

State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Jennifer Hansen, Compliance Officer

Date: October 20, 2025

Subject: Lewis County Democratic Central Committee Enforcement Hearing

Memorandum: PDC Case #177338

Allegations:

PDC staff allege that Lewis County Democratic Central Committee (the Committee) violated RCW 42.17A.235 by failing to timely provide accurate campaign books of account per an inspection request.

Background:

- The Committee was registered as a bona fide county party committee participating in the August 5, 2025, primary election. During the ten calendar days preceding the primary election, the Committee was required to respond to requests from a person wishing to inspect the Committee's books of account. The ten-day inspection period in this case was July 26, 2025 to August 4, 2025.
- The Committee received an email from Conner Edwards on July 28, 2025, at the campaign email address of record, requesting to inspect the Committee's campaign books of account, with a requested appointment time of July 30, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.
- On July 30, 2025, the Committee provided an expense sheet covering expenditures from January 2025 through July 27, 2025, to Mr. Edwards' email address.
- The Committee confirmed with PDC staff that no one met with Mr. Edwards in response to his request and that an electronic copy of expenditures only was provided.
- On August 6, 2025, PDC staff received a complaint filed by Conner Edwards alleging that the Committee had violated RCW 42.17A.235 by failing to timely provide accurate campaign books of account per an inspection request. [Exhibit A]

Lewis County Democratic Central Committee Enforcement Hearing Memo PDC Case No. 177338 Page - 2 –

- PDC staff sent notice of the complaint to the Committee on August 13, 2025, and requested a response by August 27, 2025.
- On October 7, 2025, PDC staff served the Committee, by electronic mail, with a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding to be held on October 30, 2025, concerning alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 by failing to timely provide accurate campaign books of account per an inspection request. [Exhibit B]

Laws & Rules:

<u>RCW 42.17A.235</u> requires a committee to preserve books of account including data files, bills, receipts, and all other financial records of the campaign for no less than five calendar years following the year during which the transaction occurred, if not longer as otherwise required by law and to make its books of account available for inspection prior to the election.

<u>WAC 390-16-043</u> further describes the inspection period including how a request is made, what needs to be provided during the inspection, the applicable time parameters, and the permissible methods to provide the records.

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Exhibit List:

- Exhibit A PDC Case #177338; Lewis County Democratic Central Committee Complaint; received August 6, 2025
- Exhibit B Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) Notice; dated October 7, 2025

EXHIBIT A

Respondent Names

Lewis County Democratic Central Committee

Complainant Name

Conner Edwards

Complaint Description

Conner Edwards

reported via the portal (Wed, 6 Aug 2025 at 3:30 PM)

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: LEWIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE - NON-EXEMPT

Submitted: 8/6/2025

Notice to Respondent Due By: 8/16/2025 per WAC 390-37-050(1) 90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 11/4/2025 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)

Statutes Violated: RCW 42.17A.235 and WAC 390-16-043

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. The public disclosure law was enacted through voter approval of Initiative 276 in 1972.

Violations

This respondent failed to timely respond to a request to inspect the campaign's books of account during the 10-day window prior to the 2025 August primary election. See below/attached.

This committee has been repeatedly fined/warned by the PDC for a variety of violations: https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement-enforcement-cases?respondent=Lewis+County+Democratic

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. 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 over one 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?

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

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.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi



Conner Edwards <cg.edwards53@gmail.com>

Book Inspection Request (WAC 390-16-043)

Conner Edwards <cg.edwards53@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 3, 2025 at 5:50 PM

To: LCD Treasurer < treasurer@lewiscountydemocrats.org>

Cc: chair <chair@lewiscountydemocrats.org>, PDC Support <pdc@pdc.wa.gov>

Hello:

"Inspections must be allowed within 48 hours of the request." See link: https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/quidelines-restrictions/public-inspection-campaign-records

I still have not heard back from you with a time that would work for the inspection to proceed. Would 10:00 AM on Monday at 110 S Silver St, Centralia, WA 98531 (Centralia Public Library) work?

