



**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 18, 2024

Delivered electronically to Marc Doney at “partytoelectmarcdoney@gmail.com”

Subject: Complaint filed by Phillip Wells, PDC Case 155793

Dear Marc Doney:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Phillip Wells concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Phillip Wells, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), this serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to comply with the political advertisement requirements noted in the enclosed letter sent to Mr. Wells. Staff expects you to review all future written political advertisement to ensure that it includes the required sponsor identification prior to being made available to the general public. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director



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September 18, 2024

Delivered electronically to Phillip Wells at “pwells89@icloud.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Marc Doney, PDC Case 155793

Dear Phillip Wells:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on June 12, 2024. The complaint alleged that Marc Doney, a 2024 candidate for Okanogan County Commissioner, District 1, may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to include complete sponsor ID on written political advertisement.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by the Respondent; the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent; and other relevant information, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- On March 23, 2024, Marc Doney submitted a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring his candidacy for Okanogan County Commissioner, District 1 in the 2024 election, listing Leanne Doney as Ministerial Treasurer and choosing the “Full Reporting” option.
- The definition of “political advertising” found in RCW 42.17A.005(40) includes any advertising displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, digital communication, or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign.
- RCW 42.17A.320 requires that all written political advertising relating to candidates include the sponsor's name and address.
- The complaint alleged that the 2024 Doney Campaign posted large signs and failed to include proper sponsor identification as required.
- Staff’s initial review of the signs included as evidence revealed that the sponsor ID included the required “paid for by” language followed by name of the Respondent’s committee with his name but failed to include the address of the sponsor.
- In his response, Mr. Doney conveyed his misunderstanding about the requirement for the address to be included as part of the signs larger than 4’ by 8’, stating that he would make the necessary corrections.
- In response to staff’s request the Respondent confirmed that the address had been added to the signs in question.

It appears that the incomplete sponsor identification originally included on the 2024 Marc Doney Campaign signs was due to an oversight and not purposely omitted to conceal the identity of the sponsor of the ad. Staff found that, although the signs initially failed to include the required address of the sponsor, the identity of the sponsor as the Respondent's committee was clear to the reader.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to include a complete sponsor identification on written political advertisement does not amount to a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, Marc Doney will receive a formal written warning concerning failure to include a complete sponsor identification on written political advertisement. The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that Mr. Doney will review all future written political advertisement to ensure that it includes the required sponsor identification prior to being made available to the general public. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed
Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed
Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Marc Doney