

Shaun Scott: Alleged violations of RCW42.17A.235, & .235(6), WAC 390-16-043, & .240, & .240(8), WAC 390-16-205, .320, and .445 (EY24 JUN 24) (EY24 JUN 24)



Tanya Mercier replied

8 months ago (Tue, 25 Jun 2024 at 4:54 PM)

To: shaun@betterwashington.org

Shaun Scott

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) received a complaint from Conner Edwards, which has been assigned PDC Case Number 155771. Please reference this case number on any future communications with the PDC regarding this complaint and monitor this email address for future messages.

TO DO:

- 1. Please review the attached complaint and provide your written response by Tuesday, July 9, 2024. When providing your response, reply directly to this email.
- 2. If you find that filing or amending PDC reports will address the allegation(s), please also be sure to address the reporting by Tuesday, July 9, 2024. If you need assistance with filing, call 360-753-1111.

For more information about the enforcement process, please see our Enforcement Guide.

The attached complaint is posted to the Enforcement Cases page of our website. Your written response to the complaint, once received, will also be posted to this web page. Please note that all written communications with the PDC are subject to public records requests, unless specifically exempted by RCW 42.56.

We will reach out to you at this email address when there are updates to your case. Additionally, there is a subscription feature available from each case record on our Enforcement Cases page by which you can subscribe to be notified of any changes to the content posted online.

If you determine that you need to file or amend reports as part of this case and you need help, please reply to this message with a request to be assigned a Filer Assistance Specialist so that you receive timely and coordinated guidance.

If you have any questions, reply directly to this email so your message will be routed specifically to me through our system. Also be sure to reference the case number in any future correspondence.

Thank you.

Tanya Mercier Compliance Officer

Public Disclosure Commission

Office Phone Number: (360) 753-1111

pdc@pdc.wa.gov



Tanya Mercier forwarded

8 months ago (Fri, 12 Jul 2024 at 4:20 PM)

Hello Mr. Scott,

One June 25, 2024, I sent an email to shaun@betterwashington.org the email listed on your PDC registration and have not yet received a response to the complaint filed by Conner Edwards.

Please respond by Tuesday, July 16, 2024, and let me know if you are going to address the allegations in the complaint. You can find the details of the complaint below.

If I do not hear back from you by July 16, 2024, I will proceed to schedule this case for our August Brief Adjudicative Proceeding.

Tanya Mercier Compliance Officer Public Disclosure Commission Office Phone Number: (360) 753-1111 pdc@pdc.wa.gov

**Please use Reply when responding to this email

Washington State law established email as the Public Disclosure Commission's (PDC) official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055), and this is how we primarily communicate with people outside of the agency. Person's required to file reports with the PDC have a requirement to maintain their information, within 10 days, for all material changes. Changes to contact information, including a valid email address, is a material change to the information kept on record by the PDC. Please ensure your email address is up to date.





155771 Shaun Scott Complaint.pdf 5.29 MB

> PDC Exhibit #1 Page 2 of 93

Respondent Names

Shaun Scott

Complainant Name

Conner Edwards

Complaint Description

Conner Edwards

Sun, 23 Jun 2024 at 7:18 PM

See complaint.

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

See complaint.

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

See PDC website.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

See PDC website, also candidate.

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.

<u>Violation of RCW 42.17A.235, .240 for Improperly Including Processing Fees In Donation</u> <u>Amounts, and likely filing C4s reflecting inaccurate Cash on Hand (Line 18) Balances</u>

See text attachment of this C3: https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110208697.

If the text attachment is to be believed, the campaign appears to be improperly including contribution fees as part of contributions. My understanding is that the proper way to report this is to report the amount actually donated as a contribution and report the fee as an expenditure to the merchant account.

Because the campaign's current method of reporting does not actually reflect the amount received by the campaign, I believe the campaign has likely filed C4s that do not match the actual bank account balance (Line 18) at the end of each C4 reporting period.

The method used by the campaign would make it appear that the campaign is receiving overlimit contributions.

For example:

A C-3 dated June 10, 2024 lists a contribution of \$1,218 from Carl Hiltbrunner bringing his total to \$2.436 – \$36.

There are two different C-3s dated May 29, 2024 of contributions from Matthew Finnell for \$1,218 for a total of \$2,436.

Violations of 42.17A.240 for failing to report the address of the following vendors:

On April 2, 2024, there is a payment of \$300 to Lakhani Mahim for Videography Fee.

On April 4, 2024, there is a payment of \$1,500 to Kam Dae for Videography Fee.

On April 16, 2024 there is a payment of \$1,500 to T. Adam for consulting.

On May 10, 2024, there is a payment of \$1,500 to T. Adam for consulting.

Violations of 42.17A.240 & WAC 390-16-205

On April 10, 2024, there is a payment of \$526.14 to Trade Printery. It does not list the quantity of pieces that were printed.

On May 19, 2024, there is a payment of \$780.74 to Trade Printery. It does not list the quantity of pieces that were printed.

PDC Complaint

Violation of 42.17A.320 – Failure to Include Sponsor Address

The attached handout was provided to me recently and I'm told it is approximately 6 x 9 inches. I am informed it is being potentially handed out by Mr. Scott and/or members of the Seattle Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. The mailer does not include the address of the committee sponsoring the mailing, which is required by law.

Furthermore, the paid-for-by statement is not particularly set aside from other printed material and is therefore arguably a violation of RCW 42.17A.320(3)(c).

Violation of RCW 42.17A.235, .240 – Failure to Disclose Contributions

Records indicate that the WA State Association for Justice made a contribution of \$1200 to Scott's campaign committee on 5/03/24. See link:

https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110220654.

Scott's campaign committee has not disclosed this contribution nearly one and a half months later.

washington is...

a fair washington!

- Close corporate tax loopholes to fund affordable housing.
- Establish a statewide student loan forgiveness program.
- Increase state human service worker
 pay with a tax on high C.E.O. pay.

a sustainable -

washington!

an inclusive washington!

- Resume the free meal program in all Washington schools.
- Establish a statewide fund for alternative 911 behavioral health response.
- Remove the cap on special education funding in Washington schools.

an accesible washington!

- Fund parks. bike paths. and transit by raising the state "Oil Spill Tax."
- Provide 14 "Climate Days" of P.T.O. for all workers in Washington State
- Exempt 'climate products' like bikes and box fans from state sales tax
- Bring transit stations into compliance with ADA standards.
- Ensure fair pay and cost-of-living adjustments for state caregivers.
- Fund Long COVID recovery
 assistance in healthcare and
 social safety net spending.

Learn more and Donate:
BETTERWASHINGTON.ORG

For the last four years, Washingtonians have done our best to keep ourselves and our communities safe. Regardless of what happens in Washington, D.C., we have what it takes to make **A BETTER WASHINGTON**.

A former campaign staffer for Pramila Jayapal and a democratic socialist, Shaun Scott is a lobbyist for anti-poverty policies. He is running for the State Legislature to make Washington a better place for all to live and thrive.

FIRE RECE

Shaun Scott co-wrote Washington's
Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot. He was
part of the coalitions that passed the
Working Families Tax Credit and
capital gains tax. and worked with
former Rep. Frank Chopp to redress
racial segregation with housing
assistance to Black and brown
families in Washington State.

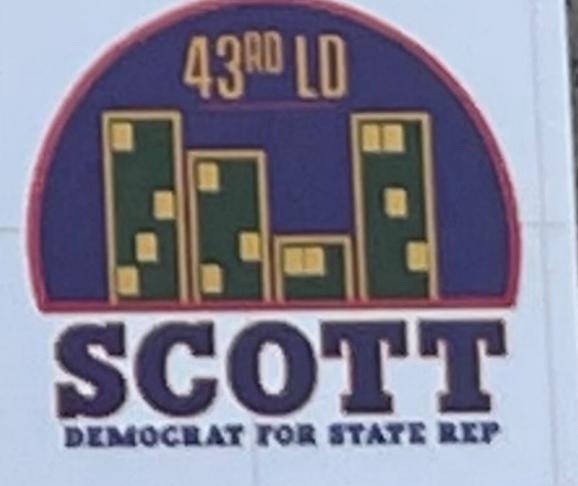


Paid for by the Fighting 43rd

endorsed by

Speaker Emeritus Frank Chopp
King County Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda
Seattle Democratic Socialists of America

36th L.D. Senator Noel Frame 36th L.D. Rep. Liz Berry 46th L.D. Rep. Darya Farivar 23rd L.D. Rep. Tarra Simmons 30th L.D. Rep. Jamila Taylor



Make a PLAN TO VOTE, make a BETTER WASHINGTON.



If you're registered to vote, ballots get to you in the mail three weeks before the <u>AUGUST 6</u> primary election, and three weeks before the <u>NOVEMBER 5</u> general election.



Put your ballot in any dropbox. including the two 43rd LD boxes located at Schmitz Hall on <u>U.W.</u> campus and Seattle Central Comm. College on <u>Capitol Hill</u> by 8PM on election day.

If you mail your ballot, make sure it's postmarked on Election Day.

BETTERWASHINGTON.ORG



Register to vote in Washington or update your registration at: tinyurl.com/WashVoter.

You can be registered to vote in multiple states. but you can only vote in one.



Fossil fuel lobbyists and corporate interests want you to ignore state politics in Olympia. We can't let them win.

VOTE SCOTT for 43RD L.D.
POSITION 2.







External Email

Apologies for the delay in response.

I just submitted amendments to address these concerns and am currently going through any other missing information at the present moment.

I called and spoke with PDC just a few weeks ago to get some clarification regarding the process of amendments as I was struggling with finding some information on the website.

Thank you so much for bringing this to our attention and we will have this rectified as soon as possible.

Best.

Jay Plancich





Tanya Mercier replied

7 months ago (Mon, 29 Jul 2024 at 2:38 PM)

To: shaun@betterwashington.org

Hello Mr. Scott.

We have received a second complaint against your campaign. Please review the attached allegations and respond in writing so your response may be published with the complaint. Because we are in a current election, and the allegations are relevant to the election, please respond no later than Monday, August 5, 2024.

Thank you,

Tanya

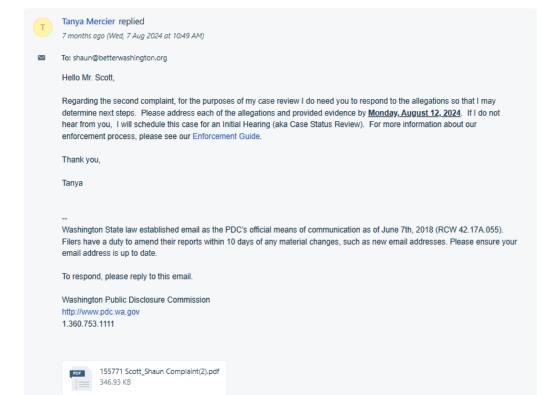
Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission http://www.pdc.wa.gov 1.360.753.1111



155771 Scott_Shaun Complaint(2).pdf 346.93 KB



Hello:

Please merge these allegations into existing PDC Case # 155771.

Note: this candidate has previously been fined for submitting late lobbyist reports, see link:

https://pdc-case-tracking.s3.us-gov-west-

1.amazonaws.com/5700/121747%20Scott%20Shaun%20L-

2%20Lobbyist%20BAP%20Order%20%28CY%2022%29.pdf.

1) Impermissible personal use of campaign funds, see RCW 42.17A.445.

See link: https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110230249.

The campaign had four separate itemized expenditures to "Jesus Barbershop", totaling \$333.40. These expenditures all appear to be for haircuts. The PDC has previously noted that haircuts are not an allowable campaign expense, see PDC cases 100348 & 100589.

2) Use of an assumed name for political advertising sponsor ID, RCW 42.17A.320.

On July 17, 2024, a letter was received by voters in the 43rd LD which appeared to be from retiring State Rep. Frank Chopp, urging voters to vote for Shaun Scott in the upcoming August primary. The letter contained a statement that identified the sponsor as "Paid for by a Better Washington, D, 4337 15th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105".

