



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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September 15, 2025

Delivered electronically to electsteveewing@gmail.com, capofigo@hotmail.com and cg.edwards53@gmail.com

Subject: PDC Case 174112 regarding Steve Ewing

Dear Steve Ewing:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaints filed by Conner Edwards on June 11, 2025, and July 3, 2025. The first complaint alleged that Steve Ewing (the “Respondent”) violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely & accurately disclose contributions and expenditures for election year 2025 and file a post-General C-4 report for election year 2021. The first complaint also alleged a violation of RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to provide complete sponsor identification (ID) on a candidate website. The second complaint alleged that a late reported deposit, filed by the Respondent as part of this case, also violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240.

Applicable Laws and Rules

- Candidates that select the Full Reporting option on their *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report) are required to report contributions, deposits, and expenditures to the PDC on *Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions* reports (C-3 reports) and *Campaign Summary Receipts & Expenditures* reports (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 candidate’s election participation¹, and the candidate’s financial activity.
- [RCW 42.17A.235\(3\)\(a\)](#) states that each treasurer of a candidate committee is required to file a report on the tenth day of each month during which they are not participating in an election campaign only if the committee 1) received a contribution or made an expenditure in the preceding calendar month; and 2) either total contributions received or total expenditures made

¹ [RCW 42.17A.005\(38\)](#) defines “participate” to mean that, with respect to a particular election, an entity engages in one or more of the following activities: 1) makes a monetary or in-kind contribution to a candidate; 2) makes an independent expenditure or electioneering communication supporting or opposing a candidate; or 3) engages in an activity described in .005(38)(c), (d) or (e).

since the last such report exceed \$750². A candidate may delay filing monthly C-4 reports during periods when they are not participating in election until they have either received contributions or made expenditures that exceed \$750.

- Per [RCW 42.17A.235\(10\)](#), if there is no pending complaint about a C-3 or C-4 report being amended and it meets the conditions set forth in .235(10)(a) through (d), it is not evidence of a violation to submit an amended report within 21 days of the original report.
- Pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.320](#), all written political advertising must include the name and address of the sponsor. Sponsor identification should appear on the first page or fold of the political advertising, in at least ten-point type, and be set apart from any other printed matter.
- [WAC 390-18-010](#) indicates that all political advertising³ must clearly state that it has been paid for by the sponsor⁴. Additional disclosures may be required, depending on the sponsor and type of advertising used.
- [WAC 390-18-010](#) and [WAC 390-18-030](#) contain additional information regarding sponsor identification requirements and exemptions for political advertising, and alternatives for online advertising.

Background and Findings

- The Respondent is a candidate for the position of City Council Member of the City of Lake Stevens⁵ for election year 2025. He filed a *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report) with the PDC on February 7, 2025, selected the Full Reporting option, and is serving as his own Treasurer. The Respondent is participating in the November 4, 2025 General Election.
- On June 16, 2025, the Respondent spoke to PDC staff by telephone. He said he is serving as his own Treasurer and is not experienced with the current version of the PDC's ORCA (Online Reporting Campaign Activity) software, which looks and operates differently than it did in 2021. The Respondent said he thought he had submitted the C-3 report for the \$5,500 deposit. He recalled his 2021 campaign making an expenditure for an election night gathering and deduced

² Per [WAC 390-05-400](#), this dollar amount increased from \$200 to \$750 effective April 1, 2023.

³ Political advertising” is a mass communication used to appeal, directly or indirectly, for votes, financial or other support, or opposition to any election campaign that is intended to reach a large audience via a variety of methods. These methods include, but are not limited to, newspaper, radio and TV advertising, signs, billboards, brochures, fliers, and digital communications and online transmissions such as internet websites, social media, emails, and texts. [RCW 42.17A.005\(40\)](#) and [WAC 390-05-290\(3\)](#).

⁴ For the purposes of political advertising, the “sponsor” is the person who paid for the advertising. If a person acts as an agent or is reimbursed for the payment, the original source of the payment is the sponsor.

⁵ The Respondent is also a candidate for County Charter Review Commissioner with Snohomish County in election year 2025.

that this was the likely source of the discrepancy between the ending balance for his 2021 campaign and beginning balance for his 2025 campaign.

- The Respondent provided a written response to the complaint by email the same day (6/16/25) wherein he indicated the following:
 - In 2021, he served as his own Treasurer and experienced various family issues.
 - The alleged violations are good faith omissions.
 - He is doing the best he can with a reporting system that he didn't find to be user friendly and requested help from the PDC's Filer Assistance team to ensure compliance.
- The Respondent was cooperative throughout our assessment of the complaint and took corrective action as needed.
- The Respondent does not have previous warnings/violations of PDC requirements.

Allegation: Late or Inaccurate Reporting (2021 and 2025)

- The Respondent's post-General C-4 report for election year 2021 was filed 1,300 days late. Activity disclosed in the report included \$698.05 in expenditures for an election night gathering and non-itemized expenditures, and zero contributions. Filing the post-election report also corrected the 2021 campaign's ending balance to \$1,507.73.
- The campaign's first C-4 report for election year 2025 (covering 2/7/25-2/28/25) was amended on 7/2/25 to correct the campaign's beginning balance for 2025 to \$1,507.73, thereby resolving the discrepancy alleged in the first complaint.
- The campaign's March C-4 report was filed 49 days late, but well in advance of the 2025 General Election, which is mitigating.
- A late C-3 report disclosing a \$5,500 deposit dated 3/31/25 was filed 83 days late, but well in advance of the election, which is mitigating. This action resolved the allegation made in the second complaint.

Not Alleged: Reporting (2025)

- The Respondent's February C-4 report was filed 49 days late, based upon the date when the campaign met the \$750 reporting threshold (3/31/25). Mitigating factors include the report's 1) submission well in advance of the election; and 2) lack of expenditure activity.
- The campaign did not meet the \$750 reporting threshold in April of 2025 and filed their zero-dollar April C-4 report before the next report (for May) was due, which made it timely.

- All other C-3 and C-4 reports for election year 2025 were timely filed.

Allegation: Incomplete Sponsor ID (2025)

- As of June 11, 2025, the Respondent’s candidate website located at <https://electsteveewing.com> lacked complete sponsor identification (ID), specifically 1) the phrase “Paid for by;” and 2) the campaign’s address.
 - The Respondent has since updated the home page of his website to include the missing elements of sponsor ID; this change appears to have occurred on or about July 13, 2025.
- Noncompliance is partially mitigated by the presence of the sponsor’s name on the Donate page.

Summary and Resolution

Noncompliance appears to be the result of good-faith errors or omissions and is partially mitigated by your corrective action and good-faith efforts to comply. Other mitigating factors include the relatively small size and sophistication of your campaign, and the minimal impact of noncompliance on the public.

However, pursuant to [WAC 390-37-060\(1\)\(d\)](#), this serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to timely disclose all contribution and expenditures in 2021 and 2025. PDC staff expect you to timely file all required reports of contributions and expenditures in the future. The Commission will consider this 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 has dismissed this matter in accordance with [RCW 42.17A.755\(1\)](#).

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Tabatha Blacksmith
Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavallee
Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Conner Edwards