



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.pdca.wa.gov

October 2, 2019

Sent electronically to votedebralakanoff@gmail.com and melissapfeiferllc@gmail.com

Subject: Complaints filed by Glen Morgan, PDC Case 55043

Dear: Debra Lekanoff:

Enclosed is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Glen Morgan concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) alleging Vote Debra Lekanoff (Committee) violated RCW 42.17A.220(4) for accepting and retaining over-limit anonymous contributions during the 2018 election year.

As noted in the letter to Mr. Morgan, 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.

However, staff requests the Committee report the full \$340 received May 11, 2019 and the \$40 the Committee sent to the State Treasurer. Staff recognizes such disclosure would not comply with RCW 42.17A.220(4), however, not reporting the full contribution received and expenditure made remains a violation of RCW 42.17A.235.

Staff believes reporting the full contribution and expenditure details would be in the best interest of all parties and will not hold the Committee in violation of Chapter 42.17A RCW based on these actions.

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at (360) 586-4746, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s_____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s_____

Barbara Sandahl

Deputy Director
for Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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October 2, 2019

Sent Electronically to Glen Morgan at “glen@wethegoverned.com”

Subject: Debra Lekanoff, PDC Case 55043

Dear Glen Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed July 16, 2019.

Your complaint alleged Debra Lekanoff, a Candidate for State Representative from the 40th Legislative District may have violated RCW 42.17A.220(4) for accepting anonymous contributions in excess of the allowable limit without forfeiting the excess amount to the State of Washington.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Melissa Pfeifer, Treasurer, Vote Debra Lekanoff (Committee); the applicable PDC reports filed by the Committee; 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:

- Debra Lekanoff was elected to the State Legislature in November 2018, representing the 40th Legislative District.
- 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, PDC guidance outlines the amount of anonymous contributions a committee may accept in a calendar year.

- The complaint alleged that in calendar year 2018, the Committee accepted anonymous contributions in the amount of \$370 which was \$70 more than the allowable limit of \$300.
- In response to the allegation, Pfeifer stated:
 - “On 5/11/2018 the campaign received \$340 anonymously. The campaign had raised \$18,075 at that point (1% = only \$180.75), so \$300 was the greater amount. We sent \$40 to the State Treasurer as required by the RCW and reported the \$300 we kept.
 - On 7/27/2018 the campaign received \$5 anonymous. The campaign had now raised \$64,328 which makes 1% of the total raised (\$643.28) the higher of the \$300/1% rule. We kept the \$5 because that made our anonymous total \$305 of the \$643.28 limit.
 - On 11/1/2018 the campaign received \$65 anonymous. The campaigns total raised was now \$157,501 which makes their 1% anonymous cash limit \$1,575.01. We kept the \$65 because it was well under the anonymous limit.”
- Staff’s review of the Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) filed by the Committee found the Committee could accept the greater amount of up to 1 percent of the total accumulated contributions.
- Staff requested the Committee report the full amount received May 11, 2019 and the \$40 the Committee sent to the State Treasurer, noting this disclosure would be a violation of RCW 42.17A.220(4). However, not reporting the full contribution received and expenditure made remains a violation of RCW 42.17A.235.
- Staff recognizes the situation for Committees, however, believes full contribution and expenditure details would be in the best interest of all parties and will not hold the Committee in violation of RCW 42.17A based on the actions requested by PDC staff.

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 Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s_____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s_____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
for Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

/s_____