



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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January 27, 2020

Delivered electronically to Peg Leland at peg2326@yahoo.com

Subject: Complaint regarding the Yes for Camas Community PAC, PDC Case 59839

Dear Ms. Leland:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on November 5, 2019. Your complaint alleged that the Yes for Camas Community PAC (Committee), a Single Year Ballot Proposition Committee, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 by failing to keep timely and accurate books of account and allow for their timely public inspection, and WAC 390-16-125 by exceeding mini-reporting contribution limit.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; and the response provided by Doug Speas on behalf of the Committee.

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

- On September 19, 2019, the Committee filed a Committee Registration as a political action committee, selecting the "Mini-Reporting" option, and listing Doug Speas, Wayne Pattison, Vicki Kerr and Kerry Ticknor as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Ministerial Treasurer, respectively.

Allegation One: Failure to keep timely and accurate books of account.

- During the 10 days preceding an election, political committees are required to maintain accurate books of account reflecting all contributions and expenditures on a current basis.
- PDC staff reviewed this allegation and determined that the Committee's books of account/records lacked pertinent details such as contributor's name and address, vendor(s) to whom expenditure were made, number of items purchased, and an itemized/breakdown of items purchased among other deficiencies, as required by the statute.
- In its response to this allegation, the Committee by way of its Chairperson, Doug Speas stated, "I think it's important to note, this was my first (and last) campaign. I was asked to do this at the last minute. In retrospect, I did not run a perfect campaign, but I tried to run an honest and positive campaign as my reputation in the community is extremely important to me."

Allegation Two: Failure to allow for timely public inspection of books of account during the 10 days preceding an election.

- Books of account must be open for public inspection, by appointment, between the hours of 9AM – 5PM on any day from the 10th calendar day immediately preceding the election through the day before the election, except for

weekends and holidays. The Appointment location should be mutually agreed upon by the committee's treasurer and the requestor, the records should be provided within 48 hours of the initial request date.

- Staff review determined that the initial request for public inspection of the books of account was made via email on October 31, 2019. The second, third and fourth subsequent requests were made on November 1, November 3, and November 4, 2019, respectively. The books of account/records were not provided until November 4, 2019 at 11:45PM via email.
- In its response to this allegation, the Committee Chairperson stated, "I was unaware that anyone was reaching out to me through the YesforCamas email, as I was not checking it every day as we got closer to the election. I had created the email approximately 6 weeks earlier and no one had reached out prior to this. I received a call on Friday, November 1 from the PDC alerting me to the fact that someone was trying to get a hold of me."

Allegation Three: Exceeding mini-reporting contribution limit.

- Mini reporters are relieved of the requirements to file periodic reports with the PDC if they agree not to accept more than \$500 from any one contributor during an election cycle. In the books of account that were provided for public inspection on November 4, 2019, an in-kind contribution of \$3,105 is listed as being received on September 12, 2019.
- The "in-kind contribution" entry on the Committee's books of account for signs and flyers was actually for signs and flyers purchased by a private individual who was not directed or requested by the Committee to make the expenditure but the Committee thought that it needed to be reported as an in-kind contribution. The only in-kind contribution and expenditure was \$267.20 for Facebook ads that the Committee chair paid out-of-pocket on November 4, 2019. Since the \$3,105 entry for *signs* is likely an Independent Expenditure (IE) made by a private individual as opposed to an in-kind donation, the Committee did not exceed the mini reporting contribution limits.
- In its response to this allegation, the Committee stated, "A local citizen by the name of David Lugliani purchased the fliers outside of the campaign and was not affiliated with the campaign."

While staff found the Committee's books of account deficient, including its failure to timely produce books of account for public inspection during the 10 days preceding the 2019 general election, the Committee's officials were inexperienced and unfamiliar with the PDC requirements pertaining to books of accounts. Staff also noted that they did allow public inspection even though it was not timely and missing details. Additionally, the Committee has no prior PDC violations.

Based on these findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the failure by the Committee to keep accurate books of account and timely produce them for inspection, does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

However, staff is reminding the Committee officials about the importance of keeping accurate books of account, including allowing public inspection of books of account in a timely fashion in future years.

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 pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

s/ _____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

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

cc: Doug Speas