I looked on the PDC's website and found several committees that had similar names. Then I looked at Scott's committee's registration. I noticed that the address matched his registration.

Based on this fact, I am assuming that the Scott campaign paid for the letter but used an assumed name in the sponsor ID statement. The actual name of Scott's committee according to the registration is "The Fighting 43rd". See link:

https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/registration?registration_id=59664.

3) Failure to report debt, see RCW 42.17A.240(8).

See link to Scott's 21-day C4: https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110230249.

Based on the fact that the Chopp letter was delivered on 7/17/24, the letter would have had to have been paid for and produced on or before 7/15/24, which was a day covered by the 21-day C4 report.

Despite this, there is no expenditure or in-kind contribution or debt that corresponds to this letter's printing; however, there are other references to expenditures for clearly distinct printed material, such as doorbelling literature. I believe that this letter's purchase was likely reportable as a debt.

4) Significantly Late C3 Report Disclosing \$1200 Deposit, see RCW 42.17A.235, .240

See link: https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110231068.

This \$1200 PAC contribution should have been filed no later than 6/10/24. Instead, it was not filed until 7/17/24, significantly after the applicable deadline.

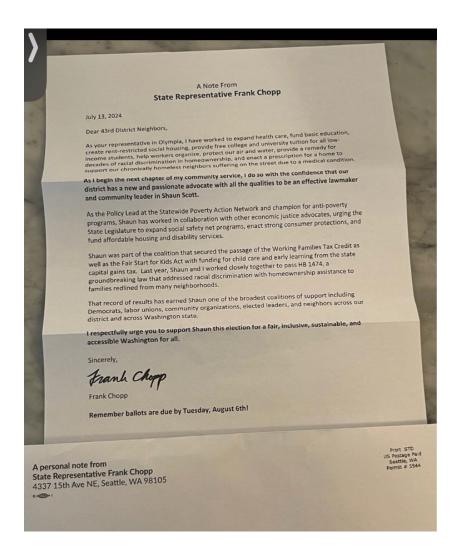
In closing, I will also note that – according to available records - this campaign's treasurer has been paid a monumental \$6990 in the approximately 4 months of the campaign's existence (registration was filed on 3/14/24). See link: https://pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/candidates/3296669?expenditure-recipient=Plancich#expenditures

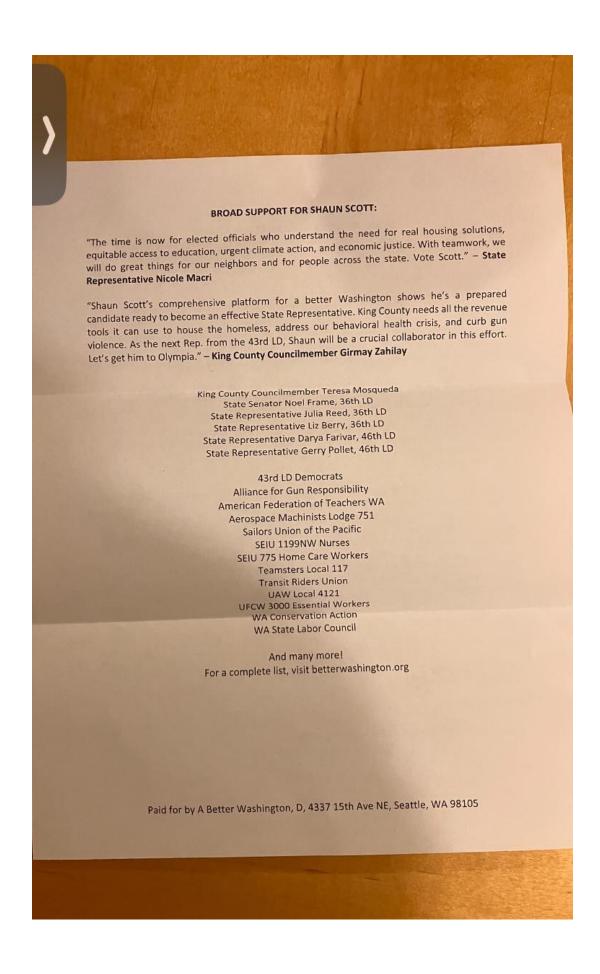
By way of comparison, the competing Suarez campaign has been in existence for approximately 2 months (registration filed on 5/23/2024) and utilizes a skilled professional campaign treasurer who was paid only \$1100. See link: https://pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/candidates/3310085?expenditure_recipient=Andy+Lo#expenditures

Also, by way of comparison, the competing Carusello campaign has been in existence for approximately 2 months (registration filed on 5/27/24) and utilizes a skilled professional campaign treasurer who was paid only \$750 for treasury. See link: https://pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/candidates/3311855?expenditure_description=treasury#expenditures.

While I strongly support treasurers being paid exorbitant amounts of money, this exponential difference stood out to me.

I concede it is possible that the treasurer for the Scott campaign is also providing other campaign services like consulting or strategy, but if that is the case it should be noted in the expenditure description field.







Tanya Mercier replied

7 months ago (Sat, 10 Aug 2024 at 4:26 PM)

To: shaun@betterwashington.org

Hello Mr. Scott,

We have received a third complaint against your campaign. The allegations appear to be similar to the second complaint but do review both the second and third complaint and provide a response to the allegations made in each complaint. Because this case appears to be getting more complex, and I have not heard back from you regarding the second complaint, If I don't hear from you by end of the day on Monday, August 12, 2024, I will proceed to schedule an initial hearing.

Tanya

Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission http://www.pdc.wa.gov 1.360.753.1111



155771 Shaun Scott Complaint (3).pdf 797.45 KB

Respondent Names

Shaun Scott

Complainant Name

Katie Martin

Complaint Description

Katemartinseattle

reported via the portal

Word document of this PDC complaint with links

Chopp Letter

Mailer #1

Mailer #2

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

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

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

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.

There are several examples of Mr. Scott failure to report debt, see RCW 42.17A.240(8). See link to Scott's 7-day C4: https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110236570 that was his third amendment to the 7-day report..

- 1. PDC complaint #155711 identified a Chopp letter was delivered on 7/17/24, the letter would have had to have been paid for and produced on or before 7/15/24, which was a day covered by both the 21-day C4 report and the 7-Day reports. Despite this, there is no expenditure or in-kind contribution or debt that corresponds to the printing of this letter or the envelope; however, there are other references to expenditures for clearly distinct printed material, such as doorbelling literature. The letter and the envelope were billed to the campaign's consultant on 7/22/2024 by Capitol City Press and is attached.
- 2. Voters in the district received the attached 6 x 11inch mailer the week of 7/15/2024. It was reported to me that someone saw it at the United States Post Office Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU) on July 15, 2024, or July 16, 2024. Despite this, there is no expenditure or in-kind contribution or debt that corresponds to the printing of this mailer on either the 21-Day or 7-Day reports. There are other references to expenditures for clearly distinct printed material, such as doorbelling literature. I believe the printing of this mailer was reportable as a debt on the 7-Day report and possibly the 21-Day report as well. There is also no debt reported for the design of this mailer on either report. The card was billed to the campaign's consultant on 7/22/2024 by Capitol City Press and is attached.
- 3. There are two expenditures on the 7-Day report for "postage" to Publisher's Mailing Service for \$3,175.16 and \$7,427.55 on 7/26/2024. I assume this is postage for the Chopp letter and the 6 x 11 mailer. The postage for the Chopp letter and possibly the 6 x 11 card should have been reported as debt on the 21-Day report. Moreover, the payment to publisher's lists the expenditure as "postage". If only postage was paid, expenses for addressing, stuffing, and sealing the Chopp letter was not reported on either the 21-Day or 7-Day reports. If only postage was paid for the 6 x 11 card, it was not reported on the 7-Day report and possibly the addressing was not listed as a debt on the 21-Day report. Other candidates using Publisher's Mailing Service report payment for postage and addressing separately. https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110234245
- 4. There is another billing from Capitol City Press on 7/29/2024 for 21,040 mailers. As with the previous printing, the billing date was approximately one week after the mailing date. Therefore, the printing and the postage of this mailing should have been reported as a liability in his 7-day report. A copy of the 7/29/2024 invoice is attached.

- 5. The addressing of the mailer that was invoiced on 7/29/2024 by Capitol Press was most likely reserved before July 29, 2024, and probably should have been reported as a liability.
- 6. The invoices for his mailings are billed to Northwest Passage Consulting (NWP). NWP does not work for free and there is no listing of liabilities for design, consulting, retainer, etc.

Violations of 42.17A.240 for failing to report the address for Adam Tradii on the original 7-day report that was added on subsequent reports.

A review of Mr. Scott's filings shows serious omissions and violations of every one of his C4 reports. The only way the public would know about these printing invoices is to figure out who might have printed it and contact the vendor and request a copy.

CAPITOL CITY PRESS

2975 37th Ave SW • Tumwater, WA 98512 (360) 943-3556 • FAX: (360) 943-2140 A/R email • accounting@capitolcitypress.com INVOICE DATE 7/22/2024

INVOICE NUMBER 158781

CUSTOMER NUMBER 5341

S
O NORTHWEST PASSAGE CONSULTING
L PO BOX 15734
D SEATTLE, WA 98115
T

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Remit to Address: Capitol City Press Inc 2975 37th Ave SW Tumwater, WA 98512

DURQUAGE ORDER NO	ODDEDED DV	IOD TIOKET	OAL FOREBOON	TEDMO
PURCHASE ORDER NO.	ORDERED BY	JOB TICKET	SALESPERSON Ken Deberteen	TERMS
SCOTT SENIOR LETTER	ERIN SCHULTZ	124824	Ken Robertson	net 30
DESCRIPTION				
7816 SHAUN SCOTT LET	TER			2,401.94
Online	Payments Now Ava	ilahla	Sales Ta	1X 248.60
	v.capitolcitypress.com			
	service charge on pa			
1 1/2% per monur	Service charge on pa	oo	TOTA	L 2,650.54
Please	Pay From This Invoi	Ce	Dayma t -t :	hofore 0/24/2024
		Payment due on or before 8/21/2024		

INVOICE NUMBER 158789

INVOICE DATE 7/22/2024

CUSTOMER NUMBER 5341

2975 37th Ave SW • Tumwater, WA 98512 (360) 943-3556 • FAX: (360) 943-2140

A/R email • accounting@capitolcitypress.com

S O NORT L PO BO D SEAT

ТО

NORTHWEST PASSAGE CONSULTING PO BOX 15734 SEATTLE, WA 98115 Remit to Address: Capitol City Press Inc 2975 37th Ave SW Tumwater, WA 98512

PURCHASE ORDER NO.	ORDERED BY	JOB TICKET	SALESPERSON	TERMS
SHAUN SCOTT BROAD INTR	ERIN SCHULTZ	124814	Ken Robertson	net 30
	DESCRIPTION			Y
19,464 SHAUN SCOTT BR	OAD INTRO CARD			2,845.33
Online I	Payments Now Avai	ilable	Sales Ta	x 294.50
	.capitolcitypress.com			
1 1/2% per month	service charge on pa Pay From This Invoi	st due accounts	ТОТА	L 3,139.83
			Payment due on or	before 8/21/2024

INVOICE NUMBER 158902

INVOICE DATE 7/29/2024

CUSTOMER NUMBER 5341

2975 37th Ave SW • Tumwater, WA 98512 (360) 943-3556 • FAX: (360) 943-2140 A/R email • accounting@capitolcitypress.com

S O NORTHWEST PASSAGE CONSULTING L PO BOX 15734 D SEATTLE, WA 98115

Remit to Address: Capitol City Press Inc 2975 37th Ave SW Tumwater, WA 98512

D SEATTLE, WA 98115

PURCHASE ORDER NO.	ORDERED BY	JOB TICKET	SALESPERSON	TERMS
SCOTT BROAD SUPPORT	ERIN SCHULTZ	125018	Ken Robertson	net 30
	DESCRIPTION			
21,050 SCOTT BROAD SU	JPPORT CARD			2,984.74
	Payments Now Avai		Sales Ta	x 308.92
	v.capitolcitypress.com service charge on pa		TOTA	1 2 202 CC
Please	Pay From This Invoi	ce	IOTA	L 3,293.66
	•		Payment due on or	before 8/28/2024



Tanya Mercier added a private note

7 months ago (Tue, 13 Aug 2024 at 5:00 PM)

Merged from ticket 158114

Subject: Re: PDC - Shaun Scott: Alleged violations of RCW42.17A.235, .240, .320, .445 for failure to timely & accurately rpt contribs,, expends. & debt, provide complete sponsor ID and use of an assumed name on POLADs; and disallowed use of campaign funds (EY24 JU

Description:

External Email

Thank you, Tanya. Taking these allegations in order:

- 1. The PDC website does not appear to explicitly disallow haircuts. Because of television, debate, and other campaign appearances that the candidate would not be subject to were they not running for office, these are reasonably construed as an allowable campaign expense until advised otherwise explicitly by the PDC.
- 2. The assumed name of for the political advert ("Better Washington") was incorrect.
- 3. All accrued debts are forthcoming in the PDC filing due on August 20: they were not reported as debt because they were not officially conferred as such while printing and postage estimates were made by the respective parties. There is an expense itemized for the letter's postage and printing that is visible in our campaign PDC at present.
- The filing for this \$1200 check was late because of a miscommunication, but it was eventually logged before this report was received.



