



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: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

July 3, 2019

Sent Electronically to Voters Want More Choices and Tim Eyman

Subject: Voters Want More Choices Complaint Return Letter with Reminder, PDC Case 13078

Mr. Eyman:

Below is a copy of a letter sent electronically to Shawn Roland concerning a complaint he filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against Voters Want More Choices. As noted below in the letter sent to Mr. Roland, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff is reminding Voters Want More Choices about the importance of timely and accurately filing Committee Registrations (C-1pc reports), Monetary Contributions reports (C-3 reports) and Campaign Summary Contribution and Expenditure Reports (C-4 reports) disclosing all future contribution and expenditure activities undertaken by the Committee including cash on hand carried forward from the previous year. In addition, staff is also reminding the Committee about including the complete sponsor identification on all future political advertisements such as emails, direct mail, broadcast, and social media, as required by PDC laws and 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 me at (360) 664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at kurt.young@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/ _____
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

s/ _____
BG Sandahl, Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director



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July 3, 2019

Sent electronically to Shawn Roland

Subject: Complaint regarding Voters Want More Choices, PDC Case 13078

Dear Mr. Roland:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on February 1, 2017, against Voters Want More Choices, a political committee registered with the PDC. The complaint alleged that Voters Want More Choices (Committee), a continuing committee that supports statewide ballot propositions, may have violated: (1) RCW 42.17A.205 by failing to timely file a Committee Registration (C-1 report) registering the Committee for the 2017 election; (2) RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely file Monetary Contributions reports (C-3 reports) and Campaign Summary Contribution and Expenditure Reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken by the Committee; and (3) RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include the complete sponsor identification on political advertising sponsored by the Committee, including email Committee kickoff notifications.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint and the exhibits, the statutes, rules and reporting requirements for a continuing political committee, the C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Committee. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On February 8, 2017, the Committee filed a Committee Registration (C-1pc report) as a New Continuing political committee with the PDC, selecting the Full Reporting option, indicating the Committee was affiliated with Help Us Help Taxpayers, and listing Tim Eyman, and Jack and Mike Fagan as Officers/Consultants, and Barbara Smith as Treasurer.
- The C-1pc report included an attachment stating that the Committee was supporting Initiative 1550 (I-1550), a statewide measure concerning Property Tax Fairness.
- On February 10, 2017, the Committee filed its December 2016 C-3 and C-4 report disclosing \$25,140 in funds that were carried forward from We Love Our Cars – VWMC -2017 PAC on December 31, 2016 and deposited into the committee bank account the same day, with no expenditures and no outstanding liabilities. The initial C-3 and C-4 reports were filed 31 days late by the Committee.
- On February 10, 2017, the Committee timely filed its January 2017 C-4 report disclosing the \$25,140 in contributions transferred into the committee and eight expenditures totaling \$2,503. The eight expenditures included reimbursements made to Committee Officers and volunteers for out-of-pocket expenditures they made to set up the committee for calendar year 2017, telephone charges, and a payment to the webmaster for the committee website.

- The Committee’s initial expenditure was made on January 11, 2017, and was a \$100 expenditure made to Runtime, the Committee’s Webmaster.
- The February 1, 2017, email from Tim Eyman stated in the subject line “Today we kick-off the signature drive for the Property Tax Fairness Initiative” and included the words “Voters Want More Choices.Com” in large font in a blue and white masthead/letterhead. The email included numerous references and hyperlinks to the Committee, the Committee’s website, a copy of the I-1550 petition, and references and a photograph of Mr. Eyman, Mr. Fagan and the other Mr. Fagan. At the bottom of the email, the Committee included the following name and mailing address bolded for VWMC and the statement “Copyright © 2017 Voters Want More Choices, All rights reserved.”

The Committee’s initial C-3 and C-4 reports were required to have been filed on January 10, 2017, since the 2016 final cash on hand balance in funds were carried forward into the 2017 Committee’s totals on December 31, 2016. However, PDC staff does not believe that merely carrying forward committee funds from a prior year, absent any additional expenditures, debts or obligations being incurred, constitutes late filings that are actual violations.

The Committee was required to have filed its C-1pc report on January 25, 2017, based on the \$100 expenditure made to Runtime, on January 11, 2017, and the Committee filed the C-1pc report 14 days late. Finally, the email political advertisement kicking off the Campaign for I-1550 was identified as being from Tim Eyman and Voters Want More Choices, although it failed to include the words “Paid for” or “Sponsored by” in the communication as part of the required sponsor identification.

Based on these findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the Campaign’s failure to timely and accurately file C-3 and C-4 reports, disclosing contribution and expenditure information, and to include the complete sponsor identification in an email, does not amount to actual violations warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Voters Want More Choices PAC about the importance of timely registering as a political committee and filing the C-3 and C-4 required reports in the future disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken by the Committee, including the carry forward balance from the previous year and listing the complete sponsor identification on all future political advertisements as required by PDC laws and rules.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact me at (360) 664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/ _____
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

s/ _____
BG Sandahl, Deputy Director
for Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Tim Eyman
Tony Perkins, Attorney General’s Office Campaign Finance Unit