

March 15, 2024

Alice Fiman Compliance Officer Washington State Public Disclosure Commission PO Box 40908 Olympia, WA 98504-0908

RE: Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee, Alleged Violations of RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely & accurately disclose expenditures & contributions on reports (EY23, Feb24)

Dear Ms. Fiman,

We received a formal complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) by Glen Morgan on March 8, 2024. Mr. Morgan alleges that the Cowlitz County Democrats Central Committee (CCDCC) has a long history of violating the Washington State Laws, and claims that we tried to hide secretive dark money groups and large amounts of dark money and that we willfully committed frequent and multiple violations of RCW 42.17A. In particular a violation of RCW 42.17A.235. He has also referenced a previous complaint Case #26715 that was previously fully adjudicated without any penalty.

We find that Mr. Morgan's current complaint does not hold any water as we sought out the PDC support for help and compliance. We followed the PDC guidelines in establishing an Exempt Account with the PDC, filed the C-3 on October 5, 2023 showing the receipt of the money and timely filing the C-4 (copies attached), showing again the money being received and the expenditure of the money. These documents can also be found on the PDC website.

Mr. Morgan's allegation concerns the non-exempt funds grant from the State Democratic Party Funds. We treated the grant as exempt funds because we were not going to use the money for non-exempt purposes. We did use the exempt funds properly as described in the PDC Guidelines. So, Mr. Morgan could have missed seeing the funds in our non-exempt account. However, if Mr. Morgan had looked a little closer at our other account, the exempt account, he would have found the proper filings of our C-3 and C-4 records.

Please, be informed that the CCDCC is an all-volunteer organization including the Treasurer. All of our reporting efforts are prepared by non-professional volunteers and not willful or habitual as our volunteers who will change from time to time. In particular, our Treasurer, David Thompson, provides thoughtful, accurate and timely information in his role and functions for our organization. And if there are areas where he has



questions, he will not hesitate to contact the PDC for guidance. Since he has taken over the role of Treasurer in January 2023, you will find that he has worked diligently to have very accurate reports filed timely with the PDC, all the while being a dedicated non-professional volunteer. If there are any oversights or errors which can happen, they are occasional and innocent and not willful or habitual.

In conclusion, the CCDCC finds that this alleged complaint should be dismissed as unfounded and frivolous. The CCDCC appreciates the opportunity to respond to Mr. Morgan's allegations. We wish that Mr. Morgan would have looked closer at all the reporting of the CCDCC, so he could have answered all his own questions and not have filed a complaint with the PDC. We will endeavor to continue accurately, timely and with transparency, our reporting and when we need guidance, we will continue to seek guidance with the PDC as we did in this case back in October 2023.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this response to Mr. Morgan's allegations and/or complaint, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Siipola, Chair Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee PO Box 928 Kelso, WA 98262 David Thompson, Treasurer Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee PO Box 928 Kelso, WA 98262 public 3/9/24, 2:19 PM



711 Capitol Way Suite 206 PO Box 40908 Olympia, WA 98504-0908 (360) 753-1111 Toll Free 1-800-601-2828

CASH RECEIPTS MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

C3

Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee Exempt account

Deposit date: 10/05/2023 Report number: 110177124 Submitted date: 10/05/2023

P.O.Box 928 Kelso, WA 98626

1. MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS DEPOSITED IN ACCOUNT

Date received		Amount	Total
	a. Anonymous	\$0.00	\$0.00
	b. Candidate's personal funds deposited in the bank (include candidate loans in 1c)	\$0.00	\$0.00
	c. Loans, notes, security agreements (Schedule L)	\$0.00	
	d. Miscellaneous receipts (interest, refunds, auctions, other)	\$0.00	
	e. Small contributions	\$0.00	

2. TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED AND DEPOSITED OR CREDITED TO ACCOUNT: \$1,955.00

Corresponds to amount on line 1, Schedule A to C4, and itemized below

3. ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

Date received	Contributor (Name and address)	Employer and address	Amount	Aggregate total
09/19/2023	Washington State Democrats 615 2nd Avenue Suite 580 , Seattle, WA 98104		\$1,955.00	N \$1,955.00

Date of deposit 10/05/2023

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

Treasurer's signature and date

David Thompson - 10/05/2023

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SUMMARY, FULL REPORT RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

C4

Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee Exempt account

P.O.Box 928 Kelso, WA 98626 Coverage: 10/05/2023 to 10/16/2023

Final report: No

Report number: 110177127

Reporting year: 2023

Date submitted: 10/05/2023

RECEIPTS

1. Previous total cash and in-kind contributions (last C4 line 8).		\$0.00
2. Cash received (Schedule A line 1).	\$1,955.00	
3. In-kind contributions received (Line 1 schedule B).	\$0.00	
4. Total cash and in-kind contributions received this period (Lines 2 + 3).		\$1,955.00
5. Loan principal repayments made (Line 2 schedule L).	\$0.00	
6. Corrections (Lines 1 or 3 schedule C).	\$0.00	
7. Net adjustments this period (Lines 5 + 6).		\$0.00
8. Total cash and in-kind contributions during campaign (Lines 1 + 4 + 7).		\$1,955.00
9. Total pledge payments due (Line 2 schedule B).	\$0.00	
EXPENDITURES		
10. Previous total cash and in-kind expenditures (Last C-4 line 17).		\$0.00
11. Cash expenditures (Line 3 schedule A).	\$1,938.00	
12. In-kind expenditures (Line 1 schedule B).	\$0.00	
13. Total cash and in-kind expenditures made this period (Lines 11 + 12).		\$1,938.00
14. Loan principal repayment made (Line 2 schedule L).	\$0.00	
15. Corrections (Lines 2 + 3 schedule C).	\$0.00	
16. Net adjustments this period (Lines 14 + 15).		\$0.00
17. Total cash and in-kind expenditures during campaign (Lines 10 + 13 + 16).		\$1,938.00
CASH SUMMARY		
18. Cash on hand (Lines 8 - 17)		\$17.00
Line 18 should equal your bank account balance(s) plus your petty cash balance.		
19. Liabilities: (Sum of loans and debts owed)		\$0.00
20. Balance (Lines 18 - 19)		\$17.00

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

Treasurer's name and date

David Thompson - 10/05/2023

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Schedule A: Cash Receipts and Expenditure Detail

1. CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER CASH RECEIPTS REPORTED ON THE C3:

Deposit date	Amount	Deposit date	Amount	Deposit date	Amount
10/05/2023	\$1,955.00				

2. TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS (LINE 2 OF C4):

\$1,955.00

3. EXPENDITURES (CASH AND CREDIT TRANSACTION DETAIL):

Date paid	Vendor or recipient (Name and address)	Purpose of expense and/or description	Credit/Debt	Cash
N/A	Expenses	Non-itemized expenditures		\$0.00
10/05/2023	USPS 304 Academy St , Kelso, WA 98626	Postage costs, mail permits, purchase of stamps: Postage costs, mail permits, purchase of stamps		\$1,938.00

\$0.00

\$1,938.00

4. TOTAL EXPENDITURES:

\$1,938.00