Tanya Mercier replied

7 months ago (Tue, 13 Aug 2024 at 5:00 PM)

To: shaun@betterwashington.org

Thank you Mr. Scott.

I have published the response material to our Enforcement Cases webpage under case 155771.

Once I can review all the case materials, I will follow-up with any additional questions.

Tanya

Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission http://www.pdc.wa.gov 1.360.753.1111



Tanya Mercier replied

7 months ago (Tue, 20 Aug 2024 at 9:28 AM)

Hello Mr. Scott,

I took a quick look at your response to the three complaints and have the following follow-up questions:

- 1. The Conner Edwards complaints allege that the campaign improperly included processing fees in donation amounts and filed C4s reflecting inaccurate Cash on Hand (line 18) balances. Have you reviewed your reporting to determine if these allegations are accurate? If the allegations are accurate, has the reporting been corrected? If the reporting has not been corrected, when can I expect it to be corrected?
- 2. In the same complaint, Mr. Edwards alleged that the campaign received over limit contributions. Have you reviewed your reporting to determine if this allegation is accurate? If the allegations are accurate, what is the campaign's next step to remedy the acceptance of over-limit contributions?
- 3. Mr. Edwards also alleges that the campaign failed to report the address of vendors and failed to identify the quantity of printed items in reporting. Have you reviewed your reporting to determine if these allegations are accurate? If the allegations are accurate, has the reporting been corrected? If the reporting has not been corrected, when can I expect it to be corrected?
- 4. Regarding the 6x9 political advertisement, was this material disseminated by your campaign?
- 5. Regarding the haircuts paid for by your campaign, what are the dates for the "television, debate, and other campaign appearances" that you have indicated were related to the haircut expenditures?
- 6. Regarding the letter from Frank Chopp, you've indicated that "The assumed name of for the political advert ("Better Washington") was incorrect." Who should have been identified as the sponsor ID of that letter?

Please respond to these questions no later than Monday, August 26, 2024.

Thank you.

Tanya



Tanya Mercier replied

6 months ago (Tue, 27 Aug 2024 at 11:24 AM)

Hello Mr. Scott.

Since we have not received responses to our questions from August 20, 2024, and because this case has become complex due to the multiple complaints, I am scheduling you for an Initial Hearing (aka Case Status Review). The hearing will be with myself and the PDC's Executive Director, Peter Frey Lavallee (or his designee) and is a non-adjudicative proceeding. You are not required to attend but it is strongly encouraged that you, or your representative, do attend so that we can discuss next steps in concluding this case. For more information about our enforcement process, see the Enforcement Guide available online.

The meeting will be conducted remotely via Teams or you can call in via phone.

Hearing/meeting Date: September 3, 2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Authority: RCW 42.17A.755(3) & WAC 390-37-071

Place: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 237 196 577 351 Passcode: Whcp5u Dial in by phone

+1 564-999-2000,,762248637# United States, Olympia (833) 322-1218,,762248637# United States (Toll-free)

For more information, see the attached Hearing Notice or if you have questions, please reach out to me directly.

Tanya Mercier Compliance Officer

Public Disclosure Commission

Office Phone Number: (360) 753-1111

pdc@pdc.wa.gov



Shaun Scott replied

6 months ago (Tue, 27 Aug 2024 at 11:33 AM)

■ To: "PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov> Cc: donate@betterwashington.org

External Email

Thank you, Tanya - right as I received this I was in the process of responding. If I get you a response today will we still have to go forward with the hearing?





Tanya Mercier replied

6 months ago (Tue, 27 Aug 2024 at 11:40 AM)

▼ To: shaun@betterwashington.org Cc: donate@betterwashington.org

Hi Shaun,

Yes, we'll still have the hearing.

By having the hearing we can set-up next steps to move toward a resolution and the hearing also extends the time that the PDC can maintain jurisdiction over the case.

Do get me your response to the questions from August 20, 2024 before the hearing so that I can review that material and have next steps prepared to keep us moving forward timely.

Thank you,

Tanya



Tanya Mercier replied

6 months ago (Tue, 3 Sep 2024 at 3:54 PM)

■ To: shaun@betterwashington.org Cc: donate@betterwashington.org

Shaun Scott,

Per WAC 390-37-060, the PDC held an initial hearing (case status review) for case 155771. For more information about the Enforcement Procedure please see WAC 390-37-071 or https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement.

Please see the attached Initial Hearing Results letter for a record of today's proceeding.

I'd like to have a phone call with you in order to discuss next steps to continue moving toward a resolution to this investigation. The call should not take more than 30 minutes. I have the following days/times available, please indicate which two of the following that will work for you.

- Friday 9/6/24 11am
- Friday 9/6/24 3pm
- Monday 9/9/24 11am
- Tuesday 9/10/24 3:30pm

Please respond before the end of the day on $\underline{Thursday, September~12, 2024}$

Thank you,

Tanya Mercier Compliance Officer

Public Disclosure Commission

Office Phone Number: (360) 753-1111

pdc@pdc.wa.gov

^{**}Please use Reply when responding to this email



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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

August 27, 2024

PDC Case 155771

Sent electronically to Shaun Scott at shaun@betterwashington.org

Notice for Initial Hearing (Case Status Review Hearing)

Respondent: Shaun Scott

Hearing/meeting Date: September 3, 2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Remotely via Teams

PDC Staff: Peter Lavallee, Executive Director, Public Disclosure

Commission

Authority: RCW 42.17A.755(3) & WAC 390-37-071

This is to notify you that the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has scheduled an initial hearing, and we intend to open a formal investigation on the above date. The Initial Hearing (Case Status Review Hearing) concerns multiple complaints filed on June 23, 2024, to August 19, 2024, by multiple complainants previously named in the complaint materials sent to you. The complaints allege that you, a candidate in the 2024 election for State Representative, Position 2, for the 43rd Legislative District, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235, .240, .320, and .445 by failing to timely and accurately report debt, contributions and expenditures; provide complete sponsor identification and using an assumed name on POLADs; and used campaign funds for disallowed uses.

The Case Status Review Hearing is not an adjudicative proceeding. It is conducted in accordance with WAC 390-37-071 and is intended to provide you with information concerning the investigative process, including alternatives to resolve the matter.

You do not have to attend the hearing. Further, your failure to attend will not prejudice your rights concerning the investigative process, or any potential future adjudicative proceeding in the matter.

If you have questions, please contact Tanya Mercier, the Compliance Officer in your case, at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Electronically signed
Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director



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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

September 3, 2024

Sent electronically to Shaun Scott at shaun@betterwashington.org

Subject: Initial Hearing (Case Status Review Hearing) After Opening a Formal Investigation, Shaun Scott, PDC Case 155771

Dear Shaun Scott:

After conducting a preliminary review and assessment of the complaints against you filed June 23, 2024, and July 18, 2024 by Conner Edwards, and on August 8, 2024, by Kate Martin, and on August 19, 2024, by Carl Larson, PDC staff opened a formal investigation and held an Initial Hearing (Case Status Review Hearing) on September 3, 2024, pursuant to RCW 42.17A.755, and WACs 390-37-060 and 390-37-071.

At the hearing it was noted that RCW 42.17A.755 provides PDC staff with additional tools to resolve complaints through the use of alternatives to noncompliance, and I am encouraging you to work with staff on resolving this matter. If the PDC does not see substantive progress within 45 days, the respondent will receive a hearing notice to appear for an enforcement hearing.

If you have questions, please contact Tanya Mercier, Compliance Officer, at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Electronically signed
Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

Tanya

Tanya Mercier replied

6 months ago (Tue, 10 Sep 2024 at 11:20 AM)

Hello Mr. Scott,

I've not heard back from you about having a phone call with me.

I do need to make progress with this case. Two weeks ago you indicated you were in the process of responding to my questions from 10/20/24 but I have not received that response. If I do not receive a response to my questions from 10/20/24 today, I will move forward and schedule you for our October Brief Adjudicative Procedure (BAP) where the presiding officer will hear your case and may fine you a civil penalty.

For more information about our enforcement process, see: https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement/guide

Tanva

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Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission http://www.pdc.wa.gov



Shaun Scott replied

6 months ago (Tue, 10 Sep 2024 at 7:48 PM)

▼ To: "PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov> Cc: donate@betterwashington.org

External Email

1. The Conner Edwards complaints allege that the campaign improperly included processing fees in donation amounts and filed C4s reflecting inaccurate Cash on Hand (line 18) balances. Have you reviewed your reporting to determine if these allegations are accurate? If the allegations are accurate, has the reporting been corrected? If the reporting has not been corrected, when can I expect it to be corrected?

I do not believe the allegations are accurate. But if they are, we will have all discrepancies corrected by the final filing of the general election.

In the same complaint, Mr. Edwards alleged that the campaign received over limit contributions. Have you reviewed your reporting to determine if this
allegation is accurate? If the allegations are accurate, what is the campaign's next step to remedy the acceptance of over-limit contributions?

The allegation is inaccurate, and is inconsistent with the first complaint - it can't truthfully be simultaneously alleged that processing fees are part of any given donation over \$2400, while also claiming that those contributions are "over the campaign limit" because of the processing fees. The discrepancy here indicates that Mr. Edwards' complaint - as indicated by reporting from the Seattle Times on May 9, 2024 - is more about scoring cheap political points than about enforcement.

1. Mr. Edwards also alleges that the campaign failed to report the address of vendors and failed to identify the quantity of printed items in reporting. Have you reviewed your reporting to determine if these allegations are accurate? If the allegations are accurate, has the reporting been corrected? If the reporting has not been corrected, when can I expect it to be corrected?

The allegation is inaccurate

1. Regarding the 6x9 political advertisement, was this material disseminated by your campaign?

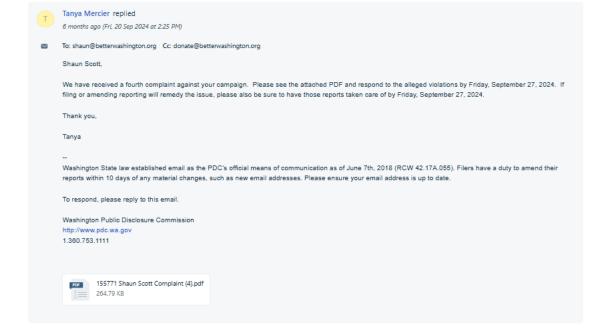
It was unclear from the complaint which 6x9 political advertisement was being referred to

1. Regarding the haircuts paid for by your campaign, what are the dates for the "television, debate, and other campaign appearances" that you have indicated were related to the haircut expenditures?

With due respect, the "campaign appearances" were constant, as I'm constantly a candidate. Filers of this complaint are well aware of that, but have chosen to use the P.D.C. complaint process for politically motivated aims, rather than for genuine oversight.

