



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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July 23, 2020

Delivered electronically to Kelly Skahan, legal counsel for 34th Legislative District Democrats at “skahan@workerlaw.com”

Subject: Complaint filed by Glen Morgan, PDC Case 62130

Dear Ms. Skahan:

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

As noted in the letter to Mr. Morgan, the PDC has concluded its investigation and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

The complaint alleged that your client, 34th Legislative District Democrats, had violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) during calendar year 2019.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(f), 34th Legislative District Democrats, completed a Statement of Understanding (SOU) and paid a \$450 civil penalty in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule), acknowledging three violations of RCW 42.17A.235 that include a \$150 penalty for failing to timely file the 21-Day Pre-General C-4 report, and two \$150 penalties for failing to timely file the two C-3 reports referenced above. The \$450 penalty in this matter was assessed in accordance with the Penalty Schedule adopted by the Commission for Brief Enforcement Hearings set forth in WAC 390-37-143 and resolves these allegations.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed Jennifer Hansen

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed Barbara Sandahl

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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July 23, 2020

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at “glen@wethegoverned.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding 34th Legislative District Democrats, PDC Case 62130

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on December 30, 2019. The complaint alleged that 34th Legislative District Democrats, a bona fide legislative district party committee, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) during calendar year 2019.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the applicable PDC reports filed by Kelly Skahan on behalf of her client; and queried the Respondent’s data in the PDC contribution and expenditure database, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- 34th Legislative District Democrats (Committee) is a bona fide legislative district party committee registered with the PDC during calendar year 2019, under the “Full Reporting” option.
- The Committee participated in the 2019 general election, and was required to disclose campaign activity on a monthly basis if more than \$200 was received or expended since the last C-4 was filed and 21-days and 7-days prior to the November 5, 2019 general election.

During the 2019 election, the 34th Legislative District Democrats (Committee) failed to timely file the following C-3 and C-4 reports:

- On February 24, 2020, the Committee filed the 21-Day Pre-General C-4 report covering the period of September 1 through October 14, 2019, disclosing \$5,053 in contributions received and \$7,621 in expenditures made. The C-4 report disclosed that the Committee made: a \$500 contribution on September 11, 2019 to Sofia Aragon for Burien City Council; a \$500 contribution on September 26, 2019, to Kevin Schilling for Burien City Council; and a \$1,967.44 expenditures on October 6, 2019 to Renton Printery for sample ballots and newsletters related to the 2019 election. The C-4 report was required to be filed no later than October 15, 2019. The expenditure information was disclosed 132 days late, and 111 days after the November 5, 2019 general election.

- On February 24, 2020, the Committee filed C-3 reports disclosing contribution received and deposited from January 2, 2019 to December 30, 2019, that included a \$2,500 contribution from Laborers Local 242, received and deposited on September 16, 2019. The Committee was required to file a C-3 report by no later than September 23, 2019. The \$2,500 contribution from Laborers Local 242 was disclosed on February 24, 2020, 154 days late and 111 days after the November 5, 2019 general election.
- On February 24, 2020, the Committee filed a C-3 report disclosing \$7,912.30 in monetary contributions deposited on June 11, 2019, representing the proceeds from the Committee's annual June 10, 2019 fundraising event. The C-3 report disclosed the Committee's receipt of six monetary contributions, ranging from \$540 to \$1,170, as well as about 25 other individual contributions received from the event. The Committee was required to file a C-3 report by June 17, 2019 for the \$7,912.30 in monetary contributions received at the annual fundraising event, which represented 19.2 percent of all contributions received. The contributions were disclosed 252 days late, and 111 days after the November 5, 2019 general election.
- In her response, Ms. Skahan stated the Committee is run entirely by volunteers, and filling its treasurer role has proven difficult due to the time demands of ensuring contributions and expenditures are properly reported to the PDC. The current treasurer, Benjamin Reilly, is a volunteer with limited time. She stated that the Committee hired professional treasurer, Andy Lo, to correct or file missing or incomplete reports.
- Staff found other late-reported, deposits and expenditures that were either made outside of the three-week time period before the general election or otherwise had limited or no impact to the public and did not warrant additional enforcement action.

After a careful review of the alleged violations and relevant facts, PDC staff has concluded its investigation.

On July 16, 2020, the PDC received a completed Statement of Understanding (SOU) that was signed by Benjamin M. Reilly, Committee Treasurer. The SOU was accompanied by a \$450 payment for the civil penalty that was assessed in this matter in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule.) The \$450 civil penalty resolves the allegations listed in your complaint against the 34th Legislative District Democrats for failing to timely file C-3 and C-4 reports during calendar year 2019.

Based on the resolution of this matter through an SOU, PDC staff is dismissing this matter in accordance with WAC 390-37-070.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed Jennifer Hansen

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed Barbara Sandahl

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Kelly Skahan, Legal Counsel for 35th Legislative District Democrats