



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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August 26, 2019

Grant County Republican Central Committee
601 S Pioneer Way Suite F 265
Moses Lake, WA 98837

delivered electronically to Rae Ann Journey at raejourney@gmail.com

Subject: PDC Order, Case 43080

Dear Rae Ann Journey, Treasurer Grant County Republican Party Central Committee,

Enclosed is a copy of the Public Disclosure Commission's Final Order Imposing Fine that was entered in the above-referenced case.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Stipulation as to Facts, Violations and Penalty that was accepted by the Commission.

At its August 20, 2019 meeting, the Commission found the GCRPCC violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to file or timely file Monetary Contribution Reports (C-3 Reports) and Campaign Summary Receipts and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditure activities for the calendar years 2015 through 2018. In addition, the Commission found the GCRPCC violated RCW 42.17A.235 by failing to maintain the Committee's books of account for a portion of the calendar year 2015.

The Commission assessed a total civil penalty of \$6,500 of which \$3,250 is suspended on the following conditions:

1. The GCRPCC is not found to have committed any further violations of Chapter 42.17A RCW or Title 390 WAC within four years of the date of the Final Order. The suspended penalty shall not be assessed based solely upon any remediable violation, minor violation, or error classified by the Commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.
2. The GCRPCC remains in full compliance with all PDC reporting requirements.
3. The non-suspended portion of the penalty (\$3,250) is paid by the GCRPCC within 30 days of the date of the Final Order.

Grant County Republican Party Central Committee
Final Order – Cover Letter
PDC Case 43080

In the event you fail to comply with any of the conditions of the Order, the suspended portion of the penalty (\$3,250) shall immediately become due without further action by the Commission.

Please make the check or money order payable to the **WA State Treasurer**, and mail the payments to the following: **Public Disclosure Commission PO Box 40908 Olympia, WA 98504-0908**

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have questions, please contact us by email at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Alice Fiman

Compliance Officer

Enclosure: Final Order

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6 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**
7 **OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

8 In re the Matter of Enforcement Action
9 Against:

PDC CASE NO. 43080

10 GRANT COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
11 CENTRAL COMMITTEE,

FINAL ORDER

Respondent.

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14 **I. INTRODUCTION**

15 This matter was heard by the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
16 (Commission) on August 20, 2019, at the Public Disclosure Commission Office, 711 Capitol
17 Way, Room 206, Olympia, Washington 98504. The hearing was held pursuant to Chapter 34.05
18 RCW, Chapter 42.17A RCW, and Chapter 390-37 WAC.

19 Commissioners present were Anne Levinson, Commission Chair (presiding); David
20 Ammons, Commission Vice-Chair; and Commissioners William Downing and Russell Lehman.
21 Also present were Assistant Attorney General John S. Meader representing the Commission;
22 Assistant Attorney General Chad Standifer representing PDC Staff; and Alice Fiman,
23 Compliance Officer, on behalf of PDC Staff. Dan Brady, Counsel for the Respondent, and
24 RaeAnne Journey, Grant County Republican Party Central Committee Treasurer, appeared
25 telephonically. The proceeding was open to the public and recorded.

26 The hearing concerned allegations that Grant County Republican Party Central

1 Committee (GCRPCC, Respondent, Committee) violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing
2 to file or timely file Monetary Contribution Reports (C-3 Reports) and Campaign Summary
3 Receipts and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditure activities
4 for the calendar years 2015 through 2018.

5 The Commissioners had before them the following materials:

- 6 • Report of Investigation prepared by PDC Compliance Officer Alice Fiman, dated August 13,
7 2019, which included:
 - 8 ○ GCRPCC amended 2019 Political Committee Registration dated
9 February 11, 2019;
 - 10 ○ GCRPCC 2017 Political Committee Registration dated February 2, 2017;
 - 11 ○ GCRPCC 2014 Political Committee Registration dated February 10,
12 2014;
 - 13 ○ Complaint filed by David Hammond, dated November 7, 2018;
 - 14 ○ Complaint response from RaeAnne Journey on behalf of GCRPCC, dated
15 December 10, 2018;
 - 16 ○ Enforcement Hearing Notice for PDC Case #43080, dated August 8,
17 2019;
 - 18 ○ Notice of Administrative Charges for PDC Case #43080, dated August
19 13, 2019.
- 20 • Proposed Stipulation as to Facts, Violations, and Penalty submitted by the parties, signed on
21 August 19, 2019.

