

Complaint Description

Andrew Saturn reported via the portal, 4 days ago

During the 2018 General Election, Linda Oosterman failed to report the in-kind contribution(s) surrounding the "Champagne Brunch" which was sponsored by: Thurston County Auditor (and elections official) Mary Hall, Retired State Senator Karen Fraser, and Linda Oosterman's own 2018 campaign treasurer, listed as Assistant State Treasurer Shawn Myers.

linda_maryhall_joehyer_danielwestbrook.mp4
821.82 KB

my team.png
282.13 KB

Mary Hall unreported in-kind contribution.png
259.94 KB

Tabatha Blacksmith replied Wed, 17 July 2019 at 11:58AM
to: saturn@gmail.com

Hi Andrew,

We are in receipt of your complaint re: Linda Oosterman and the Champagne Brunch.

Unfortunately, none of your evidence displays the date of the brunch event so we can determine which campaign reports to review.

- What date did the Champagne Brunch event occur?
- Which of the Oosterman campaign's reports did you review that led you to conclude that in-kind contributions, expenditures and proceeds were not reported? *Please provide the month, year and type of report (e.g. C-4). The report number, if known, would also be very helpful.*

Thank you.

Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator
360.586.8929



Public Disclosure Commission
Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972

Andrew Saturn replied Wed, 17 July, 2019 at 12:24PM
to: "PDC Support" cdc@cdc.wa.gov

The pages and posts were deleted from Facebook, and Facebook does not show an adequate archive of ads. I have talked about this in separate PDC formal complains.

The event ad I was shown while browsing Facebook didn't show the date and is the only evidence I have. I believe it was in the summer (June-August) of 2018, but I have no way to confirm this. If Linda Oosterman and associates wish to provide the information, I'm sure they have it readily available to them.

Linda Oosterman's campaign only has 5 records for *any* "in-kind" contributions:

https://www.pdc.wa.gov/reports/contributions_download?filer_id=OOSTL%20%20506&election_year=2018

None of these records are for a champagne brunch. So regardless of when the brunch happened, it was never reported accurately by Linda Oosterman.

There are only two reports (for August and October of 2018, respectively) showing in-kind contributions which could be applicable to a "champagne brunch;" they are in-kind contributions from Shawn Myers (treasurer) and Meren Gadman. One is from Shawn Meyers for "fundraiser," while the other is for both individuals for "food and beverages." Neither record contains the necessary details a campaign would file for a large "champagne brunch."

<https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?batchnumber=100901756>
<https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?batchnumber=100901757>

There are no reports for a banquet license, [which is legally required to serve alcohol at an event in the State of Washington](#), and you would presume a "champagne brunch" would be serving alcohol. There are also no reports from income from a fundraiser, and no reports about renting a venue (or an in-kind contribution of one).

There are also no reports for Mary Hall and Karen Fraser's in-kind contributions to the event, even though they are listed as "sponsors." The definition of a sponsor is someone who pays for some or all of an event in exchange for a mention in advertising; a legal transaction. If Mary Hall and Karen Fraser were listed as sponsors, they had financial responsibility for some or all of the costs of the event.

My formal complaint is that an event happened and it was never reported accurately. No records filed by the Linda Oosterman campaign can explain the "champagne brunch" held for her benefit. This is a violation of RCW 42.17A.

Hope this helps!

Sincerely,

Andrew Saturn

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

Concealing contributions violates the trust the public places in candidates, and having elected officials hide their own influence violates the same trust by failing to transparently report their activities during elections. Mary Hall specifically, serving as Thurston County Auditor, is the elections official for the county, and has direct control over the counting of the ballots. Having her publicly supporting campaigns both indirectly and directly is unethical and is not something any elections official should be doing. This may also be a separate violation of other state law, code, or ethics rules.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.

Facebook screenshots of posts that have been deleted by Linda Oosterman; Facebook does not keep the records as required under state law, and the Oosterman campaign managers refused to provide details. Photos of the brunch showing campaign staff and Linda Oosterman herself in attendance were also deleted from Facebook. In these photos, you can clearly see a sizeable venue as well as catered food and alcoholic beverages. The Oosterman campaign failed to list any of these items or a banquet permit in their PDC filings.

The two screenshots attached show the event (deleted) as well as a post the Oosterman campaign made thanking her "campaign team" including: Mary Hall (Thurston County Auditor), Joe Hyer (Percival Consulting), Karen Fraser, Deb Pattin (co-chair of Olympia Democratic Socialists of America), Linda Oosterman, Danielle Westbrook (Percival Consulting) and campaign treasurer Shawn Myers. The post was originally a video, which I've also attached.

In addition to the unreported in-kind contribution(s), the income from this fundraiser was not reported as such.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Joe Hyer and Danielle Westbrook of Percival Consulting. Danielle Westbrook, as of last month, informed members of Thurston County Democrats that she is still working with Joe Hyer. They can be reached via email joe@percivalcg.com and danielle@percivalcg.com

Complaint Certification:

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.

← Champagne Brunch to Re-Elect...

[ABOUT](#)[DISCUSSION](#)

Details

Join us for a champagne brunch to support re-electing Linda to the Thurston Public Utility District Board of Commissioners.

Sponsored by: County Auditor Mary Hall, Senator Karen Fraser, and Assistant State Treasurer Shawn Myers.


Suggested Events





Class of 2019
The 25th Class

WED, JUN 12, 2019 AT 11:30 AM
LTC Class of 2019 Graduation
Hotel RL
Networking

 Interested  Share



MON, DEC
Shelter S
The Olym
 Ren





Re-Elect Linda Oosterman

10 hrs · 🌐



Thank you to my campaign team for your support. This is a good night.



15

5 Comments 45 Views



Like



Comment



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Oldest ▾

[View all 5 comments](#)



Write a comment...

