



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

December 23, 2019

Delivered electronically to "tvble@nwi.net"

Subject: Complaint filed by Kelly Anderson, PDC Case 60068

Dear Tim Larson:

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

As noted in the letter to Kelly Anderson, 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.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of timely registering as a candidate and filing a statement of financial affairs with the PDC within two weeks of declaring candidacy. PDC staff expects that, in the future, you will timely submit required reports in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-586-8929, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s

Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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December 23, 2019

Delivered electronically to "grccgator@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Tim Larson, PDC Case 60068

Dear Kelly Anderson:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on November 11, 2019. The complaint alleged that Tim Larson, a School Board Member candidate for Wenatchee School District 246, position 2, may have violated RCW 42.17A.205, .235 & .700 by failing to timely register as a candidate, file a statement of financial affairs, and report contributions and expenditures.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response(s) provided by Tim Larson (the "Respondent"); and the applicable PDC reports filed by Respondent to determine whether they support a finding of one or more violations.

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

- Candidates are required to register with the PDC within two weeks of becoming a "candidate," as defined in RCW 42.17A.005(9) and WAC 390-05-200. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.205, candidate committees are required to register with the PDC within two weeks of 1) being organized; or 2) first having the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures, whichever comes first. The *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report) serves the dual purpose of registering both the candidate and the candidate's committee. \
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, every candidate is required to file a *Personal Financial Affairs Statement* (F-1 report) with the PDC, certifying financial activity for the preceding twelve months, within two weeks of becoming a candidate.
- The Respondent filed as a candidate with Elections officials on May 14, 2019. As a result, the Respondent was due to file C-1 and F-1 reports with the PDC no later than May 28, 2019.
- The PDC notified the Respondent of the missing C-1 and F-1 reports by email on November 13, 2019 and December 5, 2019.
- The Respondent reached out to the PDC by telephone on December 6, 2019 and indicated he withdrew from the election because he was moving out of the district. The Respondent

did not raise or spend any money on his campaign. He indicated that, although he won the election, he did not get sworn in and has no plans to accept the position.

- The Respondent filed a C-1 report with the PDC on December 10, 2019 and selected the mini-reporting option. Mini-reporters are not required to submit C-3 and C-4 reports to the PDC disclosing campaign contributions and expenditures.
- The Respondent filed an F-1 report) with the PDC on December 10, 2019.
- The Respondent indicated that his family’s decision to move out of the district occurred after he declared candidacy. He immediately reached out to the Chelan County Auditor’s Office, which assured him that his name would not appear on the ballot and, subsequently, any votes for him would not count. Based on this conversation, the Respondent believed that he had officially withdrawn from the election and did not raise funds or campaign in any way. The Respondent later learned that his name did appear on the ballot, had won the election, and was still qualified to assume office. The Respondent discussed his options with current Wenatchee School Board members and the superintendent and concluded it would be best for the school district and board if he did not assume the position. The Respondent formally declined the position at the Wenatchee School Board’s November 12, 2019 meeting.

Although the Respondent’s C-1 and F-1 reports were received 35 days after the election, he did not campaign or accept the position, so the impact of noncompliance on the public was minimal and did not deprive the public of critical information. Noncompliance was the result of a good-faith omission and misunderstanding. The Respondent is a first-time filer who lacks experience with PDC reporting requirements. The Respondent’s campaign was small, unsophisticated, and did not made any expenditures.

Based on our findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to timely register as a candidate and file a statement of financial affairs does not amount to a violation that warrants further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding the Respondent about the importance of timely registering as a candidate and filing a statement of financial affairs with the PDC within two weeks of declaring candidacy, and the timely filing of all future PDC reports in accordance with the statutes and rules.

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 Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-586-8929, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s

Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Tim Larson