

**Chris Reykdal response to complaint**  
**Response cut and pasted into Word document by PDC Staff**  
**PDC Case 149641**

*(Wed, 6 Mar 2024 at 12:26 PM)*

To: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

External Email

Thank you for the inquiry Kurt. Below is my statement and specific responses to the questions you provided following each question.

Team Reykdal follows all PDC campaign rules and laws. We removed all donate buttons and links from our website and we disabled all fundraising links from any pathway by disabling our ActBlue donation page from accepting any donations during the freeze. We did all of this 30 days prior to the legislative session and they remain inactive. If anybody has an old email from us, receives an email during this campaign, or attempts to go to the ActBlue donation function they get a clear message that states, "This fundraiser is not currently accepting any donations."

There is no way to donate, there is no way to provide donor information. There was not a solicitation to donate in the "session update" email. There was no request for donation, and no way for a donor to make a donation. We did not get donation requests, because we did not solicit donations and there is no active way for a supporter to make a donation until after the freeze when links are restored and the ActBlue donation template is reactivated.

The message in this outreach was a session update and we were seeking to drive readers to an endorsement page which is active and can be accessed via [Endorsements | Chris Reykdal](#). We failed to change the button on the bottom of the standard Mailchimp template to the Endorse link. If readers did click on the standard "Donate" button they were directed to an inactive donation page that says, "This fundraiser is not currently accepting any donations." Please let me know if you have additional questions.

(1) The complaint from Mr. Morgan included a copy of an alleged February 25, 2024, "fundraising email" that was sponsored and sent out by the 2024 Friends of Chris Reykdal Campaign (Campaign).

Our campaign did send out a session update on February 25, 2024, there was no solicitation to donate and no way for donors to make contributions because our ActBlue account will not allow any donations until after the session freeze. Neither the subject of the message, nor the content of the message sought contributions.

(2) PDC staff reviewed the email which discussed the 2024 Legislative Session, education related accomplishments, artificial intelligence, and the privatization of education. The email ended by stating "If you are interested in endorsing my campaign for re-election, my website has a mechanism for that! Community members can add their name to my endorsements list at the bottom of this page." At the bottom of the email below the signature line, there were the words "DONATE" centered in the middle of the page.

We failed to properly change that standard Mailchimp button at the bottom of the page to the active endorsement link. However, if anybody clicked on it, it clearly says that "This fundraiser is not currently accepting any donations." There is no link to donate and no way for an individual to make a contribution or to provide any donor information.

(3) The complainant is alleging that the “DONATE” button was an active hyperlink that solicited monetary contributions to your Campaign. Was the “DONATE” button live and did anyone contribute to the Campaign? Did all of the emails sent out by your Campaign include the “DONATE” button, or did any of the emails get corrected to include an “ENDORSE” link as noted in the next bullet point? Please explain.

The button is a standard template button in our Mailchimp mailing program. It did not land on an active page to donate. The page says, "This fundraiser is not currently accepting any donations." It was supposed to land people on an active endorsement page. There was one send date to our list and different supporters did not get different messages.

(4) PDC staff also reviewed the Campaign website and found several links to an “Endorse” button, but I could not find a “Donate” button. Is there a “Donate” button on the Campaign website that I missed, or did the Campaign disable that hyperlink for the session freeze period?

There are no "Donate" buttons on our campaign page. There is also no way to make an online donation from our webpage, from our digital mail, or from the ActBlue donation platform. All donation references were removed from our website consistent with the session freeze, and they remain hidden and inactive until the freeze ends. To ensure that nobody can donate using an old link or a mistake on our part of failing to change a button to "endorse" for example, we have a second step we take and that is to disable donation capabilities from our ActBlue account with the message, "This fundraiser is not currently accepting any donations." A supporter cannot make a donation to our campaign during the session freeze as a result of our two-step process.

Thank you again for promptly reaching out. We take a two-step process to ensure that we are not soliciting or even accidentally getting donations during the session freeze. This ensures that we do not violate PDC rules or laws from people using old emails, prior requests to donate, or even when we fail to clean up a standard digital template. In this case "Donate" was supposed to be changed to "Endorse" with an active link to the endorsement page. Our system worked to ensure that anybody who clicked on the button could not and did not donate.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or any additional information you need.

Chris Reykdal