

Respondent Names

Thurston County Democrats

Complainant Name

Conner Edwards

Complaint Description**Conner Edwards**

reported via the portal

(Wed, 4 Feb 2026 at 12:14 PM)

Attached are the meeting minutes from the Thurston County Democrats December meeting.

Veejay Lach was elected to fill the Vice Chair position left by Tela Hogle's vacancy. Despite this, the committee failed to timely update its registration to list the change in officers, in violation of state law.

They have previously received a warning letter for this same type of violation:

<https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement/enforcement-cases/141204>

Additionally, I will point out that the committee has still not filed it's C4 report covering December of 2025, this report is now significantly late.

Notice to Respondent

I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint. No treasurer/committee is perfect. 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.

This complaint is one of several thousand complaints 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Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with.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.

If you are aware of a PDC violation but do not wish to file the complaint under your own name, please send the information to me at CG.Edwards53@gmail.com. If you would like to provide this information anonymously, please send me a postcard or letter to PO Box 12082, Seattle, WA 98102. Envelopes containing items other than paper will not be opened.

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”
— Mahatma Gandhi

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

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.

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

See complaint & PDC website.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

See complaint & 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.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair Toompas.

Roll Call / Quorum

Attendance was recorded. A quorum was present.

Reports

Chair

End of the year presentation

Elections

Vice Chair

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

- **Nomination:** Veejay Lach (Nominated by Precinct Committee Officer, Justin Brooks)
- The nomination was seconded.
- Nominations were closed.

An election was conducted by electronic ballot of PCOs.

Result: Veejay Lach was elected by a 14 vote in favor and 0 votes against to Vice Chair of the Thurston County Democrats and will assume the office immediately.

Fundraising Chair

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the position of Fundraising Chair.

- **Nominee:** Sarah Roundtree (self-nomination)
- The nomination was seconded.

- Nominations were closed.

The election was conducted by electronic ballot of PCOs.

Result: Sarah Roundtree was elected by a 14 vote in favor and 0 votes against to the Fundraising Chair of the Thurston County Democrats and will be immediately added onto the bank account.

5. Reports

State Committee Representative

A report was given regarding upcoming state convenings and the delegate selection process, including timelines and participation requirements.

Legislative District Reports

Representatives from legislative districts provided brief updates on organizing activities, including town halls, meetings, and coordination efforts.

6. New Business

Financial Support to LD2

Jerry Toompas motioned to provide financial support to LD2. Seconded by Ernest Heller, LD2 Vice Chair.

The motion was amended to approve a **\$3,000 contribution to LD2 contingent upon confirmation that LD2 has a properly registered treasury authorized to accept the contribution.**

The amended motion was adopted by a vote of **24 in favor and 2 opposed.**

7. Announcements

- The **Champagne Brunch** is scheduled for **January 31, 2026**, from **10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

- The location has not yet been finalized; the committee is exploring holding the event at the same venue used the previous year.
 - Additional announcements were made regarding upcoming LD meetings, state convention timelines, and follow-up communications.
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8. Good of the Order

Members offered brief remarks recognizing recent electoral successes and the efforts of volunteers and members.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.