22 23 II. STIPULATION

24 The parties jointly submitted a signed Stipulation as to Facts, Violations, and Penalty
25 (Stipulation). Mr. Standifer presented the Stipulation, reviewed the aggravating and mitigating
26 factors, summarized the proposed penalties, and asked the Commission to accept the Stipulation.

1 In response to Commission questions, the Staff provided testimony that the Respondent
2 had ultimately been responsive in addressing the complaint, and was now in compliance with all
3 reporting obligations, with the exception of some 2015 documents where the information was
4 unavailable. The Staff also stated that there were no comparable penalties presented for
5 Commission review because the particular facts of this case were not sufficiently similar to other
6 cases with the same allegations. Counsel for the Respondent, Dan Brady, provided testimony
7 on behalf of the Respondent, explained the factors that led to the late filings, stated that his client
8 took responsibility, and also asked the Commission to accept the Stipulation.

9 The Commission inquired further about the reasons for the untimely filings and the delay
10 in addressing the allegations. The Commission requested that the parties amend the Stipulation
11 to include findings that the Respondent is now in compliance with reporting obligations, and that
12 there are no comparable cases regarding determination of penalties. The Commission asked if
13 both parties concurred with the two amendments. Both parties accepted the amendments and
14 agreed to execute an Amended Stipulation. The Commission also reminded the parties that the
15 suspended portion of the penalty will come due without further action of the Commission if there
16 is a violation of Chapter 42.17A or Title 390 WAC.

17 The Commission voted 4-0 to accept the Amended Stipulation.
18

19 III. FINDINGS OF FACT

20 1. GCRPCC is a Bona Fide County Political Party Committee located in Moses Lake,
21 Grant County, and has been registered and reporting with the PDC dating back to the 1990's.

22 2. GCRPCC made 11 monetary contributions to candidates for public office for calendar
23 years 2012 through 2019. For the 2012 election cycle, the Committee made a total of \$1,000 in
24 contributions to five candidates for public office. Contributions of \$200 were made to James H.
25 Watkins, Richard B. Sanders, Clint B. Didier, Carol A Swartz, and Kim Wyman. For the 2016
26 election cycle, the Committee made three contributions totaling \$1,500 to the Washington State

1 Republican Party and Kim Wyman. For the 2018 election cycle, the Committee made a \$500
2 contribution to Casey Cooper, a candidate for Grant County Treasurer. For the 2019 election
3 cycle, the Committee made a \$1,250 contribution to the Kittitas County Republican Party and a
4 \$300 contribution to LSPCA.org, an Eastern Washington candidate recruitment group.

5 3. The Committee failed to file any C-3 or C-4 reports for the 2015 or 2016 election
6 years.

7 4. At the time the complaint was filed in November of 2018, only eight C-3 reports for
8 calendar year 2018 covering the period January 1 through April 25, 2017, had been filed. Those
9 eight C-3 reports totaled \$12,404 in monetary contributions received mostly as proceeds from
10 the Lincoln Day Dinner, in addition to \$3,335 in funds carried forward from 2017. No C-4
11 reports had been filed for calendar year 2017.

12 5. On February 19, 2019, the Committee filed 13 C-3 and C-4 reports detailing
13 contribution and expenditure activities undertaken during the 2017 election year and disclosing
14 \$34,586 in total monetary and in-kind contributions received and \$8,628.91 in total expenditures
15 made. These reports were filed between 405 and 739 days late.

16 6. On May 8, 2019, the Committee filed 12 C-3 and C-4 reports detailing contribution
17 and expenditure activities undertaken during the 2018 election year and disclosing \$30,097 in
18 total monetary and in-kind contributions received, which included \$7,815 in funds carried
19 forward from 2017, and \$12,758 in total expenditures made. These reports were filed between
20 214 and 462 days late.

21 7. On July 12 and 15, 2019, the Committee attempted to file its missing reports from
22 2015 and 2016, however, the Committee reported experiencing challenges filing the reports
23 using the PDC reporting software.

