), this version contains text and a "donate today" button over it parts that are scenic in the mail piece, meaning the PAC and candidate would have had to facilitate the transfer of an original image file not available in the public domain.

2. Public Disclosure Reports not filed.

- The PAC did not file PDC Form C6 for Independent Expenditure Ads (Exhibit 8) as required (Exhibit 9).
- The PAC has not reported any of their income or expense activity for over 2 months. Last reports filed 8/6/23 (Exhibit 10).
- Again, as Treasurer of the PAC, it is Demi Chatters' responsibility to file all public disclosure reports on time.

3. Required information withheld from public.

• The PAC did not list their top 5 contributors on the mail piece (Exhibit 2) as required (Exhibit 11).

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

Disregarding campaign laws deprives the public of understanding who is funding candidates for elected office. Voters in Everett are not being deprived of complete information of who is funding campaign advertising from a PAC who's Treasurer is the candidate supported by the mailings.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

There are 11 exhibits included in the attached PDF.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Michael Swanson, 425-293-2816, michaelswanson@comcast.net

An unknown number of Everett resident who received the mailer in question.

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.

Notice of PDC Violations by 2023 Everett City Council Candidate Demi Chatters

Date: 10/24/2023 Prepared by: Michael Swanson

Respondent: Demetria A. "Demi" Chatters

Background: Everett voters received a political mail piece on 10/23/2023 and 10/24/2023

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Exhibit 1: 10/23/23 Mail Piece Obverse



Exhibit 2: 10/23/23 Mail Piece Reverse

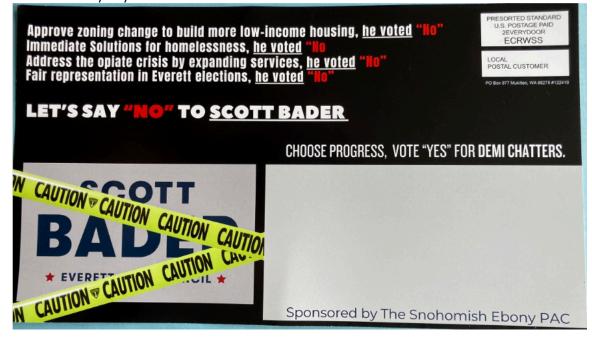


Exhibit 3: Demi Chatters listed as Treasurer of the PAC sponsoring the ad

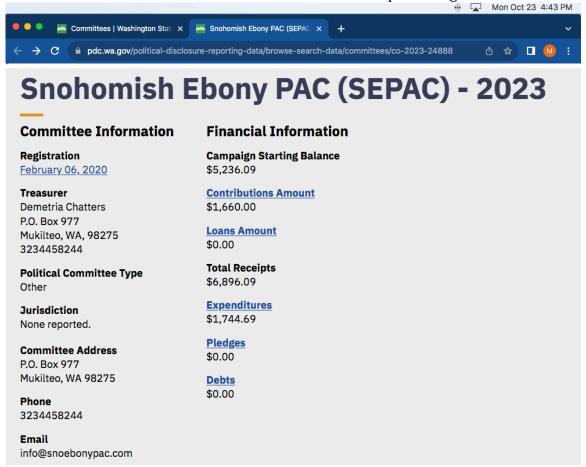
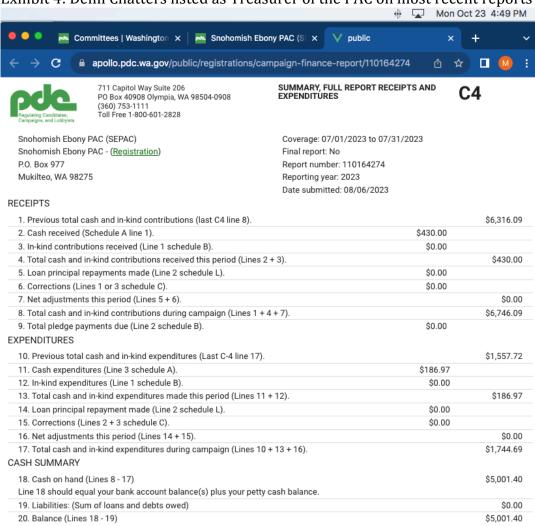


Exhibit 4: Demi Chatters listed as Treasurer of the PAC on most recent reports



I certify this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge

Treasurer's name and date

Demetria Chatters - 08/06/2023

New Leadership for a Bright Future to centering and amplifying the voices and lived ses at working people, and I will champion real for the challenges affecting our quality of life. EVERETT CITY COUNCIL WWW.VOTEFORDEMI.COM COTE BY AUG. 11 VOIL New Leadership for a Bright Future CHATTERS and lived experiences of working people, and I will s for therehallenges affecting our quality of life. Together, we will build the future of prosperity in Everett that WWW.VOTEFORDEMI.COM

Exhibit 5: 3 very similar mail pieces, although 1 of the 3 came from a PAC.

Exhibit 6: Reverse of the 3 mail pieces



Exhibit 7: Candidate website containing similar image used by PAC but containing text and a donate button that were not in the version used for the mail piece.

