

Complaint Description

[Glen Morgan](#) reported via the portal Mon, Jul 15, 2019 at 11:01PM

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Jared Hofer who is a candidate for the Bremerton City Council, position #6, has violated Washington State's campaign finance laws (**RCW 42.17A**).

1) Actively campaigning, before filing "statement of organization" (C1). (Violation of RCW 42.17a.210(1) and RCW 42.17A.205)

State law requires each candidate, within 2 weeks after becoming a candidate, to file a statement of organization (C1) Jared Hofer filed with Kitsap County Elections, as a candidate for the Bremerton City Council (position #6) , during filing week (May 13th thru 17th 2019). As of the date of this complaint he has still not filed his C1, which is far beyond the 2 weeks required in state law. This is a clear violation of state law.

By violating **RCW 42.17a.210** and **RCW 41.17A.205** --failing to declare his candidacy (C1) the voters also don't know who is serving as his treasurer, who the officers of his committee are, where he is banking the funds he has raised (or is using) for his political campaign, what address to use when inspecting the campaign books, etc. For proof of his active campaign, please see the attached screen shot of his voter's guide statement in the Kitsap Voters Guide, and a copy of the Kitsap Primary Voter's Guide

It is worthwhile to point out to the PDC that when a crowded primary for elected office like this one for the Bremerton City Council position #6 contains so many candidates for office, and when only a handful of these candidates actually follow the campaign finance laws, and when the others are able to ignore them completely without censor or consequence, then a variety of incentives against transparency are created, encouraged, and rewarded. Not only is the primary election outcome in this election race certain to result in defeating at least some candidates who have followed the campaign disclosure rules, but their defeat will certainly occur due to the candidates like this one who have completely failed to follow these same rules. This is far more than a minor technical mistake – it is another example where electoral outcomes – potentially very significant for the local community will certainly occur, in part due to lawbreaking by the very candidates who should be at least pretending to follow that same law.

2) Failure to file Personal Financial Disclosure Forms (F-1) (Violation of RCW 42.17A.700)

In addition to not registering his campaign with the PDC, this candidate has also failed to file any personal financial disclosure documents.

3). Failure to file Contribution or Expenditure Reports (Violation of RCW 42.17A.235)

This candidate has also failed to file any contribution or expenditure reports from his campaign. It should be noted that this failure to comply also includes a total absence of any reported information to the PDC for the public to see anything about this campaign and how it has spent the resources on this election campaign. Even if this campaign claims to be filing a “mini-reporting” campaign, their failure to provide an address to review their books means that it is impossible for the public to review the information about who is funding this campaign and how funds were spent to support this campaign.

While I have publicly advocated for many years on the need for more flexibility for the PDC to address and resolve minor technical mistakes, and this is why I was supportive of many of 2018’s HB 2938 reforms, there still must be some clear penalty assigned to candidates who choose to completely ignore and mock **EVERY SINGLE** campaign finance rule that exists. In these cases, a slap on the wrist and a “naughty, naughty, naughty” statement is probably not much of a deterrent. Ghost campaigns like this one should be held accountable for a complete unwillingness to follow the state’s campaign finance laws.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Best Regards,

Glen Morgan

Kitsap Voters Guide Primary 2019.pdf
3.19 MB

Kitsap Voters Guide Candidate Statement.JPG
197.03 KB

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

Ghost campaigns like this, which completely ignore the law and follow none of the rules established in Washington's fair campaign practices act (RCW 42.17A), and which specifically result in impacting candidates who DO follow the law by bouncing them off the ballot in a primary race like this are harmful to voters and do damage to the concept of election transparency. The voters have no way of knowing anything about this campaign, who is funding him, how to inspect his books, his officers, how he spent his campaign funds (even if he was self-funded), and have been deprived of everything related to this candidate's political campaign

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

See attached voter's guide statement

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Any officers, treasurer or others involved in his campaign

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.