24 8. On August 13, 2019 the Committee filed 10 reports detailing contribution and
25 expenditure activities undertaken covering January 1 to July 27, 2015, and disclosing \$18,183.71
26 in total monetary and in-kind contributions received, which included \$4,845.71 in funds carried

1 forward from 2016, and \$6,899.18 in total expenditures made. These reports were filed between
2 1,645 to 1,477 days late.

3 9. On December 10, 2018, the Committee's Treasurer, RaeAnne Journey, responded to
4 the complaint on behalf of the Committee stating that the GCRPCC is an all-volunteer
5 organization that reorganizes every two years. She acknowledged finding some discrepancies
6 as detailed in the complaint.

7 10. Ten emails and nine phone calls were exchanged between Commission Staff and
8 Committee representatives between November 16, 2018 and July 31, 2019.

9 11. The Committee completed filing its missing C-3 and C-4 reports on August 19, 2019,
10 the day prior the hearing before the Commission. Except for a portion of the 2015 reports which
11 are now unavailable, the Committee is in compliance with its filing obligations as of the date of
12 this Order.

13 14 **IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

15 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter 42.17A
16 RCW, the State campaign finance and disclosure law; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative
17 Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC.

18 2. GCRPCC violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to file or timely file Monetary
19 Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Campaign Contribution and Expenditure
20 Reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditures activity for calendar years 2015
21 through 2018.

22 3. GCRPCC violated RCW 42.17A.235 by failing to maintain the Committee's books
23 of account for a portion of the calendar year 2015.

1 **V. ORDER**

2 Based upon the stipulated Findings and Conclusions, the Commission accepts the
3 Amended Stipulation of the parties and orders that:

4 1. Respondent GCRPCC is assessed a total civil penalty of \$6,500, with \$3,250
5 suspended, on the following conditions:

6 a. The Respondent is not found to have committed any further violations of
7 Chapter 42.17A RCW or Title 390 WAC within four years of the date of
8 this Final Order. The suspended penalty shall not be assessed based solely
9 upon any remediable violation, minor violation, or error classified by the
10 Commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.

11 b. The Respondent remains in full compliance with all PDC reporting
12 requirements.

13 c. The non-suspended portion of the penalty (\$3,250) is paid by the
14 Respondent within 30 days of the date of this Final Order.

15 2. If the Respondent fails to comply with any of the conditions of this Order, the
16 suspended portion of the penalty shall immediately become due without further
17 action by the Commission.
18

19 So ORDERED this 23rd day of August, 2019.

20 WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC
21 DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

22 FOR THE COMMISSION:

23 

24 Anne Levinson
25 Chair, Public Disclosure Commission
26

1 *Copy of this Order mailed and/or emailed to:*

2 RaeAnne Journey, Treasurer, Grant County Republican Party Central Committee,
3 601 South Pioneer, Ste. F #265
4 Moses Lake, WA 98837
5 (raejourney@gmail.com)

6 Dan Brady, Attorney for Grant County Republican Party Central Committee,
7 (dan@danbradylaw.com)

8 Alice Fiman, PDC Staff Compliance Officer (Alice.Fiman@pdc.wa.gov);

9 Chad Standifer, Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for PDC Staff (ChadS@atg.wa.gov)

10 I, Alice Fiman, certify that I mailed a copy of this order to the Respondent/
11 Applicant at his/her respective address postage pre-paid on the date stated herein.
12 Alice Fiman 8/23/2019
13 Signed Date

14
15 **NOTICE: RECONSIDERATION**

16 Pursuant to the provisions of RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 390-37-150, you may file a Petition for
17 Reconsideration with the PDC within ten (10) days from the date this Final Order is served upon
18 you. Any Request for reconsideration must state the specific grounds for the relief requested.
19 Petitions must be delivered or mailed to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission,
711 Capitols Way, Room 206, Box 40908, Olympia WA 98504-0908.

20 **NOTICE: PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

21 You have the right to appeal this Final Order to Superior Court, pursuant to the Petition for
22 Judicial Review provisions of RCW 34.05.542. Any Petition for Judicial Review of this Final
23 Order must be filed with the court and also served upon both the Commission and the Office of
24 the Attorney general within thirty (30) days after the date this Final Order is served upon you.
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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against:

Grant County Republican Party Central
Committee

Respondent.