1. Regarding the letter from Frank Chopp, you've indicated that "The assumed name of for the political advert ("Better Washington") was incorrect."
Who should have been identified as the sponsor ID of that letter?

"The Fighting 43rd" should have been identified as the sponsor ID of the letter.



Respondent Names

Shaun Scott

Complainant Name

Carl Larson

Complaint Description

Carl Larson

reported via the portal (Tue, 17 Sep 2024 at 12:24 AM)

This should be an addition to pending investigation 155771. C-4 110244773 filed by Service Employees International Local 925 shows a contribution to Mr. Scott of \$1,200 on August 16, 2024. And C-4 110243069 filed by the Washington State Association of Justice shows a contribution to Mr. Scott of \$600 on August 15, 2024. Both contributions should have been deposited by Mr. Scott's campaign in August along with the corresponding C-3 reports. Mr. Scott filed C-3 reports for contributions received about this same period on September 16, 2024 but these two contributions were not included.

Once again, Mr. Scott has failed to properly supervise his treasurer. Contributions and deposits that were received in August and should have been reported in August or early September have still not been filed with the PDC as of 5 pm on September 16, 2024.

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

Once again, Mr. Scott has again shown complete disrespect for complying with PDC rules and illegally hiding contributions from the public. Mr. Scott failed to report two PAC donations that were made to his campaign on August 15th and 16th.

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

C-4 110244773 and C-4 110243069 on the PDC website.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

PDC Website

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.

Tanya Mercier added a private note 5 months ago (Wed, 2 Oct 2024 at 8:12 AM)

■ Merged from ticket 159952

Subject: filing delay

Description:

External Email

To whom it may concern: Shaun Scott's campaign for State House in the 43rd L.D. experienced staff turnover at the Treasurer position that will delay mandatory filing for approximately 72 hours. Filing due dates for the October 1 period will be completed by the end of this week.

Best,

Shaun Scott.

Tanya Mercier replied

5 months ago (Wed, 2 Oct 2024 at 11:11 AM)

■ To: shaun@betterwashington.org Cc: donate@betterwashington.org

Thank you Mr. Scott for the update.

Do be aware that you have caught the attention of multiple interested parties and they continue to file supplemental complaints about your campaign reporting. Some of those complaints I have shared with you and others I have just wrapped in to the current case. The deadlines for reporting still apply regardless if you have a Treasurer on staff or not so do please complete any missing reports ASAP and going forward work to report timely.

Tanya

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Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission http://www.pdc.wa.gov

(T)

Tanya Mercier replied

5 months ago (Wed, 2 Oct 2024 at 4:36 PM)

☑ To: shaun@betterwashington.org Cc: donate@betterwashington.org

Hello Mr. Scott

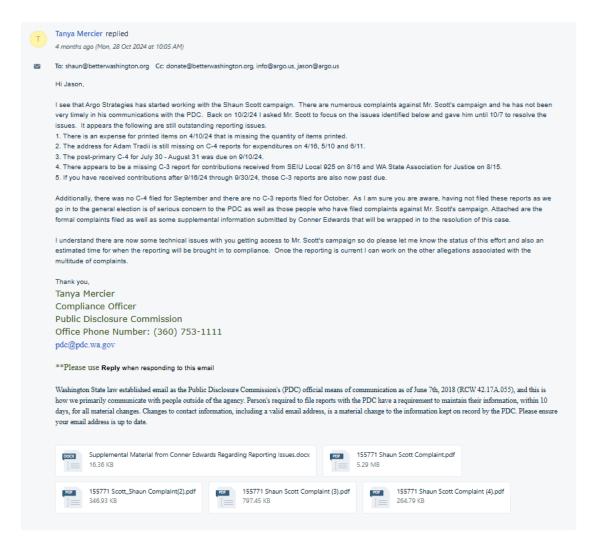
There is a lot to get through in these complaints so for the moment I am going to focus on the reporting issues. I see that there have been amendments to your reporting to address the processing fee allegation, the over-limit contribution allegation, failing to report the address of vendors, and reporting the quantity of printed items allegation.

I am still seeing the following issues that need to be addressed:

- 1. There is an expense for printed items on 4/10/24 that is missing the quantity of items printed.
- The address for Adam Tradii is still missing on C-4 reports for expenditures on 4/16, 5/10 and 6/11.
- 3. The post-primary C-4 for July 30 August 31 was due on 9/10/24.
- 4. There appears to be a missing C-3 report for contributions received from SEIU Local 925 on 8/16 and WA State Association for Justice on 8/15.
- 5. If you have received contributions after 9/16/24 through 9/30/24, those C-3 reports are also now past due.

Please have these issues corrected by no later end of day on Monday, October 7, 2024, and let me know when corrected so I can review the reporting.

Tanya





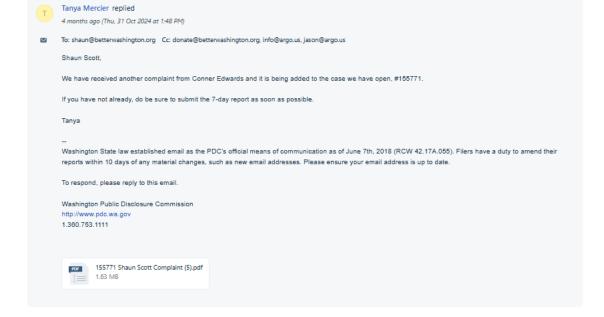
4 months ago (Mon, 28 Oct 2024 at 10:15 AM)

To: "PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov> Cc: shaun@betterwashington.org, donate@betterwashington.org, info@argo.us

External Email

Hi Tanya - the PDC tried to add me to his ORCA file numerous times last week and it isn't working. I sent another note this am about it. At this stage it doesn't seem likely that I would be able to bring this current until mid-week given that we have back-to-back deadlines tomorrow but will work on it as quickly as possible to get as much filed as humanly possible. The other solution, if we cannot add Shaun's existing ORCA file to my filing profile is to reenter all data into 3rd party software, but I imagine that will take even longer. But that is my plan B if we can't get me on his ORCA file in the next few days. Thanks so much!





Respondent Name

Shaun Scott

Complainant Name

Conner Edwards

Complaint Description

Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Wed, 30 Oct 2024 at 9:53 PM)

Description of Complaint

See attached complaint.

Notice to Respondent

I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint. The chance that you will actually be fined for the violations identified above is extremely small because the agency is averse to doing the work necessary to bring cases to hearings. Most likely this case – and any future cases against you – will simply be dismissed by staff with a so-called "warning letter".

This complaint is one of hundreds that I have filed to highlight and ultimately fix the significant shortcomings associated with the agency responsible for administering our state's campaign finance laws.

What are these shortcomings?

Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with. Failure to properly educate the regulated community about the tasks they must perform to remain in compliance with applicable requirements and avoid complaints. Failure of the agency to send regular reminders to filers about pending deadlines. A failure to proactively enforce applicable requirements which enables the complaint system to become weaponized. Non-intuitive, non-user friendly, and buggy reporting software. Failure to meaningfully enforce core requirements. Failure to follow the best operating practices of other neighboring campaign finance agencies. An agency leadership structure that largely disregards stakeholder input and is slow to identify and resolve major agency deficiencies.

I believe that the best way to motivate the agency to address these problems is by filing a large number of complaints so that the agency's problems become impossible to ignore.

Slowly (too slowly) this strategy is starting to yield concrete and beneficial changes. You can read about these changes here: https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/why-one-man-filed-800-campaign-finance-complaints-against-wa-candidates/

If you believe that the agency could have done something different to help you proactively avoid the issues identified in this complaint, I hope that you will consider including it in your response. The agency, and the public, can benefit from your perspective and feedback.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

— Lao Tzu

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

See complaint. The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing disclosure requirements. The agency's failure to actively monitor compliance with these requirements and enforce them damages both the public and members of the regulated community.

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

See complaint and also PDC website.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

See complaint and also PDC website.

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.



Q Search **≡** Menu

Shaun Scott

Candidate for STATE REPRESENTATIVE for LEG DISTRICT 43 - HOUSE in the 2024 election.

<u>Overview</u>	Contributions	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Pledges</u>	<u>Debts</u>	<u>Loans</u>	Independent Expenditures
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Candidate Overview

Registered March 14, 2024 Party: DEMOCRATIC

- 4337 15th Ave NE, Apt. 816 Seattle, WA 98105
- organizewithshaun@gmail.com

Candidacy Status

- → Candidate registered (3/14/2024)
- → Candidate declared (5/6/2024)
- → Qualified for general

Financial Overview

 \$54,712.49
 \$0.00

 Total spent
 Pledges
 Debt

\$89.66 \$0.00

Independent expenditures for Independent expenditures against

Candidate Reports and Forms

Registration Form

Financial Affairs Report

Surplus Funds Account

Contributors and Vendors Map

Made to candidate for 2024

Contributions

See who has contributed cash and in-kind (non-monetary) contributions to the campaign.

Contributions made to candidate for 2024

Individual

\$66,354.71

Other

\$28,367.05

Union

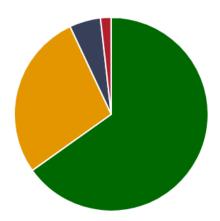
\$5,300.00

Political Action Committee

\$1,800.00

Business

\$15.68



Made by candidate for 2024

Expenditures

See how the campaign has spent money, and what kind of goods and services it received as in-kind contributions.

Expenditures made by candidate for 2024

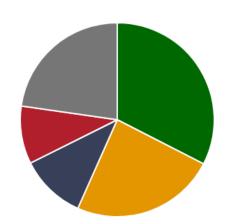
Wages, salaries, benefits,... \$17,790.00

Other advertising \$13,212.71

Management and consulting services \$6,000.00

Printing literature, fliers,... \$5,275.78

Miscellaneous \$12,434.00



Candidates Filed for this Position

Show 10 → entries Search:

* declared candidates (eligible for election)

Candidate \$	Contributions 🕶	Expenditures \$
Andrea Suarez *	\$139,278.76	\$140,303.57
Shaun Scott *	\$101,837.44	\$54,712.49
Daniel Carusello *	\$49,960.35	\$49,960.35
Frank V Chopp (FRANK CHOPP)	\$13,275.00	\$33,398.70
Stephanie LLoyd-Agnew *	\$601.00	\$601.00

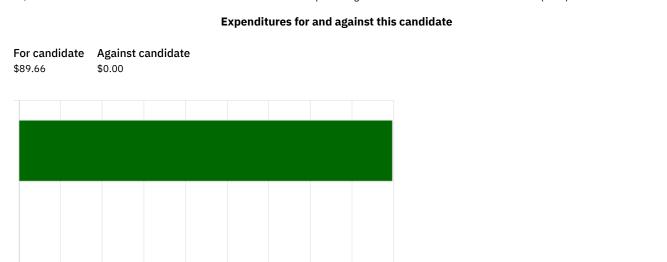
Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

Previous 1 Next

Spending for and against this candidate

Independent Expenditures

Independent expenditures are made by third parties that are not part of a candidate's campaign.



70

Incurred by candidate

Debts

This information shows the debt for the campaign as of the submission date of the related report.

Outstanding debt for campaign is \$0.00

Campaign Finance Reports

See the reports filed by the candidate. Reports with a strikethrough were amended by another report. Show $\boxed{\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ }$ entries

Download 92 rows as CSV.

