



**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.pdcc.wa.gov

May 16, 2019

Delivered electronically to “glen@wethegoverned.com”

Subject: Complaint filed by the Northwest Accountability Project, PDC Case 47250

Dear We the Governed:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to the Northwest Accountability Project concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to the Northwest Accountability Project, 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.

If you have questions, you may contact Fox Blackhorn at 1-360-753-1980 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by email at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Fox Blackhorn
Compliance Coordinator 2

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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May 16, 2019

Delivered electronically to “peter@nwaccountabilityproject.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding We the Governed, PDC Case 47250

Dear Northwest Accountability Project:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on March 29, 2019. The complaint alleged that We the Governed, a 2016 political committee, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports), disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the Campaign; RCW 42.17A.255, .260, and .305 for failure to timely and accurately file Independent Spending and Electioneering Communication reports (C-6 reports), disclosing independent expenditures and electioneering communications; and RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to include sponsor identification and top five contributors on political advertising.

The complaint also alleged that We the Governed, LLC, may have violated RCW 42.17A.205 for failure to file a Political Committee Registration report (C-1pc report); RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely and accurately file C-3 reports and C-4 reports, disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the Campaign; RCW 42.17A.255, .260, and .305 for failure to timely and accurately file C-6 reports, disclosing independent expenditures and electioneering communications; and RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to include sponsor identification and top five contributors on political advertising.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the responses provided by We the Governed; the applicable PDC reports filed by Respondent; and queried the Respondent’s 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:

- We the Governed filed a C-1pc registering as a continuing political committee, selecting the Full Reporting option, on September 2, 2016, in accordance with RCW 42.17A.205, but filed no further reports.
- The response to the complaint indicates that three committees were registered that day, and We the Governed was not used, did not participate in any election campaign, and had no financial activity requiring C-3, C-4, or C-6 reporting.
- The complaint contends that activities of We the Governed, LLC, such as soliciting donations on its website, and designing and publishing pictures, graphics, and videos in support or opposition to candidates and ballot propositions should have been reported

activity by We the Governed PAC, but provides insufficient evidence to show that these activities were coordinated by, or made with a view toward benefiting the political committee.

- The supplemental complaint further alleges that We the Governed, LLC is a political committee unto itself, which failed to timely and accurately file a C-1pc report in accordance with RCW 42.17A.205, and C-3, C-4, and C-6 reports in accordance with RCW 42.17A.235, .255, .260, and .305.
- The supplemental complaint provides insufficient evidence to show that the primary purpose of We the Governed, LLC is to support or oppose candidates and ballot propositions, that donations made through the website are made to support that primary purpose, or that the cost and time for graphic design, videos, and articles created and published by We the Governed, LLC would be reportable as independent expenditures and electioneering communications.
- The complaint and supplemental complaint provide insufficient evidence to show that the graphic designs, videos, and articles created and published by We the Governed, LLC which expressly call for support or defeat of candidates or ballot propositions would not be subject to an exemption under the definitions of political advertising under RCW 42.17A.005(39) and WAC 390-05-290.
- The complaint and supplemental complaint provide insufficient evidence to show that the graphic designs, videos, and articles created and published by We the Governed, LLC are political advertising subject to the sponsor identification and top five contributors requirements of RCW 42.17A.320.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, insufficient evidence has been provided to support a finding of a violation warranting further investigation.

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 Fox Blackhorn at 1-360-753-1980 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Fox Blackhorn
Compliance Coordinator 2

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: We the Governed