PDC Case 43080

STIPULATION AS TO
FACTS, VIOLATIONS AND
PENALTY

The parties in this matter, namely, the Public Disclosure Commission Staff, through its Executive Director, Peter Lavallee, and Respondent Grant County Republican Party Central Committee, through its attorney, Dan Brady, submit this Stipulation as to Facts, Violations and Penalty (Stipulation). The parties agree that the Commission has the authority to accept, reject or modify the terms of this Stipulation. The parties further agree that in the event the Commission suggests modification to any term of this agreement, each party reserves the right to reject that modification. In the event either party rejects a modification, this matter will proceed to hearing before the Commission.

JURISDICTION

The Public Disclosure Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to RCW 42.17A, the state campaign finance and disclosure laws; RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedure Act; and WAC 390.

FACTS

1. The Grant County Republican Party Central Committee (Committee) is a Bona Fide County Political Party Committee located in Moses Lake, Grant County, and has been registered and reporting with the PDC dating back to the 1990's.

2015 Reporting Period

2. On August 13, 2019, the Committee filed seven C-4 reports, two initial C-3 reports, and an amended C-3 report, disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken by the Committee covering the January 1 through July 27, 2015. The 2015 reports disclosed

\$18,184 in total monetary and in-kind contribution received, which included \$4,846 in funds carried forward from calendar year 2014, and \$6,899 in expenditures.

3. The 2015 expenditures included \$5,685 made for the 2015 Annual Lincoln Day Dinner. The Lincoln Day Dinner expenditures included: two expenditures totaling \$2,864 for rent at the Grant County Fairgrounds; \$1,458 in reimbursements made to two Committee Officers for food for the event; \$1,000 for a speaker's fee; \$399 for advertising for the event; and \$264 for insurance. The C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Committee for a portion of calendar year 2015 were between 1,477 and 1,645 days late.
4. The Committee failed to maintain complete records for a portion of the calendar year 2015, July 28, 2015 through December 31, 2015. On August 19, 2019, the Committee filed reports regarding their contribution and expenditure activities from July 28, 2015 through December 31, 2015. The reports disclosed no contributions had been received, and \$3,212.90 in expenditures had been made for: building repairs; office supplies; and \$29 in expenses of \$50 or less. The reports were filed by the Committee between 1,483 and 1,316 days late. The Committee stated that the reports contain limited information that it was not able to confirm as comprehensive.

2016 Reporting Period

5. On August 14, 2019, the Committee filed four initial C-3 reports, and an amended C-3 report, disclosing monetary contributions received by the Committee covering the period January 1 through April 25, 2016. The 2016 C-3 reports filed by the Committee disclosed \$17,022 in total monetary contributions received from nine low-cost fundraising events, including the annual Lincoln Day Dinner, and were filed between 1,191 and 1,281 days late.
6. On August 19, 2019, the Committee filed the missing C-4 reports for all of calendar year 2016, disclosing the Committee received a total of \$28,306 in total contributions including \$11,285 in funds carried forward from 2015, and \$14,537 in total expenditures made. The 2016 expenditures included more than \$6,000 for the Lincoln Day Dinner, more than \$2,600 for the GOP picnic, \$1,118 for the GOP state convention, \$1,004 for vetting purposes in September of 2016, and \$254 to print GOTV cards for the 2016 primary election. The C-4 reports filed by the Committee for calendar year 2016 were between 1,351 and 1,651 days late.

2017 Reporting Period

7. On February 19, 2019, the Committee filed 13 C-3 and C-4 reports detailing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken during 2017 election year and disclosing \$34,586 in total monetary and in-kind contributions received (\$0 in funds carried forward from 2016), and \$8,628.91 in total expenditures made. These reports filed by the Committee for calendar year 2017 were between 405 and 739 days late.

2018 Reporting Period

8. On May 8, 2019, the Committee filed 12 C-3 and C-4 reports detailing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken during calendar year 2018 election year and disclosing \$30,097 in total monetary and in-kind contributions received, that included \$7,815 in funds carried forward from 2017, and \$12,758 in total expenditures made. The C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Committee were between 214 and 462 days late.
9. On August 19, 2019, the Committee filed the 2018 7-day Pre-General Election C-4 report, a Post-General Election C-4 report, a December 2018 C-4 report, and a C-3 report. The C-4 reports covered the period October 16 through December 31, 2018 and disclosed \$5,000 in contributions had been received and \$7,169 in expenditures had been made for get-out-the-vote (GOTV) radio and newspaper advertisements, canvassers, and rental of facilities. The August C-4 reports filed by the Committee between 221 and 293 days late. The C-3 report filed by the Committee on August 19, 2019 was filed 287 days late, disclosing a \$5,000 contribution had been received and deposited from Tom Dent's Surplus Funds Account on October 31, 2018.

