



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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August 12, 2025

Delivered electronically to [meridiancec@gmail.com](mailto:meridiancec@gmail.com)

Subject: PDC Case 169884 regarding Meridian Citizens for Education Committee

Meridian Citizens for Education Committee  
Sara Bernardy, Treasurer/Co-Chair

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaints filed by Conner Edwards on April 1, 2025, and April 16, 2025:

- The April 1, 2025, complaint alleges that Meridian Citizens for Education Committee (the Committee) may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately disclose contribution and expenditure information and RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include complete sponsor identification on political advertising.
- The April 16, 2025, complaint alleges that Meridian Citizens for Education Committee failed to file its required 7-day pre-special election C-4 report of contributions and expenditures.

Applicable Laws and Rules

[RCW 42.17A.205](#) requires every political committee to register with the PDC by filing a *Committee Registration* (C-1pc report) within two weeks of organization or the date it first has the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in any election campaign, whichever is earlier. A committee that selects the Full Reporting option on their C-1pc report is required to report contributions and expenditures to the PDC on C-3 reports and C-4 reports pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.235](#) & [RCW 42.17A.240](#). The due dates for these reports are based upon the election cycle, the committee's election participation, and their financial activity.

[RCW 42.17A.320](#) requires that all political advertising supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot proposition includes the sponsor's name and address.

Background and Findings

- Meridian Citizens for Education Committee has been registered with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) since 2015, supporting bonds and levies for Meridian School District 505. Sara Bernardy has served as the Committee's Co-Chair and Treasurer since 2023.

### **Missing C-3 Report for \$350 Deposit**

- Bernardy acknowledged that a \$350 deposit was reported on the March 2025 C-4 report without a corresponding deposit being reported on a C-3 report. Bernardy stated the error was an oversight. She noted that the C-4 was filed timely, stating that she mistakenly assumed the draft C-3 had also been filed. The missing C-3 report was filed immediately upon notification that the report was missing.

### **Missing Sponsor Identification on Website**

- The Vote Meridian website (<https://votemeridian.org/>) did not include the required sponsor identification statement as required by RCW 42.17A.320. On or before April 17, 2025, the Committee updated its website in the footer of every page to state, “Paid for by Meridian Citizens for Education Committee.” Please add the Committee’s mailing address to the sponsor identification.

### **Omission of Co-Chair Robert Kratzig from the Committee Registration**

- The Committee acknowledged that Robert Kratzig, who is listed as a Co-Chair on the Committee’s website, was accidentally not originally included as an officer on the Committee’s registration. On April 9, 2025, the Committee updated its Committee Registration to include Robert Kratzig as a Co-Chair of the Committee.

### **Late Filing of 7-day pre-special election C-4 report**

- In response to the supplemental complaint filed April 16, 2025, alleging that the Committee failed to file its required 7-day pre-special election C-4 report of contributions and expenditures, the Committee acknowledged that the 7-day C-4 report was not filed by the original due date but noted that the report was submitted on April 16, 2025, at 11:38 a.m., within one business day of the report’s due date. The Committee stated the delay was unintentional and was “a brief administrative oversight due to the treasurer being on travel.”

### Prior Case

On Feb. 5, 2025, PDC staff closed Case 161843 with a written warning because Meridian Citizens Education Committee accepted three contributions in excess of the \$500 limit after selecting the Mini Reporting Option.

### Summary and Resolution of Complaint

Meridian Citizens for Education Committee failed to timely file a C-3 Report disclosing a \$350 contribution included on a C-4 report; did not include a sponsor identification on the Committee’s website; did not originally list a Committee Co-Chair on the Committee’s 2025 registration; and filed the Committee’s 7-day pre-special election C-4 report one day late.

When responding to the allegations, the Committee stated, in part, “We respectfully submit this response to demonstrate our good faith efforts to correct these issues promptly. We understand the importance of timely filings and have taken steps to ensure future reports are submitted on or before their due dates. These steps include adjusting internal deadlines and setting up additional reminders such as a compliance tracking system. We ... are committed to maintaining full compliance with RCW 42.17A reporting requirements moving forward.” Staff’s findings in the current case were not related to the Mini Reporting limit at issue in Case 161843.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), you are receiving a formal written warning concerning Meridian Citizens for Education Committee's failure to timely file a C-3 Report, include sponsor identification on its website, include the name of a Committee Co-Chair on its registration, and timely file a pre-special election C-4 report. PDC staff appreciates your stated intention to comply with all disclosure requirements in the future and expects that, going forward, you will carefully monitor the committee's compliance with disclosure requirements. 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 Phil Stutzman at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Electronically signed by Phil Stutzman*

Phil Stutzman  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

*Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavalley*

Peter Frey Lavalley  
Executive Director

cc: Conner Edwards