

Respondent Name
Chad Searls
Complainant Name
Public Disclosure Commission
Complaint Description
<p>Staff-generated complaint</p> <p>On 11/18/19, Chad Searls filed a complaint against his opponent, Drew Hooper, for, among other things, failure to register as a candidate (see complaint 60224/case 60336). In the course of investigating the complaint against Drew Hooper, PDC staff discovered that Drew Hooper and Chad Searls had both failed to file C-1 reports for election year 2019.</p> <p>The PDC's Compliance team discussed whether it should reach out to Searls or create a staff-generated complaint. The team determined that Searls was clearly aware of the C-1 requirement as it was specifically mentioned in his complaint against Hooper, so a staff-generated complaint would be appropriate. However, the team opted to try doing outreach.</p> <p>PDC staff emailed Chad Searls on 11/22/19, informing him that the PDC has not received any C-series reports for his campaign for election year 2019. Searls did not respond.</p> <p>On 12/6/19, PDC staff sent Searls a second email to a different email address, to which he responded by phone. Searls said he filed his C-1 report on 11/22/19 (see report CF-17830) but PDC staff discovered that Searls had inadvertently amended his 2011 report, instead of filing a report for 2019. Searls indicated he would file a new C-1 report for 2019.</p> <p>As of 12/19/19, Searls has not filed a new C-1 report for 2019 so PDC staff are opening a staff-generated complaint to address the missing C-1 report for election year 2019. If Searls selects the full-reporting option on his 2019 C-1 report, C-4 reports (and possibly C-3 reports) are also needed.</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
The C-1 report that was amended in error on 11/22/19 was filed after the election and a new C-1 report for 2019 has not been filed. These failures to report deprive the public of critical information during time-sensitive periods prior to elections.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
see PDC reports
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
Certification (Complainant)
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.