I also would note I still have not received the income sheet from you.

-Conner

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 12:52 PM LCD Treasurer <treasurer@lewiscountydemocrats.org> wrote:

Here is expenses sheet through July 27. Let me know if you want to see a particular supporting document. If I have time, I will send income on Friday. Best

Sonja "Swede" Svenson, LCD Treasurer

---- On Mon, 28 Jul 2025 18:11:03 -0700 Conner Edwards <cg.edwards53@gmail.com> wrote ---

Hello:

"Inspections must be allowed within 48 hours of the request." See link: https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/public-inspection-campaign-records

Unfortunately, allowing the inspection to occur on the day of the election or the day after the election is not an option.

Will you not allow me to inspect the books of account this week? Please let me know.

-Conner

On Mon, Jul 28, 2025 at 6:04 PM LCD Treasurer <treasurer@lewiscountydemocrats.org> wrote:

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Best,

Conner Edwards

(425) 533-1677 cell

Conner - I don't have any time this week. I volunteer for the Adna Grange, LC Democrats, and AAUW and am getting ready for the SWW Fair. Additionally, two days is not enough notice when I have a full calendar. Next week is better. Tuesday or Wednesday I have open times and can meet in Chehalis or Centralia.

Best,

Sonja "Swede" Svenson, LCD Treasurer

---- On Mon, 28 Jul 2025 15:51:14 -0700 Conner Edwards <cg.edwards53@gmail.com> wrote ---

Hello Sonja Svenson and Zachary Eckstein:

Per WAC 390-16-043, I would like to arrange a time to inspect the books of account for the committee LEWIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE - NON-EXEMPT (LCDCC).

You can read more about this process here: https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/public-inspection-campaign-records

Most times work for me, but I would prefer to view the books on Wednesday July 30, 2025 at 11:00 AM. Let me know if there is an alternative time that works better for you.

Best,

Conner Edwards (425) 533-1677 cell

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This communication, including any attachment(s), contains information that may be confidential or privileged, and is intended solely for the entity or individual to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you should contact the sender and delete the message. Any unauthorized disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message is strictly prohibited.

Disclaimer: Public documents and records are available to the public as provided under the Washington State Public Records Act (RCW 42.56). This e-mail may be considered subject to the Public Records Act and may be disclosed to a third-party requestor.

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Best,

Conner Edwards (425) 533-1677 cell

EXHIBIT B



State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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October 7, 2025

Delivered electronically to <u>treasurer@lewiscountydemocrats.org</u>

Subject: Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) Notice; PDC Case Number 177338

Dear Lewis County Democratic Central Committee:

On the date below, the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) will hold a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) in accordance with RCW 42.17A.110 and RCW 42.17A.755 to determine if you violated RCW 42.17A.235 and WAC 390-16-043 by failing to provide complete books of account, as alleged in the complaint filed in PDC Case 177338.

Under the Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) rules, the Presiding Officer has the authority to assess a civil penalty in accordance with WAC 390-37-143, a penalty schedule adopted by the Commission (see enclosed copy).

Your attendance at the hearing is encouraged but not required.

HEARING INFORMATION

Date and time: 1:30 p.m. Thursday, October 30, 2025

Place: Remotely from Olympia

Live Audio and Online Transmission

Presiding Officer: J. Leach, Chair, Public Disclosure Commission, or his designee

Authority: RCW 42.17A and WAC 390

PARTICIPATING IN THE HEARING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

The Brief Enforcement Hearing will be audio and video recorded. The recording of this proceeding could be posted publicly and is subject to public records request. The Presiding Officer and PDC Staff will attend in-person or remotely via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing platform.

> PLEASE READ the entire instructions below *prior* to the day of the hearing if you plan to participate via MS Teams.

Please note that you may be prompted to download the MS Teams app or use a supported browser (Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome) for best performance.