Factors in Mitigation

10. The Committee is an all-volunteer organization that reorganizes every two years, with limited knowledge of the PDC reporting requirements.
11. The Committee made limited expenditures in the form of contributions to candidates for public office during the timeframe covered by the Report of Investigation.

12. Most of the contribution and expenditure activities were for the Committee's annual Lincoln Day Dinner and other party building activities that did not support or oppose candidates or ballot propositions.
13. The Committee has no prior PDC violations.
14. The Committee's previous treasurer was diagnosed with a serious illness in November 2018, which made filing outstanding reports for the years 2015 and 2016 more difficult due to her limited availability to provide assistance.

Factors in Aggravation

15. The Committee has been registered with the PDC for more than 20 years.
16. The Committee failed to maintain records of the books of account for calendar year 2015.
17. Despite numerous communications between staff and the Committee since December 2018, the Committee failed to file its missing reports until August 2019.

Other Factors

18. PDC staff did not identify any factually similar cases previously considered by the Commission.

STATUTORY AND RULE AUTHORITY

RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 requires political committees registered under the Full Reporting Option to timely and accurately file reports of contribution and expenditure activities, including monthly C-3 and C-4 reports which are required to be filed when contributions or expenditures exceed \$200 since the last report was filed.

All political committees participating in an election are required to file C-3 and C-4 reports on an accelerated reporting basis beginning five months prior to an election, including weekly C-3 reports every Monday for contributions received and deposited the previous five calendar days, and C-4 reports are required to be filed on the twenty-first day and the seventh day immediately preceding the date on which the election is held, and a post-election C-4 report is required on the tenth day of the first month after the election.

RCW 42.17A.235(8) also requires treasurers of political committee to preserve books of account, bills, receipts, and all other financial records of the committee for not less than five calendar years following the year during which the transaction occurred.

VIOLATIONS

- 1 Based on the Stipulation of Facts set forth above, the Committee stipulates to having violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken by the Committee for calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- 2 The Committee also stipulates to having violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to file C-3 or C-4 reports disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken by the Committee for the period July 28 through December 31, 2015.
- 3 The Committee also stipulates to having violated RCW 42.17A.235 by failing to maintain the Committee's books of account for a portion of the calendar year 2015.

PENALTY

1. Based upon the Stipulation of Facts and Violations set forth above, the Committee agrees to pay a total civil penalty of \$6,500, with \$3,250 suspended, that includes:
 - a. A \$1,750 civil penalty for failing to timely file C-3 and C-4 reports for a portion of calendar year 2015, and for failing to file any C-3 and C-4 reports covering the period July 28 through December 31, 2015.
 - b. A \$1,000 civil penalty for each calendar year, totaling \$3,000 for failing to timely file C-3 and C-4 reports for calendar years 2016, 2017, and 2018.
 - c. A \$1,750 civil penalty for failing to maintain the Committee's books of account for a portion of the calendar year 2015.
2. \$3,250 of the civil penalty is suspended on the following conditions:
 - a. The Committee is not found to have committed any further violations of RCW 42.17A or WAC 390 within four years of the date of the final order in this matter. The suspended penalty shall not be assessed based upon any remediable violation, minor

violation, or error classified by the commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.

- b. The Committee was in compliance with all reporting requirements as of the date this Stipulation was executed by the parties, other than the unavailable information from the 2015 period identified in this Stipulation.
- c. The Committee pays the non-suspended portion of the penalty (\$3,250) within thirty days of the date of the final order in this matter.


The Committee affirms its intention to comply in good faith with the provisions of RCW 42.17A and WAC 390 in the future.



Peter Lavalley, Executive Director
Public Disclosure Commission

8/20/2019

Date Signed



Dan Brady, Attorney, on behalf of Grant
County Republican Central Committee

8/21/19

Date Signed