



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

January 3, 2020

Sent electronically to Courtney Weisman, C/O Perkins Coie, legal counsel for Common Purpose PAC Committee

Subject: Complaint filed regarding Common Purpose PAC, PDC Case 59777

Ms. Weisman;

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Glen Morgan concerning a complaint he filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against your client, Common Purpose PAC. As noted in the letter to Mr. Morgan, PDC staff will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff is reminding Common Purpose PAC to timely and accurately register and report as an in-state committee, including filing C-3 and C-4 reports disclosing contribution, expenditure and orders placed, should it undertake activities involving candidates or ballot propositions in Washington State in the future as required for an in-state political committee.

The PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young at (360) 664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Kurt Young
Compliance Officer

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



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Subject: Complaint filed regarding Common Purpose PAC, PDC Case 59777

Dear Mr. Morgan,

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on November 1, 2019, against the Common Purpose PAC, a single-year local political committee registered with the PDC to support 2019 candidates seeking office in the City of Sea-Tac. The complaint alleged that Common Purpose PAC may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to file Monetary Contributions reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditures reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditure details, including orders place for activities undertaken by the Committee just prior to the November 5, 2019 general election.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint and exhibits, the statutes, rules and reporting requirements for a political committee, the C-1pc reports, C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Common Purpose PAC, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for Common Purpose PAC federal committee reports, and the responses, telephone conversations and email exchanges with Courtney Weisman, an attorney with Perkins Coie and legal counsel for Common Purpose PAC. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On October 23, 2019, Common Purpose PAC filed its Committee Information with the PDC as a first-time political committee located in Seattle, Washington, selecting the Full Reporting option and listing David Domke, as Treasurer.
- Ms. Weisman stated that Common Purpose PAC has been registered with the FEC as a “federal hybrid PAC (FEC ID: C00682211), ...organized and operated out of Seattle, Washington.” She stated that Common Purpose Federal PAC “unlike other federal PAC’s engaging in state or local election activity in Washington, the Committee does not qualify as an “out-of-state committee.”
- Common Purpose PAC has been registered and reporting with the FEC as a federal committee for all of calendar year 2019. Ms. Weisman stated she contacted PDC staff to determine the reporting requirements for Common Purpose Federal PAC based on these facts, and several telephone calls and emails were exchanged concerning the filing requirements as an in-state committee. Those discussions and exchanges indicated that since Common Purpose PAC registered as a committee within 21 days of the November 5, 2019 general election, there were a few required reports that had to be filed as an in-state committee.

- Those reporting requirements included filing a 7-Day Pre-General Election C-4 report due on October 28, 2019 covering the period October 14 through 28, 2019, and a Post-General Election C-4 report on December 10, 2019. In addition, Common Purpose PAC was required to file weekly C-3 reports for the 2019 general election from October 23 through November 4, 2019.
- However, since Common Purpose PAC has been registered and reporting as a Federal PAC with the FEC and did not receive earmarked contributions from a donor to be specifically spent on behalf of Washington State candidates, the contributions disclosed on the C-3 report should be attributed to Common Purpose Federal PAC, rather than to a specific contributor.
- On October 28, 2019, Common Purpose PAC timely filed the 7-Day Pre-General Election C-4 report disclosing no contribution or expenditure activities had been undertaken, including no orders placed.
- On November 4, 2019, Common Purpose PAC timely filed a C-3 report disclosing that a \$3,811.51 contribution had been received from Common Purpose PAC on November 1, 2019 and deposited on the same day.
- Staff recommended that in addition to filing C-3 and C-4 reports as an in-state Committee, her client should also file an Out-Of-State Political Committee Finance Report (C-5 report) in accordance with RCW 42.17A.250 and WAC 390-16-049. Staff noted that while the C-5 report was not required to be filed until November 10, 2019, “due to the timing of the contributions being made staff would hope you could file the C-5 report prior to the November 5, 2019 general election.”
- On November 5, 2019, Common Purpose PAC timely filed a C-5 report disclosing that it is a federal PAC domiciled in Washington State, this was the first report submitted in 2019, and that the PAC has “not been registered to work in any state election before now.”
- The C-5 report disclosed that on November 1, 2019 the PAC made in-kind contributions to four candidates for Sea-Tac City Council of \$952.97, totaling \$3,811.51 for an expenditure made to Progressive Strategies NW and included Ali Egal, Takele Gobena, Damiana Merryweather, and Senayet Negusse.
- The candidates disclosed receiving a \$952.88 in-kind contribution from Common Purpose PAC on their 7-Day Pre-General Election C-4 reports filed on October 28, 2019 for a joint mailer that was mailed on October 29, 2019.
- After receiving your complaint, Common Purpose PAC filed an amended 7-Day Pre-General Election C-4 report on November 20, 2019, disclosing four orders were placed on October 24, 2019 with Progressive Strategies to print the mailer.

Staff’s review of the facts found that Common Purpose PAC: (1) was a federal committee registered with the FEC and domiciled in Washington State for all of calendar year 2019; (2) made contributions to local candidates in Washington state for the first time and late in the election cycle and fully cooperated with PDC staff; (3) based on the Commissions rule, was a first-time committee that was required to register and report with PDC based solely on being domiciled in Washington State; (4) the federal committee file a voluntary C-5 report five days early; and (5) the candidates that received in-kind contributions for the mailer timely disclosed that activity on the C-4 reports.

Based on these findings, staff has determined in this instance, the late filed reports do not warrant further investigation. PDC staff has reminded Common Purpose PAC to timely and accurately register and report as an in-state committee, including filing C-3 and C-4 reports disclosing contribution, expenditure and orders placed, should it undertake activities involving candidates or ballot propositions in Washington State in the future as required for a political committee.

The PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young at (360) 664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s/
Kurt Young
Compliance Officer

/s/
BG Sandahl, Deputy Director for
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Courtney Weisman, attorney with Perkins Coie and legal counsel for Common Purpose PAC