Period 🔻	Report Number	\$	Filed \$	Report \$	Form Type \$	E	Election Year	\$
10/25/2024 - 10/25/2024	110256341		10/28/2024	<u>View Report</u>	С3	:	2024	
09/16/2024 - 09/16/2024	110245465		09/16/2024	<u>View Report</u>	С3	:	2024	
09/16/2024 - 09/16/2024	110245467		09/16/2024	<u>View Report</u>	C3	:	2024	
09/16/2024 - 09/16/2024	110245473		09/16/2024	View Report	C3	:	2024	
08/19/2024 - 08/19/2024	110239403		08/19/2024	<u>View Report</u>	C3	:	2024	
08/12/2024 - 08/12/2024	110238097		08/12/2024	<u>View Report</u>	C3	:	2024	
08/06/2024 - 08/06/2024	110236573		08/06/2024	View Report	C3	:	2024	
08/06/2024 - 08/06/2024	110236575		08/06/2024	View Report	C3	:	2024	

Period •	Report Number \$	Filed \$	Report \$	Form Type 💠	Election Year
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08/05/2024 - 08/05/2024	110235931	08/05/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/30/2024 - 07/30/2024	110234173	07/30/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/30/2024 - 07/30/2024	110234178	07/30/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/30/2024 - 07/30/2024	110234196	07/30/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/29/2024 - 07/29/2024	110233187	07/29/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/25/2024 - 07/25/2024	110232434	07/25/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/25/2024 - 07/25/2024	110232435	07/25/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/22/2024 - 07/22/2024	110231715	07/22/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/22/2024 - 07/22/2024	110231725	07/22/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/22/2024 - 07/22/2024	110231783	07/22/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/22/2024 - 07/22/2024	110231785	07/22/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/16/2024 07/29/2024	110234263 Amended by: 110234584	07/30/2024	View Report	C4	2024
07/16/2024 07/29/2024	110234584 Amended by: 110234935	07/30/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
07/16/2024 - 07/29/2024	110234935 Amended by: 110235914	07/31/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
07/16/2024 07/29/2024	110235914 Amended by: 110236570	08/05/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
07/16/2024 - 07/29/2024	110236570	08/06/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
07/15/2024 - 07/15/2024	110229495	07/15/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/03/2024 - 07/03/2024	110226536	07/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/03/2024 	110226540 Amended by: 110230429	07/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/03/2024 - 07/03/2024	110230429	07/16/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
07/01/2024 07/01/2024	110225607 Amended by: 110230427	07/01/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/01/2024 - 07/01/2024	110225616	07/01/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/01/2024 - 07/01/2024	110230427	07/16/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
06/24/2024 06/24/2024	110224375 Amended by: 110230422	06/24/2024	View Report	C3	2024
06/24/2024 - 06/24/2024	110224376 Amended by: 110230424	06/24/2024	View Report	C3	2024
06/24/2024 - 06/24/2024	110230422	07/16/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
06/24/2024 - 06/24/2024	110230424	07/16/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024

Period 🔻	Report Number \$	Filed \$	Report \$	Form Type 💠	Election Year
06/22/2024 - 06/22/2024	110231080	07/17/2024	<u>View Report</u>	C3	2024
06/17/2024 06/17/2024	110223139 Amended by: 110230419	06/17/2024	<u>View Report</u>	C3	2024
06/17/2024 - 06/17/2024	110230419	07/16/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
06/10/2024 06/10/2024	110221643 Amended by: 110230417	06/10/2024	View Report	C3	2024
06/10/2024 - 06/10/2024	110230416	07/16/2024	View Report	C3	2024
06/10/2024 - 06/10/2024	110230417	07/16/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
06/03/2024 06/03/2024	110218504 Amended by: 110231077	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
06/03/2024 06/03/2024	110218557 Amended by: 110231078	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
06/03/2024 - 06/03/2024	110218585 Amended by: 110231079	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
06/03/2024 - 06/03/2024	110231077	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
06/03/2024 - 06/03/2024	110231078	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
06/03/2024 - 06/03/2024	110231079	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
06/01/2024 07/15/2024	110229508 Amended by: 110229515	07/15/2024	View Report	C4	2024
06/01/2024 07/15/2024	110229515 Amended by: 110229755	07/15/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
06/01/2024 - 07/15/2024	110229755 Amended by: 110230249	07/15/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
06/01/2024 - 07/15/2024	110230249	07/16/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
05/29/2024 	110218498 Amended by: 110231074	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
05/29/2024 - 05/29/2024	110218500 Amended by: 110231075	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
05/29/2024 - 05/29/2024	110231074	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
05/29/2024 - 05/29/2024	110231075	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
05/22/2024 - 05/22/2024	110218497 Amended by: 110231073	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
05/22/2024 - 05/22/2024	110231073	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
05/16/2024 	110218495 Amended by: 110231072	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
05/16/2024 - 05/16/2024	110231072	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
05/15/2024 	110218492 Amended by: 110231070	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
05/15/2024 - 05/15/2024	110231070 Amended by: 110231071	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
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05/10/2024 - 05/10/2024	110231068	07/17/2024	View Report	C3	2024

Period 🔻	Report Number \$	Filed \$	Report \$	Form Type 💠	Election Year
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FILE ONLINE

Complaint Against: Shaun Scott

Submitted: 10/30/24

Notice to Respondent Due By: 11/9/24 per WAC 390-37-050(1) 90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 1/28/24 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)

Statutes Violated: RCW 42.17A.235, .240

Background

Washington State's Campaign Finance Disclosure Law

One of the primary purposes of the public disclosure law is to provide citizens of this state, and especially voters, with the means for becoming informed about the financing of political campaigns. The public disclosure law was enacted through voter approval of Initiative 276 in 1972.

State law requires candidates and committees that register under full reporting to submit regular reports of financial activity. Those reports are filed on schedules outlined on the PDC's key reporting dates calendar.²

Violation

This candidate has failed to file their 7-day pre-general C4 report. See attached, and also link: https://pdc.wa.gov/news/2024/pdc-sends-late-notices-43-candidates-missing-mandatory-reporting-deadline

Conclusion

With the 2024 general election rapidly approaching, I urge the PDC staff to take quick action and resolve the noncompliance identified in this complaint.

Best,

/s/

Conner Edwards (425) 533-1677 cell

¹ https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics

² https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics/key-dates-2024

Notice to Respondent

I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint. The chance that you will actually be fined for the violations identified above is extremely small because the agency is averse to doing the work necessary to bring cases to hearings. Most likely this case – and any future cases against you – will simply be dismissed by staff with a so-called "warning letter".

This complaint is one of hundreds that I have filed to highlight and ultimately fix the significant shortcomings associated with the agency responsible for administering our state's campaign finance laws.

What are these shortcomings?

Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with. Failure to properly educate the regulated community about the tasks they must perform to remain in compliance with applicable requirements and avoid complaints. Failure of the agency to send regular reminders to filers about pending deadlines. A failure to proactively enforce applicable requirements which enables the complaint system to become weaponized. Non-intuitive, non-user friendly, and buggy reporting software. Failure to meaningfully enforce core requirements. Failure to follow the best operating practices of other neighboring campaign finance agencies. An agency leadership structure that largely disregards stakeholder input and is slow to identify and resolve major agency deficiencies.

I believe that the best way to motivate the agency to address these problems is by filing a large number of complaints so that the agency's problems become impossible to ignore.

Slowly (too slowly) this strategy is starting to yield concrete and beneficial changes. You can read about these changes here: https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/why-one-man-filed-800-campaign-finance-complaints-against-wa-candidates/

If you believe that the agency could have done something different to help you proactively avoid the issues identified in this complaint, I hope that you will consider including it in your response. The agency, and the public, can benefit from your perspective and feedback.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

— Lao Tzu



J

Jason Bennett replied

4 months ago (Wed, 13 Nov 2024 at 4:10 PM)

■ To: "PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov> Cc: shaun@betterwashington.org, donate@betterwashington.org, info@argo.us

External Email

Hi Tanya - I should have the online donations filed tonight covering the time period from the last report to this week. We are still trying to access a few bank deposits and some expenses that were cut (and their detail) but I should have the C4 reports filed by the end of the week. I will need to do a fuller audit to ensure everything matches the bank account to the penny and that will take me a little bit longer. But I will be able to at least get 90% of the filing from the last report to today by tonight...the other reports by the end of the week and hopefully the full audit finished within the next 10 days.

Thank you!







Tanya Mercier replied

4 months ago (Wed, 13 Nov 2024 at 4:15 PM)

Thank you Jason. Getting the reports filed will give me some needed information so I can figure out where to go with the rest of the allegations that remain outstanding.

Tanya

Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission http://www.pdc.wa.gov 1.360.753.1111



4 months ago (Thu, 21 Nov 2024 at 1:36 PM)

▼ To: shaun@betterwashington.org Cc: donate@betterwashington.org, info@argo.us, jason@argo.us

Shaun Scott,

We have received two more complaints from Conner Edwards against your campaign. Please see the attached and if you desire to respond, please provide a written response by Thursday, November 28, 2024.

The allegations related to the missing 21-day pre-general C-4 and failing to file C-3 reports for contributions received from other entities must be addressed immediately in the ORCA system. Please be sure to review the links provided in the complaint identified as #6 to determine which entities reported giving a contribution to your campaion.

Next week I will be out of the office for the holiday. When I return the following week I would like to have a phone call with you so that the non-reporting related issues can get addressed. I expect the call to take around an hour. Attached is a spreadsheet of the complaints and their allegations. You can see all the complaints in their original format, with attached evidence, on our Enforcement Cases webpage under case #155771.

I have the following days and times available, please let me know what time works for you.

- · Wednesday, December 4th, 11am noon
- Wednesday, December 4th, 2:30-3:30pm
- Thursday, December 5th, 1:30 2:30pm
- Friday, December 6th my day is open and you can choose any time between 9am and 3pm

If I don't hear from you by the morning on Monday, December 2, 2024, indicating one of the above dates and times for a phone call, I will proceed to issue a subposena for an interview with you.

Thank you,

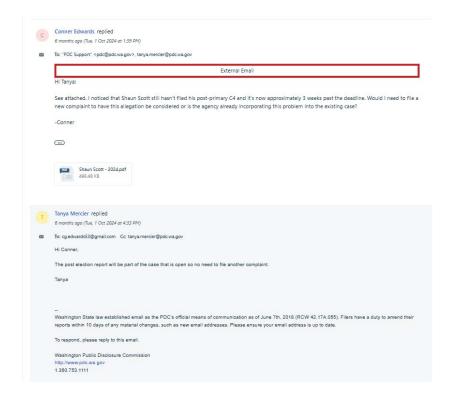
Tanya Mercier

Compliance Officer

Public Disclosure Commission

Office Phone Number: (360) 753-1111

pdc@pdc.wa.gov



Respondent Name

Shaun Scott

Complainant Name

Conner Edwards

Complaint Description

Conner Edwards reported via the portal

(Thu, 17 Oct 2024 at 11:50 PM)

Description of Complaint

See attached complaint.

Notice to Respondent

I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint. The chance that you will actually be fined for the violations identified above is extremely small because the agency is averse to doing the work necessary to bring cases to hearings. Most likely this case – and any future cases against you – will simply be dismissed by staff with a so-called "warning letter".

This complaint is one of hundreds that I have filed to highlight and ultimately fix the significant shortcomings associated with the agency responsible for administering our state's campaign finance laws.

What are these shortcomings?

Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with. Failure to properly educate the regulated community about the tasks they must perform to remain in compliance with applicable requirements and avoid complaints. Failure of the agency to send regular reminders to filers about pending deadlines. A failure to proactively enforce applicable requirements which enables the complaint system to become weaponized. Non-intuitive, non-user friendly, and buggy reporting software. Failure to meaningfully enforce core requirements. Failure to follow the best operating practices of other neighboring campaign finance agencies. An agency leadership structure that largely disregards stakeholder input and is slow to identify and resolve major agency deficiencies.

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Slowly (too slowly) this strategy is starting to yield concrete and beneficial changes. You can read about these changes here: https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/why-one-man-filed-800-campaign-finance-complaints-against-wa-candidates/

If you believe that the agency could have done something different to help you proactively avoid the issues identified in this complaint, I hope that you will consider including it in your response. The agency, and the public, can benefit from your perspective and feedback.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

- Mahatma Gandhi

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

See complaint. The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing disclosure requirements. The agency's failure to actively monitor compliance with these requirements and enforce them damages both the public and members of the regulated community.

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

See complaint and also PDC website.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

See complaint and also PDC website.

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.