Anyone wishing to participate in the hearing remotely must follow the instructions below and join the meeting on a computer or mobile app **promptly at 1:30 p.m. on October 30, 2025.** Please remain in the meeting until the Presiding Officer calls your name and case number. After your case has been heard, you may leave or stay in the meeting.

Please note that you must stay muted at all times except while your case is being heard.

Join on your computer or mobile app:

CLICK TO JOIN

If you are unable to use Teams or experience technical difficulties, please call the PDC's main number 1-360-753-1111 to obtain information regarding alternate participation by telephone.

If you choose to participate in the hearing remotely, please be aware that you may be waiting in the queue for a unknown period of time while cases are being heard and you may have a limited amount of time to speak. If a lengthier response time is needed, please consider submitting written participation materials prior to the hearing (see below).

SUBMITTING WRITTEN MATERIALS

In advance of the Brief Enforcement Hearing, you may provide a written response describing the facts of your case for consideration by the Presiding Officer, including any circumstances or mitigating factors you would like considered. Please submit your written response so it is received by the PDC no later than <u>October 20, 2025</u>.

If you have any questions about the hearing process prior to the hearing date, please contact Jennifer Hansen by email at pdc.wa.gov – and be sure to reference your case number in the subject line of the email.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hansen Compliance Officer Compliance and Enforcement Division



Enclosures

- Statement of Understanding & Electronic Payment Option Instructions (Sent separately)
- Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) FAQ
- PDC Penalty Schedule

HOW TO AVOID THE HEARING

To avoid the Brief Enforcement Hearing, please take <u>both</u> of the following steps by <u>October 20</u>, **2025**:

1. Mail or e-mail a signed Statement of Understanding (blank form sent via attachment) to the PDC.

AND

2. Make a payment of \$150 either electronically through the PDC's new online payment system or by mail. Please see the SOU for delivery and payment instructions.

Any Statement of Understanding or payment with a postmark later than October 20, 2025, will **not be accepted** and your case will proceed to hearing.

BRIEF ENFORCEMENT HEARINGS - INFORMATION FOR FILERS

You have received a letter or email from the PDC scheduling a Brief Enforcement Hearing before a PDC Commissioner. Here are the answers to some Frequently Asked Questions about these brief hearings. This FAQ is informational only and should not be considered legal advice.

What is a Brief Enforcement Hearing?

The PDC is responsible for enforcing the State's campaign finance laws. We may schedule what is called a Brief Enforcement Hearing (also known as a "Brief Adjudicative Proceeding" under the Administrative Procedure Act) to address compliance with campaign finance reporting requirements when evidence shows the following types of alleged violations may have occurred:

- Failure to file or timely file required reports of financial affairs, campaign contributions and/or expenditures, independent expenditures, or funds spent on lobbying:
- Improper use of public facilities or resources in election campaigns when the value of public funds expended or facilities used was minimal; and
- Infractions of political advertising laws regarding sponsor identification or political party identification.

Brief Enforcement Hearings may be scheduled on other matters as well, if the basic facts are agreed to or are not being contested, and it is anticipated that the likely penalty imposed (if a violation is found) will be \$1,000 or less. The Commission has adopted a penalty schedule for Brief Enforcement Hearings which can be found in the Washington Administrative Code WAC 390-37-143.

A Presiding Officer, who is a PDC Commissioner, will conduct the hearing. PDC Staff will present the case to the Presiding Officer, and you will have an opportunity to explain the circumstances related to the alleged violations. You may do this in person, by telephone, or in writing by email or letter.

Who are the parties involved?

The PDC Staff initiates and investigates possible violations, and brings cases forward to the Commission or its Presiding Officer. The person who is alleged to be out of compliance with the law is referred to as the "Respondent."

What can I do to avoid the hearing?

If you received a hearing notice, you still have the opportunity to come into compliance by filing the missing report(s), paying the stated penalty, and completing a *Statement of Understanding* stipulating to the violation(s). If you would like to take this approach, please contact PDC Compliance and Enforcement staff at pdc.wa.gov

What do I do to prepare for the hearing?

