

2024 Semi Bird for Governor Campaign 12/27/2023 response to complaints
Response cut and pasted into Word document by PDC Staff
PDC Case 145404

7 hours ago (Wed, 27 Dec 2023 at 11:32 AM)

To: pdc@pdc.wa.gov

External Email

To whom it may concern,

Below you will find our response to the (2) most recent PDC complaints from Robert Parker. We have diligently addressed each aspect outlined in the complaints and implemented comprehensive measures to rectify any identified issues. The following summarizes the key steps we have taken in bold:

Response: Even though all C-4 reports filed had a description of the expenditure, we have updated each item to reflect additional expenditure details, to include the specific number/amount of an item(s) purchased.

RCW 42.17A.405 by receiving contributions that exceeded the 2024 contribution limits for a Gubernatorial Campaign.

The complaint states: “Candidate has print advertising in the Coffee News publication for Kitsap County (volume 11, issue 22, dated November 20, 2023) and at least part of Pierce County. Candidates C4's do not reflect this advertising purchase, the ad states the campaign purchased it”.

Response: There was no purchase of advertisement in the Coffee News by the Bird For Governor campaign. This advertisement was an “in kind” donation that was recorded with the PDC on 11-30-23.

The complaint states “Candidate appears to be spending donations collected and allocated for the general while still in the primary in violation of WAC 390-17-300. See attached”.

Response: The campaign did not spend “general election” funds for the “primary election.”

The complaint states: “Candidate is running a podcast but shows no expense or in-kind for this production. It is a mystery who owns the equipment and sound studio or is donating the services. There does not seem to be any record of cost recorded on C4's”.

Response: Immediately prior to running for office, the candidate specialized in training and development. The podcast studio is located in the candidates home, therefore there is no studio cost. The software to run the podcast was a free download, therefore there is no production cost. Any equipment used for the podcast was owned by the candidate.

This complaint was received just before closing out a previous complaint for similar compliance concerns. Our team immediately began implementing the quality assurance mechanisms noted in our previous response to the PDC.

In summary, I again, want to assure you that we have taken swift and comprehensive actions to address the concerns raised in the complaints, current and previous. Unfortunately, in this very divided political environment, we expect more PDC complaints against this campaign, but we believe with the controls that we have implemented, to include; regular audits, staff training, and other efficiency mechanisms, this campaign will be able to ensure strict adherence to all PDC reporting requirements.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns,

Sincerely,



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CAMPAIGN MANAGER

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