Complaint Against: Shaun Scott

Submitted: 10/17/24

Notice to Respondent Due By: 10/27/24 per WAC 390-37-050(1) 90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 1/15/25 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)

Statutes Violated: RCW 42.17A.235, .240

Background

Washington State's Campaign Finance Disclosure Law

One of the primary purposes of the public disclosure law is to provide citizens of this state, and especially voters, with the means for becoming informed about the financing of political campaigns. The public disclosure law was enacted through voter approval of Initiative 276 in 1972.

State law requires candidates and committees that register under full reporting to submit regular reports of financial activity. Those reports are filed on schedules outlined on the PDC's key reporting dates calendar.²

Reporting History of Respondent

This candidate has failed to file their 21-day pre-general C4 report and the post-primary C4 report. See attached, and also link: https://www.pdc.wa.gov/news/2024/pdc-sends-late-notices-41-candidates-missing-mendatory-reporting-deadline

Additionally, several other committees have reported making contributions to his committee and he hasn't reported those contributions. See link: https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-

data/expenditures?recipient_name=fighting+43rd&expenditure_date=06%2F01%2F24vadcf_delim-12%2F31%2F24_and also https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-

cata/browse-search-

data/expenditures?recipient_name=Shaun+Scott&expenditure_date=06%2F01%2F24yadcf_delim-12%2F31%2F24

Conclusion

With the 2024 general election rapidly approaching, I urge the PDC staff to take quick action and resolve the noncompliance identified in this complaint.

Best,

/s/

Conner Edwards (425) 533-1677 cell

^{*} https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics

https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics/key-dates-2024

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- Mahatma Gandhi



Q Search ≡ Menu

Shaun Scott

Candidate for STATE REPRESENTATIVE for LEG DISTRICT 43 - HOUSE in the 2024 election.

Overview	Contributions	Expenditures	Pledges	<u>Debts</u>	Loans	Independent Expenditures
----------	---------------	--------------	---------	--------------	-------	--------------------------

Candidate Overview

Registered March 14, 2024

Party: DEMOCRATIC

- 4337 15th Ave NE, Apt. 816
 Seattle, WA 98105
- organizewithshaun@gmail.com

Candidacy Status

- → Candidate registered (3/14/2024)
- → Candidate declared (5/6/2024)
- → Qualified for general

Financial Overview

\$101,836.50 + \$0.00 \$0.00 \$101,836.50 Total raised Contributions Loans Starting balance

\$54,712.49 \$0.00 \$0.00 Total spent Pledges. Debt

\$89.66 \$0.00

Independent expenditures for Independent expenditures against

Candidate Reports and Forms

Registration Form

Financial Affairs Report

Surplus Funds Account

Contributors and Vendors Map

Made to candidate for 2024

Contributions

See who has contributed cash and in-kind (non-monetary) contributions to the campaign.

Contributions made to candidate for 2024

Individual

\$66,353.77

Other

\$28,367.05

Union

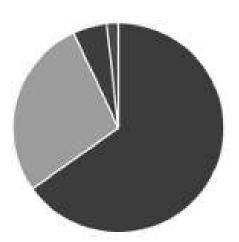
\$5,300.00

Political Action Committee

\$1,800.00

Business

\$15.68



Made by candidate for 2024

Expenditures

See how the campaign has spent money, and what kind of goods and services it received as in-kind contributions.

Expenditures made by candidate for 2024

Wages, salaries, benefits,... \$17.790.00

417,700.00

Other advertising

\$13,212.71

Management and consulting services

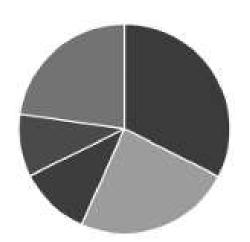
\$6,000.00

Printing literature, fliers,...

\$5,275.78

Miscellaneous

\$12,434.00



Candidates Filed for this Position

Show 10 v entries Search:

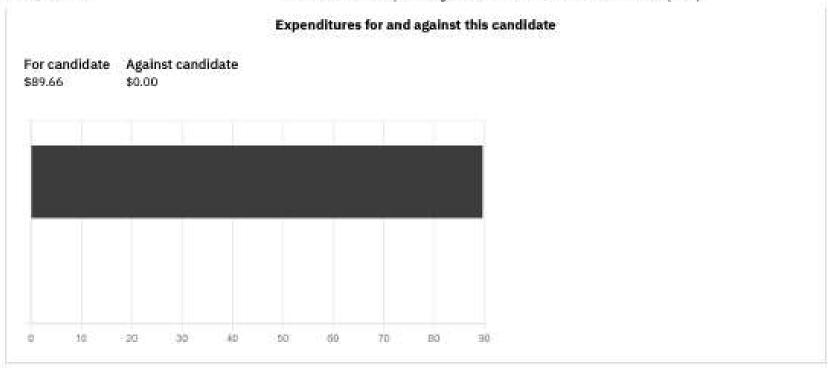
* declared candidates (eligible for election)

Candidate \$	Contributions -	Expenditures
Andrea Suarez *	\$130,117.76	\$124,271.80
Shaun Scott *	\$101,836.50	\$54,712.49
Daniel Carusello *	\$49,960.35	\$49,960.35
Frank V Chopp (FRANK CHOPP)	\$13,275.00	\$33,398.70
Stephanie LLoyd-Agnew *	\$601.00	\$601.00
Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries	Previous	1 Next

Spending for and against this candidate

Independent Expenditures

Independent expenditures are made by third parties that are not part of a candidate's campaign.



Incurred by candidate

Debts

This information shows the debt for the campaign as of the submission date of the related report.

Outstanding debt for campaign is \$0.00

Campaign Finance Reports

See the reports filed by the candidate. Reports with a strikethrough were amended by another report. Show $\lceil 100 \rceil \sim \rceil$ entries

Download 91 rows as CSV.

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09/16/2024 - 09/16/2024	110245473	09/16/202	4	View Rep	ort	C3		2024	
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08/06/2024 - 08/06/2024	110236575	08/06/202	24	View Rep	ort	C3		2024	
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05/15/2024 - 05/15/2024	110231071	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
05/10/2024 - 05/10/2024	110231068	07/17/2024	View Report	С3	2024
05/00/2024 05/00/2024	110213497 Amended by: 110231069	05/08/2024	View Report	C3	2024

Period •	Report Number	Filed \$	Report #	Form Type 💠	Election Year
05/08/2024 - 05/08/2024	110231069	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
05/06/2024 - 05/06/2024	110213494 Amended by: 110231066	05/08/2024	View Report	C3	2024
05/06/2024 - 05/06/2024	110212496 Amended by: 110231067	05/08/2024	View Report	C3	2024
05/06/2024 - 05/06/2024	110231066	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
05/06/2024 - 05/06/2024	110231067	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
05/01/2024 - 05/01/2024	410212492 Amended by: 110231065	05/08/2024	View Report	C3	2024
05/01/2024 05/31/2024	110222136 Amended by: 110229511	06/10/2024	View Report	C4	2024
05/01/2024 05/31/2024	110229511 Amended by: 110229716	07/15/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
05/01/2024 - 05/31/2024	110229716	07/15/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
05/01/2024 - 05/01/2024	110231065	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
04/24/2024 04/24/2024	110213492 Amended by: 110231064	05/08/2024	View Report	С3	2024
04/24/2024 - 04/24/2024	110231064	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
04/17/2024 - 04/17/2024	110212489 Amended by: 110231062	05/08/2024	View Report	C3	2024
04/17/2024 - 04/17/2024	110231062	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
04/10/2024 04/10/2024	110213490 Amended by: 110231063	05/08/2024	View Report	C3	2024
04/10/2024 - 04/10/2024	110231063	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
04/03/2024 04/03/2024	110208699 Amended by: 110231061	04/09/2024	View Report	C3	2024

04/03/2024 - 04/03/2024	110231061	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
04/01/2024 - 04/20/2024	110213497 Amended by: 110229524	05/08/2024	View Report	C4	2024
04/01/2024 04/30/2024	110229524 Amended by: 110229540	07/15/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
04/01/2024 - 04/30/2024	110229540	07/15/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024
03/37/2024 - 03/37/2024	110208698 Amended by: 110231060	04/09/2024	View Report	СЗ	2024
03/27/2024 - 03/27/2024	110231060	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
03/20/2024 03/20/2024	110208697 Amended by: 110231059	04/09/2024	View Report	C3	2024
03/20/2024 - 03/20/2024	110231059	07/17/2024	View Report	C3 - Amended	2024
03/14/2024 03/31/2024	110209400 Amended by: 110229521	04/10/2024	View Report	C4	2024
03/14/2024 - 03/31/2024	110229521	07/15/2024	View Report	C4 - Amended	2024

Showing 1 to 91 of 91 entries

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FILE ONLINE

Respondent Name

Shaun Scott

Complainant Name

Conner Edwards

Complaint Description

Conner Edwards reported via the portal

(Frl, 8 Nov 2024 at 12:06 PM)

Description of Complaint

See attached complaint.

Notice to Respondent

I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint. The chance that you will actually be fined for the violations identified above is extremely small because the agency is averse to doing the work necessary to bring cases to hearings. Most likely this case – and any future cases against you – will simply be dismissed by staff with a so-called "warning letter".

This complaint is one of hundreds that I have filed to highlight and ultimately fix the significant shortcomings associated with the agency responsible for administering our state's campaign finance laws.

What are these shortcomings?

Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with. Failure to properly educate the regulated community about the tasks they must perform to remain in compliance with applicable requirements and avoid complaints. Failure of the agency to send regular reminders to filers about pending deadlines. A failure to proactively enforce applicable requirements which enables the complaint system to become weaponized. Non-intuitive, non-user friendly, and buggy reporting software. Failure to meaningfully enforce core requirements. Failure to follow the best operating practices of other neighboring campaign finance agencies. An agency leadership structure that largely disregards stakeholder input and is slow to identify and resolve major agency deficiencies.

I believe that the best way to motivate the agency to address these problems is by filing a large number of complaints so that

the agency's problems become impossible to ignore.

Slowly (too slowly) this strategy is starting to yield concrete and beneficial changes. You can read about these changes here: https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/why-one-man-filed-800-campaign-finance-complaints-against-wa-candidates/

If you believe that the agency could have done something different to help you proactively avoid the issues identified in this complaint, I hope that you will consider including it in your response. The agency, and the public, can benefit from your perspective and feedback.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

- Lao Tzu

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

See complaint. The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing disclosure requirements. The agency's failure to actively monitor compliance with these requirements and enforce them damages both the public and members of the regulated community.

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

See complaint and also PDC website.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

See complaint and also PDC website.

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.

Complaint Against: Shaun Scott

Submitted: 11/8/24

Notice to Respondent by: 11/18/24 per WAC 390-37-050(1) 90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 2/6/25 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)

Statutes Violated: RCW 42.17A.235, .240, .320

Background

Washington State's Campaign Finance Disclosure Law

One of the primary purposes of the public disclosure law is to provide citizens of this state, and especially voters, with the means for becoming informed about the financing of political campaigns. The public disclosure law was enacted through voter approval of Initiative 276 in 1972.

Reporting History of Respondent

Now that the 2024 general election is over, Shaun Scott is newly elected representative from the 43rd District. He failed to file a number of C3/C4 reports that were due before the November general election that have still not been filed. In particular, he has failed to file the post-primary C4 report, the 21-day pre-general C4 report, and the 7-day pre-general C4 report. Additionally, many other political committees have reported making donations to his committee, but his committee has never reported receiving these.

The first PDC complaint against Shaun Scott was filed on June 23, 2024. In the intervening months between then and the general election, the agency has taken absolutely no meaningful action to address the noncompliance.

On September 3, 2024, Director Lavallee sent an "initial hearing" notice² to the Scott campaign. In the letter, Director Lavallee threatened "[i]f the PDC does not see substantive progress within 45

days, the respondent will receive a hearing notice to appear for an enforcement hearing".

