



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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August 28, 2019

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Pinky Vargas, PDC Case 55041

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 16, 2019. Your complaint alleged that Pinky Vargas, a candidate for State Senator in the 42nd Legislative District in 2018, may have violated RCW 42.17A.220(4) for accepting over limit anonymous contributions.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent; and reviewed the Respondent's data in the PDC contribution database, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On January 15, 2018, Pinky Vargas timely filed a C-1 report declaring her candidacy for State Senator in the 42nd Legislative District in 2018 and selected the Full Reporting Option.
- RCW 42.17A.220(4) states in part that "accumulated unidentified contributions in excess of one percent of the total accumulated contributions received in the current calendar year, or three hundred dollars, whichever is more, may not be deposited, used, or expended, but shall be returned to the donor if his or her identity can be ascertained. If the donor cannot be ascertained, the contribution shall escheat to the state and shall be paid to the state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund."
- On its website, the PDC guidance outlines the amount of anonymous contributions a candidate may accept in a calendar year.
- The complaint alleged that in calendar year 2018, Pinky Vargas accepted anonymous contributions in the amount of \$689, which is \$389 more than the allowable limit of \$300.
- Staff review of the Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and the Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) filed by Pinky Vargas found her campaign could accept the greater amount of up to 1% of the total accumulated contributions.
- In her response to the allegation, by way of her treasurer, Jay Petterson, Ms. Vargas stated... "the one percent of the total raised in the calendar year 2018 was greater than the \$300 limit, and therefore the committee adhered to the one percent limit. The \$689 total of anonymous funds accepted by the committee is well below the limit allowed by state law."

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, no evidence supports 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 Erick Agina at 360-586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

s/_____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

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

cc: Pinky Vargas

