

Complaint Description

Tallman Trask (Wed, 30 Oct 2019 at 3:12 PM)

Please see the attached complaint.

- Tallman Trask

Tallman Trask (Wed, 30 Oct 2019 at 3:23 PM)

Hello,

I believe that I accidentally left a piece of evidence out of this complaint. That evidence (my attempt to contact Google to inspect information) is attached to this email.

Thank you,

Tallman Trask

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

Political advertising can have an impact on public perceptions. Disclosure of information about them is an important part of Washington state's campaign finance disclosure and transparency efforts.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.**List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.**

None known

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.

Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capital Way South, #206
Olympia, WA 98504
October 30, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a complaint related to political advertising sales by Google, Inc. during the 2019 Washington elections. Specifically, it alleges that Google continues to fail to meet disclosure obligations under RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050.

Evidence of Political Advertising Sales

Google advertising purchases have been disclosed by a number of candidates over a period of years. At question here are the following purchases disclosed in the following Public Disclosure Commission reports:

- 100930145
- 100939902

Attempt to Inspect Records

On October 27, 2019, I attempted to contact Google via their online support and help platform, specifically seeking information required under RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050. As of October 30, 2019, I have received no response to this request.

At the very least, Google appears to potentially be in violation of the “promptly, upon request” requirements established in the law.

Thank you for your continued efforts,

Tallman Trask

☒ Email me

Summary of the issue *

This is a request under RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050 related to disclosures for political advertising run in Washington state. As Google is aware, following a settlement with the Office of the Attorney General, these ad sales require specific disclosures.

The ads in question were sold to intermediary vendor Western Consultants, LLC on behalf of at least one political action committee, with a total value of at least \$33,700; these ads were disclosed by the committee, on page 9 of the report available here: <https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?batchnumber=100939902>. Google's political ad sales may include significantly more spending and I wish to inspect ad books and records, as required by RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050, for both the ads sold to Western Consultants, LLC, and any political ads related to 2019 elections in Washington state.

If this request cannot be processed via this support channel, please forward my request and contact information to either your legal or compliance office. As these ads were sold and used to target an election which will occur in a week, expediency and timeliness is important for appropriate resolution.

Thank you,

Tallman Trask

Please be as detailed as possible.

Submit