45 days from 9/3/24 was 10/18/24. Director Lavallee's threat amounted to nothing as no hearing was scheduled even though the agency had an opportunity to schedule the matter for a hearing at both the October Regular meeting (on 10/24/24) and a BAP (on 10/29/24).

The agency's staff appear to be unable or unwilling to take any substantive action on the complaints against the Scott campaign. This is part of a pattern of PDC inaction.

Why should filers spend the time/money/energy to comply with the FCPA when the PDC can't be bothered to take cases to hearing? At this point, I can't really blame the Scott campaign for failing to file the reports at issue. Frankly, I think he is a lot smarter than the rest of us.

https://pdq.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics

² https://pdc-case-tracking.s3.us-gov-west-

^{1.}amazonaws.com/7074/155771%20Scott_Shaun%20Initial%20Hearing%20Results%20Letters%20%28Scott%29.pdf

Violations

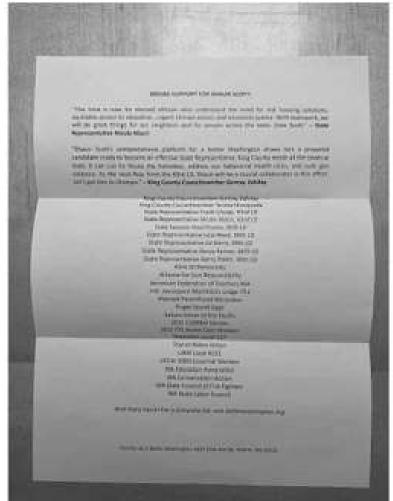
On November 2, 2024, I contacted the Shaun Scott campaign and requested to view their books of account, since his campaign had not filed the reports described above. See below.



The Scott campaign did not provide a response to my request. This is a violation of RCW 42.17A.235(6) and WAC 390-16-043.

Additionally, the Scott campaign (I assume) sent out another mailer that included an inaccurate sponsor ID statement. See below. This was the same inaccurate sponsor ID statement that the campaign used in the primary. This is a violation of RCW 42.17A.320. The name of Scott's campaign committee is "The Fighting 43" not "A Better Washington".





Conclusion

The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing disclosure requirements. The agency's failure to actively monitor compliance with these requirements and enforce them damages both the public and members of the regulated community.

I urge the PDC staff to take quick action and resolve the noncompliance identified in this complaint. Failing that, I look forward to reading yet another of the agency's "formal written warnings" at some point perhaps months or years down the road.

Best,

Electronically signed Conner Edwards
/s/ Conner Edwards
Complainant

Notice to Respondent

I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint. The chance that you will actually be fined for the violations identified above is extremely small because the agency is averse to doing the work necessary to bring cases to hearings. Most likely this case — and any future cases against you — will simply be dismissed by staff with a so-called "warning letter".

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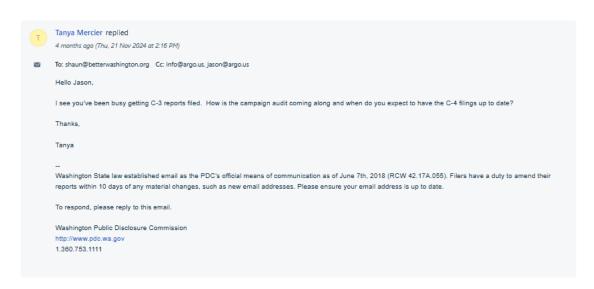
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"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

— Lao Tzu



Jason Bennett replied

4 months ago (Thu, 21 Nov 2024 at 2:19 PM)

To: "PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov> Cc: info@argo.us

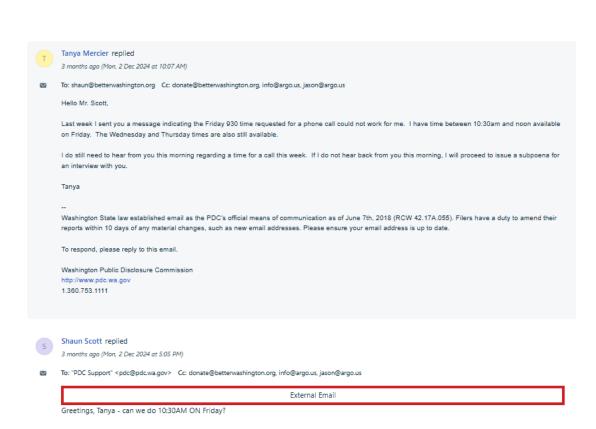
External Email

l literally just left you a voicemail on it!





1.360.753.1111





···

Tanya Mercier replied 3 months ago (Tue, 3 Dec 2024 at 8:07 AM)

Yes, 10:30 on Friday will work. Please plan for an hour and the meeting will be virtual via Teams.



Jason Bennett replied 3 months ago (Fri. 6 Dec 2024 at 2:29 PM)

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

External Email

Hi Tanya - did you and Shaun connect today?



Jason Bennett f in X President, Argo Strategies office VM: 206-745-2010 Cell: 206-718-8600 @ jason@argo.us mww.argo.us PO Box 9100, Seattle, WA 98109 (mailing) 9 5606 14th Ave NW #B, Seattle, WA 98107 (physical)

T

Tanya Mercier forwarded

3 months ago (Fri, 6 Dec 2024 at 3:51 PM)

Forwarded to: jason@argo.us

Hi Jason

Yes, Shaun and I had a call today. He has indicated the reporting will be amended and up to date by Christmas if not sooner and sooner would of course be better. I also asked him to make sure that either you or he let me know when the reporting, up through November, is complete so I can review.

Here are some reporting related issues I asked him about today.

- In complaint #4 by Carl Larson, he provides evidence that SEIU Local 925 reported making contributions to your campaign on 6/28 and 8/16 for \$1200 each.
 The 8/16 contribution has not been reported by your campaign, when will it get reported?
- 2. Mr. Larson also shows that the WA State Association for Justice For All reported making a contribution on 8/16 for \$600 and this contribution is still missing from your reporting. When will it get reported?
- 3. In Mr. Edwards complaint, identified as #6, he provides two links to reports on our website that identify entities that made contributions to your campaign and Mr. Edwards alleges your campaign has not yet reported on. Have you reviewed those materials and determined if your campaign reporting is accurate?
- 4. I reviewed your campaign reporting this morning and it looks like the last filing for expenses were for July. When are all the campaign expenses going to be filed on C-4 reports?
- 5. Has your campaign received contributions following the general election?

1. If yes, the C-3s are due on 12/10

- $6. \ The \ address \ for \ Adam \ Tradi \ is \ still \ missing \ from \ C-4 \ reports \ for \ 4/1 4/30/24 \ and \ 5/1 5/31/24.$
- 7. The quantity of printed materials is still missing from an expenditure to Trade Printery from April 10, 2024.
- 8. The reported haircuts should be identified as having been from Supreme Cuts and not Jesus Barbershop.

One thing that we did not discuss today, but I want to share with you, is that because the two letters "from" Representative Frank Chopp did not have the correct sponsor ID on them, it would be very helpful if the reporting could identify which expenditures are related to those letters.

Tanya



Tanya Mercier replied

3 months ago (Tue, 10 Dec 2024 at 9:50 AM)

☑ To: shaun@betterwashington.org Cc: info@argo.us, jason@argo.us

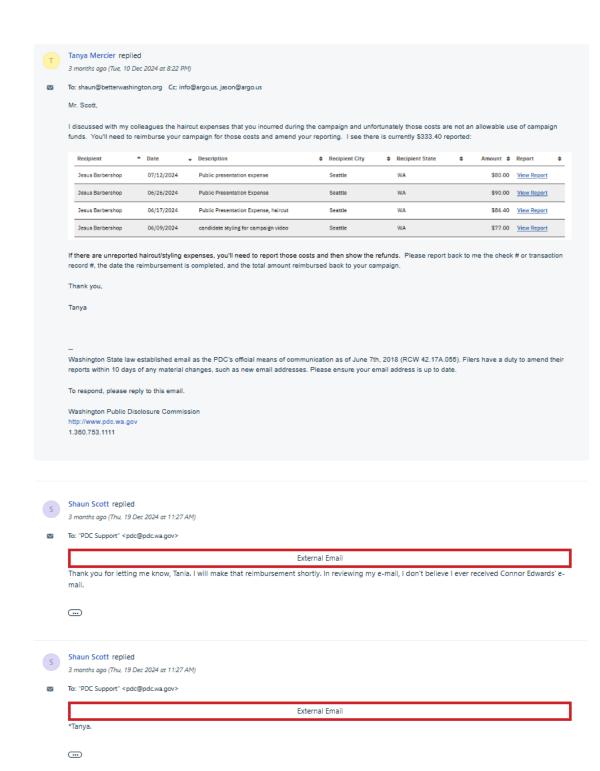
Good Morning Mr. Scott,

Have you reviewed your email to determine if you did/did not receive the request from Conner Edwards to review your campaign's books of account?

Please let me know ASAP

Thank you,

Tanya





Tanya Mercier replied

2 months ago (Thu, 16 Jan 2025 at 3:51 PM)

Hello Jason,

I've reviewed the reporting and there are numerous issues still outstanding.

- In complaint #4 by Carl Larson, he provides evidence that SEIU Local 925 reported making contributions to your campaign. I confirmed these contributions
 were missing on 10/2 and notified the campaign. The contributions are still missing from the reporting. SEIU 925 reported contributing \$1,200 on 6/28/24
 and \$1,200 on 8/16/24.
- 2. Mr. Larson also shows that the WA State Association for Justice For All reported making a contributions to your campaign. I confirmed these contributions were missing on 10/2 and notified the campaign. A contribution of \$1,200 on 5/10/24 was reported but a contribution of \$1,200 on 8/15/24 continues to be unreported.
- 3. In Mr. Edwards complaint, identified as #6 (see attached), he provides two links to reports on our website that identify entities that made contributions to the 2024 Scott campaign. Mr. Edwards alleges the campaign has not yet reported on the contributions. Please review the materials and confirm with me that the campaign has reported all of these contributions by providing the report number applicable to each contribution.
- 4. The address for Adam Tradii is still missing from C-4 reports for 4/1 4/30/24 and 5/1 5/31/24.
- 5. The quantity of printed materials is still missing from an expenditure to Trade Printery from April 10, 2024.
- 6. The reported haircuts/styling services should be identified as having been from Supreme Cuts and not Jesus Barbershop. As well, I am not seeing that these expenditures have been reimbursed to the campaign because they were personal use of campaign funds and are disallowed expenditures.
- 7. On 8/13/24 Shaun indicated in a written response to me that "all accrued depts are forthcoming in the PDC filing due August 20." There have been no debts to date reported in any of the filings. Please explain why there are no debts to date reported by the campaign. If there were debts, and they are currently unreported due to the missing reports identified below, provide the report number for where the debts are reported.
- 8. The post-primary C-4 for the period 7/25 8/31/24 is missing.
- 9. The 21-day pre-general C-4 for the period 9/1 10/14/24 is missing.
- 10. The 7-day pre-general C-4 for period 10/15-10/28/24 is missing.

Jason you've been working on the reporting for a couple of months and it was my understanding that the reporting would be finalized by Christmas. We are now at 1/16/25 and there is still substantial reporting missing. The reporting issues are impeding my ability to move this case toward a resolution within my purview. If the reporting, and my above questions, are not addressed by <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/jhttp

Tanya Mercier Compliance Officer Public Disclosure Commission Office Phone Number: (360) 753-1111

pdc@pdc.wa.gov



Tanya Mercier replied

2 months ago (Thu, 16 Jan 2025 at 4:10 PM)

▼ To: shaun@betterwashington.org Cc: info@argo.us, jason@argo.us

Hello Mr. Scott,

I have previously sent an email to Jason Bennett regarding reporting issues that must be addressed by Thursday, January 23, 2025, or I will have to schedule you for a hearing before our Commission. As well, I have some questions for you too.

