



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

December 13, 2023

Delivered electronically to Carol Rose

Subject: Complaint filed by Geordy B. Greene, PDC Case 144471

Carol Rose,

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Geordy B. Greene concerning a complaint he filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) concerning the NoVoteFortney.Com website.

As Kim Bradford, PDC Deputy Director discussed with you by telephone, sponsors of political advertising in the form of a website that supports or opposes candidates are required to include the sponsor's name and address.

In accordance with WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), PDC staff is issuing you a formal written warning concerning the requirement that if you sponsor political advertising in the future that supports or opposes candidates and ballot proposition, you are required to include the sponsor's name and address in the advertisement. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws and rules.

PDC staff has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, please contact PDC Compliance Officer Kurt Young by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s_____
Electronically Signed Kurt Young
Compliance Officer

/s_____
Electronically Signed Peter Lavalley, PDC Executive
Director



Public Disclosure Commission
Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972



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December 13, 2023

Sent electronically to Geordy B. Greene

Subject: Complaint filed against NoVoteFortney.Com, PDC Case 144471

Geordy B. Greene:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff has completed its review of the complaint you filed against the NoVoteFortney.com, alleging a violation of RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include the proper sponsor identification on political advertising that was undertaken in the form of a website.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint; the applicable statutes, rules, the email exchanges with Domains by Proxy and GoDaddy; and the email response from Carol Rose, Respondent; to determine whether the record supports a finding of a violation. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- PDC staff was initially not able to ascertain who sponsored the NoVoteFortney.Com domain name and website.
- On September 22, 2023, staff sent an email to Domains by Proxy requesting the name and contact information concerning the individual(s) who purchased the domain name for the NoVoteFortney.Com website.
- On October 3, 2023, staff received a response to the email from GoDaddy stating: *"If you seek the identity or account information of a GoDaddy customer in connection with a civil or criminal legal matter, you must fax, mail, or serve GoDaddy.com, LLC with a valid subpoena. For criminal matters, you must be a member of the law enforcement community."*
- On November 1, 2023, the PDC received a response from Domains by Proxy to a PDC subpoena providing the requested names, email addresses and a telephone number. PDC staff sent an email to the email address provided in the documents received but no response was received.
- On November 30, 2023, PDC staff contacted Carol Rose by telephone, and Ms. Rose stated that the NoVoteFortney.Com website was hers, that she used her own funds and spent \$14 to register the domain name and an additional \$232 in web hosting fees. Ms. Rose stated the following in an email to PDC staff after being contacted by telephone: "Thanks for the discussion and information. Having never done this before, I didn't realize I needed to put my name on the website. Please let me know if you need anything more from me."

PDC staff did not find evidence of violations that would require conducting a more formal investigation into the complaint or pursuing further enforcement action in this instance.

In accordance with WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), PDC staff is issuing a formal written warning to Carol Rose concerning the requirement that in the future, if she sponsors political advertising that supports or opposes candidates and/or ballot proposition, she is required to include the sponsor's name and address in the advertisement. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws and rules.

PDC staff is dismissing this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, please contact PDC Compliance Officer Kurt Young by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

Electronically Signed Kurt Young
Compliance Officer

/s

Electronically Signed Peter Lavalley, PDC Executive
Director



cc: Carol Rose