The brief hearings are informal in nature. You are not required to have an attorney for this hearing. Hearings take place virtually and/or in the PDC meeting room where Commission meetings are held. You need to let the staff know at least <u>five business days before the hearing</u> whether you will be participating online, by phone, in-person or prefer not to participate.

If you are having other people (witnesses) testify on your behalf, they must be available at the hearing, and staff needs to be informed of the number of witnesses and time needed for their testimony when you notify the staff of your participation. The scheduled hearing starting time is the start time for several matters that will be heard by the

Presiding Officer, and your case may not be the first one heard. So you will need to remain available to participate until your case is called.

Waiving your right to participate. If you have submitted nothing in writing prior to the hearing, have made no other arrangements, and you do not appear online, by phone, in-person, or through your legal counsel at the hearing, it will be presumed that you have decided to waive your right to participate at the hearing.

What happens at the hearing?

The Presiding Officer will introduce the participants and explain the procedure for the hearing. The hearing will be audio-taped.

The Presiding Officer will swear-in PDC Staff for them to present information regarding the alleged violation of law. You will then have an opportunity to testify, which is your opportunity to present information. All testimony by staff, Respondents, and witnesses is given under oath but, if you attend in-person, you are seated at a regular meeting table with a microphone, not in a courtroom. The Presiding Officer may ask you some questions about the information you, PDC Staff, or witnesses have presented. If you have decided to participate in writing instead of online, by phone or in-person, your written information will be considered by the Presiding Officer as part of the hearing materials.

If at any time the Presiding Officer believes the alleged violations are serious enough to merit penalties greater than \$1,000, the Presiding Officer will adjourn the hearing and direct that the matter be scheduled for a hearing before the full Commission at a later time.

How is the decision made?

After considering all the information presented at the hearing, the Presiding Officer will make a decision about the allegation(s) and any appropriate penalty amount. The decision is typically announced orally at the hearing.

The Presiding Officer will use the penalty schedule referred to above that has been adopted by the Commission in rule to determine the appropriate penalty for certain types of violations, taking into account aggravating and mitigating factors. The penalty schedule is below.

What happens after my hearing?

A written decision, called an Initial Order, laying out the Presiding Officer's ruling, including the findings and the penalty, will be sent to you. The PDC tries to get orders issued within 10 days if possible, and not later than 30 days. If a monetary penalty is imposed in the Initial Order, the penalty must be paid to the **Washington State Treasurer**, and mailed to the address listed in the Order cover letter within the time frame stated in the Order.

Along with your Initial Order, you will also receive information about your appeal rights, including how to request review or reconsideration by the full Commission if you disagree with the Initial Order. Follow these procedures carefully if you wish to appeal. If there is no appeal before the PDC, the Initial Order becomes a Final Order, and further appeals must be made in Superior Court.

What are the rules that apply to the procedures of my hearing?

The PDC's laws and rules are available on the PDC's website at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 42.17A. The rules are in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are described at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are described at www.pdc.

Penalty Schedule [WAC 390-37-143]:

The Presiding Officer may assess a penalty up to one thousand dollars upon finding a violation of chapter $\underline{42.17A}$ RCW or Title 390 WAC.

(1) Base penalty amounts:

Violation	1st Occasion	2nd Occasion	3rd Occasion
Failure to timely file an accurate and complete statement of financial affairs (F	-1):		
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
Candidate's failure to timely file an accurate and complete registration statemo (F-1):	ent (C-1)/st	atement of	f financial affairs
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150 per report		\$300 - \$600 per report up to \$1,000
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.		\$300 per report	\$600 per report up to \$1,000
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250 per report	\$500 per report	consideration by full commission
Failure to timely file an accurate and complete lobbyist monthly expense repor	t (L-2):		
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
Failure to timely file an accurate and complete lobbyist employer report (L-3):		I	1
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600