Tue Oct 24 4:05 PM



Exhibit 8: Independent Expenditures filed on behalf of Demi Chatters as of 10/23/23. Disclosure from Fuse Votes for assisting Demi Chatters with writing a Voters Guide Statement but nothing reported from The Snohomish Ebony PAC.

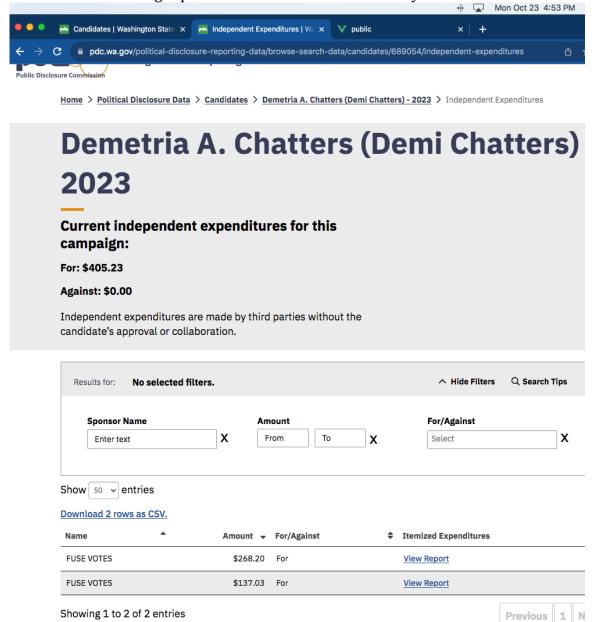


Exhibit 9: PDC requirements for C6 filing





Registration & Reporting

Political Disclosure Data

Rules & Enforcement

About

<u>Home</u> > <u>Registration & Reporting</u> > <u>Independent Expenditures</u> > How To Report

How To Report

Reporting Independent Expenditures

Any individual, business, union, organization or other person who makes independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot measure must submit a C-6 to the PDC within 5 days and then on this schedule:

- on the 10th of the month preceding the election*
- 21 days prior to the election*
- 7 days prior to the election*
- on the 10th of the month after the election*.

The exception are political committees, which report IEs on their regular expenditure reports (C-4s) unless the independent expenditure requires expedited reporting because of its size and proximity to the election.

If an IE is advertising that meets both of the following conditions, the sponsor must report it on a C-6 within 24 hours of, or on the first working day after, the date the ad was published, mailed or made public:

- The ads are valued at \$2,000 or more, and
- are presented to the public within 21 days of an election.

Additional independent expenditure ads presented during this 21 days -- costing any amount -- must be reported on a C-6 within 24 hours of, or on the first working day after, the date the additional ad is first published, mailed or made public.



^{*}Only file reports when expenditures have been made since the last report.

Exhibit 10: PAC Treasurer Demi Chatters has not filed any of the required reports since 8/6/2023

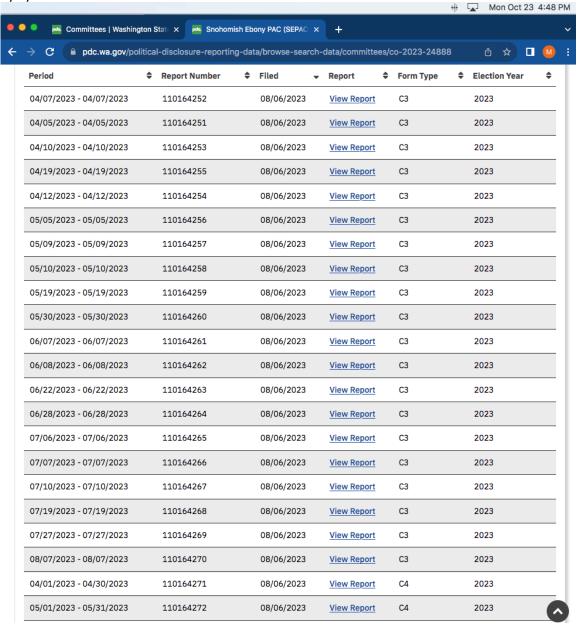
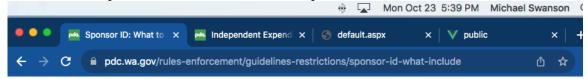


Exhibit 11: Requirement for disclosure of Top 5 contributors



Sponsor ID required information

A sponsor's address is required for print ads and websites. For other types of ads, see Sponsor ID placement and size.

A **candidate or candidate committee** sponsoring an ad about the committee uses the words "paid for by" or "sponsored by" followed by the name of the candidate committee.

Recommended format: Sponsored by the Committee to Elect John Doe, 876 Main St., Olympia, WA

An **individual, organization, business or political party committee** must include its name on the ad.

Recommended format: Paid for by the Committee for Good Government, 123 Market St., Olympia, WA

A **political committee that is not a bona fide party** must include its Top 5 contributors' names if the ad qualifies as an independent expenditure, electioneering communication or supports or opposes a ballot measure – and the ad costs at least \$2,000.

Recommended format: Paid for by the Committee for Good Government, 123 Market St., Olympia, WA. Top 5 Contributors...