

<b>Respondent Name</b>
Wade Barringer
<b>Complainant Name</b>
Joseph Michael Riley
<b>Complaint Description</b>
<p><a href="#">Joe Riley</a> reported via the portal (Sun, 20 Oct 2024 at 10:57 PM)</p> <p>On October 15, 2024, the Kent School District held a Levy Listening Session for the community to ask questions about the upcoming levy on the November ballot. This was the third listening session held after the levy was approved by the board.</p> <p>Near the end of this meeting, Dr. Wade Barringer, Deputy Superintendent, made numerous inflammatory comments related to the impact of a failed levy. These statements included language implying that the community is "burning the district down", lowering property values, removing jobs, and cutting staff by taking money from the general fund.</p> <p>Dr. Barringer made similar comments in July, which I submitted as a PDC complaint as well, but they were dismissed because there was no active ballot measure at the time. The dismissal from the PDC stated that "once a ballot measure has been approved and is on the ballot, there may be a potential violation should conversations such as this continue." Dr. Barringer should have been well aware that these comments were inappropriate.</p>
<b>What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?</b>
The statements are inflammatory in nature and speculate about possible secondary impacts of failing a ballot proposition. This can be viewed as attempt to pressure voters during the same week ballots are arriving.
<b>List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found</b>
<p>Video Link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7WIVTPn3og&amp;t=3661s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7WIVTPn3og&amp;t=3661s</a> (timestamp 01:01:01)</p> <p>Quote from timestamp 1:01:48 "...people aren't going anywhere if you keep on burning the district down by failing levies, only people we're hurting are our kids..."</p> <p>Quote from timestamp 1:02:08 "...there are several people out there that are making it their mission to continue to see this fail and, on what, on the backs of our kids..."</p> <p>Quote from timestamp 1:03:04 "...because when it comes right down to it, and we don't have those funds, we will go to the general fund...it'll be millions of dollars...85% of our general fund is people, half our people are teachers, so let's just get real clear about what it means for us to have a failed levy and have to lean into our general fund..."</p> <p>Quote from timestamp 1:04:10 "...I can tell you right now, people are not going to run to come work in Kent on back to back failed levies and capital measures. they're not coming here..."</p> <p>Quote from timestamp 1:04:45 "...people are not going to run to Kent if we're going to do this in our community. If we are broken and we are not willing to stand next to each other and fix things together, then we get what we get, and that's unfortunate but sometimes we have to learn the hard way..."</p> <p>Quote from timestamp 1:05:21 "...there are people leaving this district because of the lack of support from the community, because of the situation that we're in..."</p> <p>Quote from timestamp 1:05:55 "...again, don't pass levies, jobs, there's no jobs because we're not doing work now on our schools, people aren't going to come live here because property, your home values are going down because now you're not a viable district anymore,</p>

because people are looking for, like hey I want to look for a good district to take my kids to, which is exactly what Kent has always been, now we're in this patch where people like I'm not going to go to Kent, I'm gonna go to Renton or Federal Way or Auburn or wherever..."

Quote from timestamp 1:06:40

"...we have to build a district, or rebuild a district so people are like I want to be here, we can't do that by failing levies, we can't do that by putting 45 kids in a class..."

**List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them**

N/A

**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.