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Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250	\$500	\$1,00
Failure to timely file accurate and complete disclosure reports:			1
Political committee registration (C-1pc).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Statement of contributions deposit (C-3).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Summary of total contributions and expenditures (C-4).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Independent expenditures and electioneering communications (C-6).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Last minute contribution report (LMC).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Out-of-state committee report (C-5).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Annual report of major contributors (C-7).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to timely file accurate and complete reports disclosing lobbying activiti	es:		
Lobbyist registration (L-1).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Public agency lobbying report (L-5).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Grass roots lobbying report (L-6).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to file electronically.	\$350	\$650	\$1,000
Exceeding contribution limits.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Exceeding mini reporting threshold.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to comply with political advertising sponsor identification requirements.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to include required candidate's party preference in political advertising.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to comply with other political advertising requirements, RCW 42.17A.330 through 42.17A.345.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Use of public facilities to assist a campaign for election or promote a ballot measure.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Treasurer's failure to timely file an accurate and complete annual treasurer's r	eport (T-1):	•
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600
		-	

Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing. \$250 \$500	\$1,000
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- "Occasion" means established violation. Only violations in the last five years will be considered for the purpose of determining second and third occasions.
- (2) In determining the appropriate penalty, the presiding officer may consider the nature of the violation and aggravating and mitigating factors, including:
- (a) Whether the respondent is a first-time filer;
- (b) The respondent's compliance history for the last five years, including whether the noncompliance was isolated or limited in nature, indicative of systematic or ongoing problems, or part of a pattern of violations by the respondent, or in the case of a political committee or other entity, part of a pattern of violations by the respondent's officers, staff, principal decision makers, consultants, or sponsoring organization;
- (c) The respondent's unpaid penalties from a previous enforcement action;
- (d) The impact on the public, including whether the noncompliance deprived the public of timely or accurate information during a time-sensitive period, or otherwise had a significant or material impact on the public;
- (e) The amount of financial activity by the respondent during the statement period or election cycle;
- (f) Whether the late or unreported activity was significant in amount or duration under the circumstances, including in proportion to the total amount of expenditures by the respondent in the campaign or statement period;
- (g) Corrective action or other remedial measures initiated by respondent prior to enforcement action, or promptly taken when noncompliance brought to respondent's attention;
- (h) Good faith efforts to comply, including consultation with PDC staff prior to initiation of enforcement action and cooperation with PDC staff during enforcement action, and a demonstrated wish to acknowledge and take responsibility for the violation;
- (i) Personal emergency or illness of the respondent or member of his or her immediate family;
- (i) Other emergencies such as fire, flood, or utility failure preventing filing;
- (k) Sophistication of respondent or the financing, staffing, or size of the respondent's campaign or organization; and
- (l) PDC staff, third-party vendor, or equipment error, including technical problems at the agency preventing or delaying electronic filing.
- (3) The presiding officer has authority to suspend all or a portion of an assessed penalty under the conditions to be determined by that officer including, but not limited to, payment of the nonsuspended portion of the penalty within five business days of the date of the entry of the order in that case.
- (4) If, on the third occasion, a respondent has outstanding penalties or judgments, the matter will be directed to the full commission for consideration.
- (5) The presiding officer may direct a matter to the full commission if the officer believes one thousand dollars would be an insufficient penalty or the matter warrants consideration by the full commission. Cases will automatically be scheduled before the full commission for an enforcement action when the respondent:

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- (a) Was found in violation during a previous reporting period;
- (b) The violation remains in effect following any appeals; and
- (c) The person has not filed the disclosure forms that were the subject of the prior violation at the time the current hearing notice is being sent.

[Statutory Authority: RCW <u>42.17A.110(1)</u> and 2018 c 304. WSR 18-24-074, § 390-37-143, filed 11/30/18, effective 12/31/18. Statutory Authority: RCW <u>42.17A.110(1)</u> and <u>42.17A.570</u>. WSR 18-10-088, § 390-37-143, filed 5/1/18, effective 6/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW <u>42.17A.110</u>. WSR 17-03-004, § 390-37-143, filed 1/4/17, effective 2/4/17.]