



**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

August 8, 2019

Sent electronically to maxvogt@localaccess.com

Subject: PDC Case 22410, Complaint filed by Colin Hamilton

Dear: Max Vogt:

Enclosed is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Colin Hamilton, concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Colin Hamilton, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of compliance with the requirements regarding the use of public facilities to assist a political campaign as noted in the enclosed letter Colin Hamilton. PDC staff expects you to review [PDC guidance](#) regarding the use of public facilities to assist a political campaign.

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s_____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s_____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
for Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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August 8, 2019

Delivered electronically to colin@culturelightventures.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Max Vogt, PDC Case 22410

Dear Colin Hamilton:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint you filed July 10, 2017 alleging Max Vogt violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using agency facilities to assist his 2017 campaign to Centralia City Council.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements, the response provided by Max Vogt and any applicable PDC reports and data in the PDC contribution and expenditure database, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Max Vogt was appointed to the Centralia City Council in 2015.
- On November 7, 2017, Max Vogt was elected to the Centralia City Council, Position 3.
- RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits public agencies from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of promoting or opposing any ballot measure. This prohibition does not apply to activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of the public agency, as defined in WAC 390-05-273.
- In response to the complaint, Vogt stated "Every quarter, since I was appointed in 2015, I have sent out cards to every household in my district, inviting them to a coffee at a local coffee shop. I am there to meet and greet them and answer any questions they might have about what is going on in their city. Often, I will have someone from the city come and answer questions about the roads, or parks or whatever they have on their mind. June 1st of this year was no different."
- Vogt also stated he was aware one of his campaign staff posted the event to his campaign Facebook page, and once his opponent "raised the complaint, I immediately removed the post from my campaign page. It was not my intent for this to be a campaign event but I can understand how it might look that way and I wanted to rectify the situation

immediately. I will make sure that I do not invite any city staff or have any city equipment at or around my last coffee in September, before the election.”

Based on our findings staff has determined, in this instance, the alleged use of facilities by Max Vogt to support the campaign for Centralia City Council does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Max Vogt about the importance of compliance with the requirements regarding the use of public facilities to assist a political campaign and staff expects Vogt to review [PDC guidance](#) for local government agencies in election campaigns.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail fdc@fdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

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/s _____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

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Executive Director