



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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November 20, 2019

Sent electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Fuse Votes, PDC Case 59237

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 24, 2019. The complaint alleged that Fuse Votes, a Committee registered with the PDC in 2016 as an “Other Political Committee,” may have violated RCW 42.17A.420 by exceeding contribution limitations within 21 days of an election in 2016.

PDC staff reviewed your allegation; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; and the response filed Fuse Votes (Committee); and the applicable PDC reports filed by Committee to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On February 2, 2016, the Committee filed a C-1pc report as a “Continuing Other Political Committee, selecting the Full Reporting option and listing Aaron Ostrom and Erin Louis as Campaign Manager and Treasurer, respectively. The Committee has been reporting to the PDC since 2008.
- RCW 42.17A.420 prohibits political candidate or committees from accepting any contribution(s) exceeding five thousand dollars from any one source within twenty-one days of a general election.
- The complaint alleged that the Committee, accepted over limit contribution of over five thousand dollars when it accepted \$8,000 from one source (SEIU 925 Local Services PAC) on November 8, 2016, (election day).
- The Committee filed a C-3 report listing \$8,000 contribution from SEIU 925 Local Services PAC (SEIU) as having been received on November 8, 2016. However, upon review of its response to this complaint together with the scanned copies of a deposit slip and the check from SEIU, it appears this was a typographical oversight by the Committee’s treasurer. Based on the deposit slip and the copy of the check, the check was received on November 28, 2016, as opposed to November 8, 2016 as alleged in the complaint, and deposited on the same day (November 28, 2016).

- In its response to the complaint, the Committee, by way of its executive director, Aaron Ostrom, stated, “Our check log shows that the check was received on November 28th. I have also included documentation of the actual deposit date, which was also the 28th – a scanned copy of the bank deposit slip. The deposit slip shows that the check, number 2361, was in fact deposited on November 28. The check itself is dated November 10th, two days after the 8th. I have included a copy of the check as well. The originals are available if you wish to review them.” Mr. Ostrom further stated, “It turns out Mr. Morgan has identified a single-character typo on a three-year old post-election C3 report by Fuse Votes, not a “serious” violation of any kind. His obsessive campaign to weaponize our state’s campaign finance laws against his political opponents misses the mark with this one. We will amend the December 12, 2016 C3 report to reflect the correct date on which the check was received, and we regret the clerical error.”
- On November 15, 2019, the Committee amended the C-3 at issue in this matter to correct the typographical error on the original C-3 so it reflects the actual receipt date of the \$8,000 contribution received by the Committee as November 28, 2016.

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@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/ _____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

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

cc: Fuse Votes