



**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.pdcc.wa.gov

December 10, 2019

Delivered electronically to campaign@letpeoplevote.org

Subject: Complaint filed by Bret Uhrich, PDC Case 59769

Dear Kan Qiu, Campaign Manager Let People Vote:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Bret Uhrich concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Bret Uhrich, 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.

If you have questions, 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



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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

December 10, 2019

Delivered electronically to buhrich@lawschool.gonzaga.edu

Subject: Complaint regarding Let People Vote, PDC Case 59769

Dear Bret Uhrich:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed November 4, 2019. The complaint alleged a violation of RCW 42.17A.320 for failing to provide complete and accurate sponsor identification in political advertising, specifically a pre-recorded call/robocall.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations, the applicable statutes and rules, the media file you provided, and the response provided by Kan Qiu, Campaign Manager, Let People Vote, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- The media file you provided, stating it was a voicemail, can be described as a robocall.
- RCW 17A.005 defines political advertising as any advertising displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, digital or social media advertising, or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support in any election campaign.
- The robocall urging you to vote against Referendum 88 is a means of mass communication to appeal for votes in the 2019 election campaign.
- WAC 390-18-010 outlines the sponsor identification requirements for advertising, political advertising, electioneering communications, and independent expenditures.
- The Let People Vote/Reject R-88 Committee takes full responsibility for the robocall. In the response Kan Qiu stated "We reviewed what was posted by the commission on its website and aimed to follow what it required. In the phone call described in Case Number 59769 both the committee name and Top Five Contributors were clearly spoken. The most current Political Advertising Guide on the PDC website states that for "Broadcast

ads, videos, and online audio ads - clearly identify or speak the sponsor's name and any party preference. (Sponsor's address not required.)”

- On the [PDC website](#) outlining requirements for political advertising, it states a sponsor’s address is not required for broadcast, video, and online audio ads. While a robocall is not specifically mentioned in this section as not requiring a sponsor’s address, a robocall has similar participant interaction to a broadcast or online audio advertisement.

Based on these findings staff has determined, in this instance, the alleged failure to provide complete and accurate sponsor identification in political advertising does not amount to 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, 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