- 1. Attached is a mailer that was part of one of the complaints early in your campaign, see the attached "Shaun Scott Mailer (1)." I've previously assumed this mailer came from your campaign but I am having trouble identifying expenditures related to it. Was your campaign responsible for the creation and dissemination of this mailer? If yes, please provide the report #s and specific expenditures associated with this mailer. If your campaign was not responsible for this mailer, who was?
- 2. Attached are two other mailers, see "Shaun Scott Mailer (2)" and "Shaun Scott Mailer (3)," that I have assumed came from your campaign. I am also having trouble identifying expenditures related to these mailers. Was your campaign responsible for the creation and dissemination of these mailers? If yes, please provide the report #s and specific expenditures associated with this mailer. If your campaign was not responsible for this mailer, who was?

Please provide the requested information by Thursday, January 23, 2025, if not sooner.

Thank you,

Tanya Mercier Compliance Officer Public Disclosure Commission Office Phone Number: (360) 753-1111 pdc@pdc.wa.gov

**Please use Reply when responding to this email

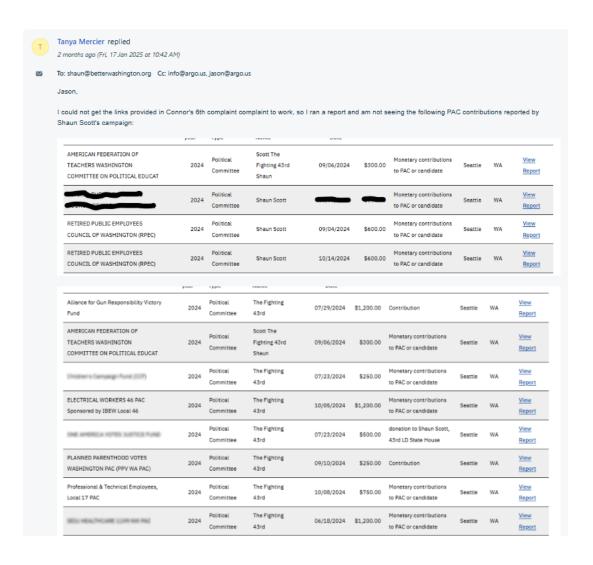
Washington State law established email as the Public Disclosure Commission's (PDC) official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055), and this is how we primarily communicate with people outside of the agency. Person's required to file reports with the PDC have a requirement to maintain their information, within 10 days, for all material changes. Changes to contact information, including a valid email address, is a material change to the information kept on record by the PDC. Please ensure your email address is up to date.





Shaun Scott Mailer (1).pdf Shaun Scott Mailer (2).pdf Shaun Scott Mailer (3).pdf [≡ 292.92 KB





SEIU HEALTHCARE 1199 NW PAC	2024	Political Committee	The Fighting 43rd	09/16/2024	\$1,200.00	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Seattle	WA	View
SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION 775 QUALITY CARE COMMITTEE	2024	Political Committee	The Fighting	08/28/2024	\$1,200 00	Monetery contributions to PAC or candidate	Seattle	WA	View
	2024	Political Committee	The Fighling	06/24/2024	\$1,200 00	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Sesttle	WA	View Report
SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 925 PUBLIC SERVICE PAC	2024	Political Committee	The Fighting 43rd / Shaun Scott	06/28/2024	\$1,200.00	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate; State House 43 rd LD	Seattle	WA	View Report
SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 925 PUBLIC SERVICE PAC	2024	Political Committee	The Fighting 43rd / Shaun Scott	08/16/2024	\$1,200.00	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate, State House 43rd LD	Seattie	WA	View Report
Stand for Children Washington PAC	2024	Political Committee	The Fighting 43rd	09/19/2024	\$500.00	Monetary contributions to PAC or condidate	Scettle	WA	View
TEAMSTERS LOCAL SIT WORKSHIP FAMILIES PAC	2024	Politica: Committee	The Fighting 43rd	08/17/2024	\$250.00	Monetary contributions to PAC or condidate	Scattle	WA	View Report
ALL PARTY ACTION	2024	Political Committee	The Fighting 43rd (Shaun Scott)	08/02/2024	\$500.00	Monetary contributions to PAC or cardidate	Sectile	WA	<u>View</u> <u>Report</u>
VASHINGTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	2024	Political Committee	THE FIGHTING 43RD	10/11/2024	\$1,200.00	CONTRIBUTION	SEATTLE	WA	<u>View</u> <u>Report</u>
WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE JUSTICE FOR ALL	2024	Political Committee	SHAUN SCOTT THE FIGHTING 43RD	05/03/2024	\$1,200 00	2024 PRIMARY	SEATTLE	WA	View Report
WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE JUSTICE FOR ALL	2024	Political Committee	SHAUN SCOTT THE FIGHTING 43RD	08/15/2024	\$600.00	CONTRIB 2024 GENERAL	SEATTLE	WA	View Report

Please make sure these are reported by Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Tanya



Last edited by: Tanya Mercier , 9 days ago (Wed. 26 Feb 2025 at 10:21 AM)

From: Jason Bennett To: Mercier, Tanya (PDC)

Subject: Re: PDC - Shaun Scott: Alleged violations of RCW42.17A.235, & .235(6), WAC 390-16-043, & .240, & .240(8). WAC 390-16-043, & .240(8). WAC 390

External Email

Hi Tanya - quick update. I was finally able to request copies of deposits made to the SECU account between May and October. I should receive them in 3-5 business days. I was a iso able to get most of the invoices from various vendors as well. The entire filing from 2024 needs to be amended as there are several issues with the filings and I am going to start amending today. For the months/reporting periods where I am missing details of deposits (specifically the 7-day and 21-day pre-primary reports). I am going to put placeholders in there to file the C4 and go back and amend the C3s once I receive the copies of the details from the bank. I am still not a signer on the account so that's why this has taken so long.

photo Jason Bennett
President, Argo Strategies
office VM: 298-745-2010
cell: 208-718-8800
PO Box 9100. Seattle, WA 98109 (mailing)
56061 4th Ave NW #B. Seattle, WA
98107 (physical)



Jason Bennett replied

a month ago (Wed, 12 Mar 2025 at 4:02 PM)

To: "PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov> Cc: erin@nwpconsulting.com, monicamace33@gmail.com

External Email

Hi Tanya - just a follow up here to my earlier email to you on this - we did receive all of the deposits and bank statements from BECU and I have been slowly auditing back of the beginning of the campaign and amending all reports going forward since there were many errors on the earlier reports as well. I was able to get to mid-July before the March 10 C4 reports pulled me out to sea. I am going to slog through the remaining reports this weekend now that I can catch up again. But I do have all of those NWP invoices logged (and they were reported as debts on the Feb 2025 report we just filed since many of them are outstanding (although that report will need to be amended for proper carryover balances since we haven't yet filed the remaining reports).

Also, which date did you want a response on this? It says 3/12 which is today. Did you mean 3/17?







Jason Bennett replied

25 days ago (Fri, 14 Mar 2025 at 11:36 AM)

■ To: "PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov> Cc: erin@nvpconsulting.com, monicamace33@gmail.com

External Email

I am not sure I can answer those questions but I can say that I have finished amending all of the reports for 2024 cycle (and the start of 2025 as well) and everything matches to the penny. The invoices in question have been reported as debt. And the missing C3s and C4s from when the treasurer left the campaign before we were brought on have been reported. Thank you for your patience while we tried to get copies from the bank on the deposits and such. I'm still not a signer on the account so everything takes much longer to procure as a result.

I don't know if this helps or renders the authorization question moot, but each of the NWP invoices are now listed as debt if the authorization fell (or likely fell) in an earlier reporting period but was paid in a subsequent one. Capitol City Press is usually pretty good for putting the ordered date on the invoices but usually within 1 or 2 days tops. So if it even gets close to a reporting date, I default to report it as debt to be safe.

I am going to slog through the very voluminous complaints and craft responses now that each report has been filed and everything matches.

Thanks again for your patience.





On Fri, Mar 14, 2025 at 4:59 PM PDC Support < pdc@pdc.wa.gov > wrote:

Hi Jason,

One of the allegations in the case against Shaun Scott is that he used campaign funds for personal use. Specifically he used funds for haircuts. The reports did indicate four expenditures for haircuts to "Jesus Barbershop," totaling \$333.40. On August 13, 2024, Mr. Scott responded that "Because of television, debate, and other campaign appearances that the candidate would not be subject to were they not running for office, these are reasonably construed as an allowable campaign expense until advised otherwise explicitly by the PDC." At the September 3, 2024, Initial Hearing, I informed Mr. Scott the haircuts were most likely personal and an impermissible use of campaign funds. I told him I was going to see how we have handled this issue in the past but that the expenditures would most likely need to be reimbursed to the campaign. On December 6, 2024, when I spoke with Mr. Scott he indicated the vendor for the haircuts should be Supreme Cuts and not Jesus Barbershop. Mr. Scott was told to amend the reports so the information was accurate. On December 10, 2024, I let Mr. Scott know the haircuts were an impermissible use of campaign funds and would need to be reimbursed to the campaign.

When I search the PDC data analytics site, on the web, I am now not seeing any expenditures to Jesus Barbershop, Supreme Cuts, or anything for haircuts. Did these expenditures somehow get amended to something else? Did Mr. Scott reimburse the campaign?

Thanks,

Tanya

Jason Bennett

replied

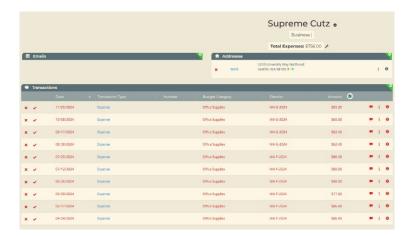
2 months ago (Fri, 14 Mar 2025 at 5:09 PM)

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

External Email

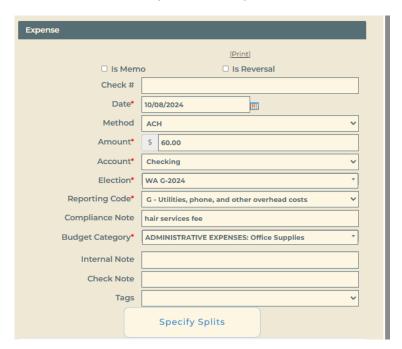
Each of these expenses is below the reporting itemized threshold in the software so I am guessing they are lump-summed into the accumulated expenses per report now. He has not yet reimbursed the campaign for the expenses (I think likely due to the busy nature of session) but he is aware of the need. The total now is \$756 (likely due to the lump sum

issue mentioned earlier). I did amend them to include the vendor as "Supreme Cutz." Here is what it looks like in our software:



The red check marks indicate that the expense has been reconciled to the bank statement. The budget category is an internal tracking code, not what is reported to the PDC.

This is the detail of a particular expense:





Jason Bennett President, Argo Strategies



Solution office VM: 206-745-2010

cell: 206-718-8600

@ jason@argo.us

www.argo.us

PO Box 9100, Seattle, WA 98109 (mailing)

95606 14th Ave NW #B, Seattle, WA 98107

(physical)

Tanya Mercier

replied

11 days ago (Mon, 21 Apr 2025 at 11:19 AM)

To:shaun@betterwashington.org

Cc:info@argo.us, jason@argo.us

Jason and Shaun,

What is the timeline for repaying the campaign funds that were used for haircuts during the campaign? I believe Jason has previously indicated this to be around \$756.

Also, there is \$33,498.06 reported as debt for the 2024 campaign. What is the plan for that debt?

Please respond by end of the week, Friday, April 25, 2025.

Thank you,

Tanya

Jason Bennett

added a private note

4 days ago (Mon, 28 Apr 2025 at 1:54 PM)

Notified to: "PDC Support" < pdc@pdc.wa.gov>

External Email

Hi Tanya- did Shaun respond to you by last week? I haven't heard from him and I don't see the deposit has been made. But now that the session is over, I expect I can reach him more easily so was going to nudge him on this again today if you hadn't heard.



Tanya Mercier

replied to a forwarded message

2 days ago (Wed, 30 Apr 2025 at 12:55 PM)

Notified to:jason@argo.us

Hi Jason

No I have not heard from Mr. Scott about the reimbursement nor the plan for the outstanding debt.

Tanya