



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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September 17, 2025

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

Subject: PDC Case 174950

Karen Guzak:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint filed June 27, 2025 by Morgan Davis. The complaints allege violations of RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include proper sponsor identification for political advertising, specifically failure to include sponsor identification on yard signs.

Applicable Laws and Rules

[RCW 42.17A.320](#) requires that all political advertising supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot proposition include the sponsor's name and address. Previously, campaign yard signs 4 feet by 8 feet or smaller were not required to include sponsor identification. The Washington State Legislature removed that exemption by passing House Bill 2032 in 2024. In 2024, yard signs printed prior to the effective date of the law were exempt from the new requirements. Starting in 2025, all yard signs, regardless of when they were printed, must have sponsor identification.

Background and Findings

- Karen Guzak registered with the PDC as a 2025 candidate for City of Snohomish City Council on March 25, 2025. Guzak is the current officeholder for the same office.
- The complaint included pictures of a blue and white yard sign which they cite as evidence of a violation of RCW 42.17A.320. The sign, which reads "Reelect Karen Guzak" does not include any sponsor identification.
- In a written response submitted to the PDC on July 3, 2025, Guzak stated "These few signs are signs I used in my previous campaign, when I believe there was not this requirement. We have put out about 6 signs, and are in the process of ordering stickers to declare "Paid for by Karen Guzak Campaign 1429 Ave D #612, Snohomish WA" to place on our remaining signs, not yet installed. We will remove the few signs that are non-compliant."

Summary and Resolution

Based on our findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, any violation that may have occurred was minor and has been cured. After consideration of the circumstances, further proceedings would not serve the purpose of this chapter. Under WAC 390-37-060, the executive director, at any time prior to consideration by the commission, may dismiss a complaint which on its face, or as shown by investigation, provides reason to believe that a violation has occurred, but also shows that the respondent is in substantial compliance with the relevant statutes or rules, or shows that formal enforcement action is not warranted.

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

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, you are receiving a formal written warning concerning including proper sponsor identification on all political advertising. PDC staff expect you to include complete sponsor identification 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.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed by Alice Fiman

Alice Fiman  
Compliance Manager

Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee  
Executive Director

cc: Morgan Davis