

Respondent Name
Joshua Binda
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
Conner Edwards reported via the portal <i>(Wed, 5 Nov 2025 at 12:09 PM)</i> See complaint & PDC website.
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.

Complaint Against: Joshua Binda**Submitted:** 11/5/2025**Notice to Respondent Due By:** 11/15/2025 per WAC 390-37-050(1)**90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline:** 2/3/2026 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)**Statutes Violated:** RCW 42.17A..235, .240, WAC 390-16-043, RCW 42.17A.465**Background****Washington State's Campaign Finance Disclosure Law**

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.¹ 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.²

Violations

Joshua Binda's PDC enforcement history can be viewed here: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement/enforcement-cases?respondent=Binda>

Missing 7-Day C4 Report

Mr. Binda did not file the 7-day C4 report by the required deadline and as of today (the day after the election) it has still not been filed.

Missing C3 Reports

A review of Mr. Binda's campaign books of account revealed a deposit for ~\$250 that occurred on 10/29 and a deposit of ~\$150 that occurred on 10/22. As of today (the day after the election) there are no C3 reports that correspond to these deposits.

Inspection of Campaign Books

I requested – and Mr. Binda agreed to – an inspection of his campaign's books of account on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

While most campaigns either ignore book inspection requests or exhibit hostility during the inspection, Mr. Binda did neither. Mr. Binda was friendly and professional during the meeting and was able to provide almost every single record that I requested to view.

However, the ledger of transactions that Mr. Binda provided was current as of 10/29/25 and not 10/31/25 (the most recent business day) as required by WAC 390-16-043.

¹ <https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics>

² <https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics/key-dates-2024>

No Loan Agreement

Regarding the loans that Mr. Binda made to his campaign, I requested to see the loan agreement. Mr. Binda said that he did not have a loan agreement, and appeared to not be aware of the requirement. Loans can only be made via written agreement, see RCW 42.17A.465 (2).

Conclusion

I urge the PDC staff to take quick action and resolve the noncompliance identified in this complaint.

Best,

/s/ Conner Edwards
(425) 533-1677 cell

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