

Respondent Name
Engage Voters US
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
<p>Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Wed, 6 Nov 2024 at 10:11 AM)</p> <p>Description of Complaint</p> <p>See attached complaint.</p> <p>Notice to Respondent</p> <p>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".</p> <p>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.</p> <p>What are these shortcomings?</p> <p>Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with.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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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/</p> <p>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.</p> <p>"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." — Lao Tzu</p>
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.

CONTACT US

CONTACT US

**Thank you! Your submission has been
received!**

The fastest way to reach us is to give us a call:
[\(833\) 354 1705](tel:(833)3541705)




44 South Broadway, Suite
100
White Plains, NY 10601

25 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10004

500 W Madison Street,
10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661

 evus@engagevoters.us

 (833) 354 1705

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Development

Terms and
Conditions

Expenditures

Search expenditures by all candidates and political committees since 2007. Campaigns are required to itemize any expense of more than \$50. Donated goods and services (known as in-kind contributions) also appear as expenditures, with the contributor listed in the recipient column.

Results for:

Recipient Name: engage voters ✕

^ Hide Filters 🔍 Search Tips

Candidate/Committee Name

Enter text

X

Election Year

Select

X

Campaign Type

Select

X

Recipient Name

engage voters

X

Expenditure Date

From

To

X

Amount

From

To

X

City

Enter text

X

State

Select

X

Description

Enter text

X

Show 50 ▾ entries

[Download 19 rows as CSV.](#)

Candidate/Committee Name	Election year	Campaign Type	Recipient Name	Expenditure Date	Amount	Description	City	State	Rep
Elpidia B. Saavedra (Elpidia Saavedra)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	10/31/2024	\$3,350.48	IP Digital Targeted Ads- 5 day run for Yakima County Dist.3	White Plains	NY	View Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	09/27/2024	\$309.00	Monthly Website Hosting	New York	NY	View Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	09/22/2024	\$640.25	Monthly Website Hosting	New York	NY	View Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	08/16/2024	\$913.00	Website URL Setup-Monthly Website Hosting -Page Creation and Links	New York	NY	View Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	07/24/2024	\$682.10	8,594 Voter Data list and 3115 cell phone match list.	New York	NY	View Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	07/24/2024	\$1,684.42	Digital Ad Targeted IP at 120,316 impressions	New York	NY	View Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	07/24/2024	\$1,120.55	6837- MMS Texting	New York	NY	View Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	07/24/2024	\$100.00	5000- Automated call 30	New York	NY	View Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	07/24/2024	\$213.00	URL Setup, Monthly Website Hosting and Landing Page	New York	NY	View Rep

Candidate/Committee Name	Election year	Campaign Type	Recipient Name	Expenditure Date	Amount	Description	City	State	Rep
Jill D. Johnson (Jill Johnson)	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	07/24/2024	\$425.00	Digital Adset Artwork Graphics	New York	NY	View Report
Sam Sim	2024	Candidate	Engage Voters US	07/12/2024	\$231.96	Automated calls	White Plains	NY	View Report
Edward O. Prince Jr. (Ed Prince)	2023	Candidate	Engage Voters US	11/05/2023	\$623.16	Text messages	White Plains	NY	View Report
Charles Adkins	2023	Candidate	Engage Voters U.S.	11/04/2023	\$1,153.95	6000 text messages	White Plains	NY	View Report
Thomas John Fantini (Thomas "TJ" Fantini)	2023	Candidate	Engage Voters US	11/01/2023	\$471.43	Text message campaign - 2 additional texts	White Plains	NY	View Report
Thomas John Fantini (Thomas "TJ" Fantini)	2023	Candidate	Engage Voters US	10/30/2023	\$502.53	Text message campaign - voter mapping, data, 1 mass text message	White Plains	NY	View Report
Allison Ball	2023	Candidate	Engage Voters US	10/30/2023	\$298.93	Advertising	White Plains	NY	View Report
Vincent Powell	2023	Candidate	Engage Voters US	10/10/2023	\$2,712.10	Digital ads	White Plains	NY	View Report
Gretl Crawford	2021	Candidate	ENGAGE VOTERS U.S.	11/01/2021	\$547.67	5K Texts to Individuals	White Plains	NY	View Report
CHAUNE' FITZGERALD	2021	Candidate	ENGAGE VOTERS US	08/02/2021	\$851.26	Surveys, polling, research costs	white plains	NY	View Report

Showing 1 to 19 of 19 entries (filtered from 1,073,876 total entries)

- Contact Us
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FILE ONLINE



Conner Edwards <cg.edwards53@gmail.com>

RCW 42.17A.345 Book Inspection Request (Engage Voters US)

Conner Edwards <cg.edwards53@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 1, 2024 at 7:07 PM

To: evus@engagevoters.us

Hello:

Per RCW 42.17A.345, I am requesting to view your (Engage Voters US) commercial advertising books of account.

See link for additional information: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/commercial-advertiser-disclosure-guide> .

If you have questions about this request, you should call the PDC @ (360) 753-1111.

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Best,

Conner Edwards
(425) 533-1677 cell

ENGAGE VOTERS U.S. _ Contact.pdf
157K

Complaint Against: Engage Voters US

Submitted: 11/6/24

Notice to Respondent by: 11/16/24 per WAC 390-37-050(1)

90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 2/4/25 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)

Statutes Violated: RCW 42.17A.345, see also WAC 390-18-050

Background**Commercial Advertiser Disclosure Law**

Washington state law allows any member of the public to request information about a political advertisement from the company that provided the advertising.¹ These companies are referred to as “commercial advertisers” in the law.

This disclosure, which dates back 50 years to Initiative 276 which created the PDC, is an important counterpart to the reporting done by campaigns and sponsors of independent expenditures. It also provides critical information when sponsors of political advertising fail to identify themselves.

A commercial advertiser is defined as any person or entity that sells a service communicating messages or producing material for distribution to the public, when the message includes an appeal for votes or financial support in an election campaign.

Examples include, but are not limited to, print shops, copying center businesses, direct mail services, billboard companies, broadcasters, print or online publications and online digital platforms. See RCW 42.17A.005(10), RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050.

Violations

On November 1, 2024, I sent an e-mail to the respondent requesting to see their commercial advertising books of account. See attached.

I never received a response.

WAC 390-18-050(4)(b)(i) requires that the information required to be maintained by commercial advertisers must be provided “[b]y digital transmission, such as email, promptly upon request, but no later than two business days”.

A list of political expenditures made to the respondent can be found here:

https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/expenditures?recipient_name=engage+voters

¹ <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/commercial-advertiser-disclosure-guide>

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 am filing this complaint with the hopes that the PDC can rapidly bring the respondent into compliance with RCW 42.17A.345.

Best,

Electronically signed Conner Edwards

/s/ Conner Edwards

Complainant

Notice to Respondent

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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?

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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.

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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.

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