



**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

August 4, 2020

Delivered electronically to Paul Mahre at “votepaulmahre@protonmail.com”

Subject: Complaint filed by Norm Smith, PDC Case 72754

Dear Mr. Mahre:

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

As noted in the letter to Mr. Smith, 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.

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,

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Electronically signed

Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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August 4, 2020

Delivered electronically to Norm Smith at “normsmith307@gmail.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Paul Mahre, PDC Case 72754

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on June 30, 2020. The complaint alleged that Paul Mahre, a candidate for Pend Oreille County Commissioner in the August 4, 2020 primary election, may have violated RCW 42.17A.240 and WAC 390-16-115 failure to collect and maintain contributor information.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Paul Mahre; and the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On May 19, 2020, Paul Mahre, filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring his candidacy for Pend Oreille County Commissioner, Position 3, in the 2020 election and selecting the “Mini Reporting” option.
- RCW 42.17A.240 requires that anyone who donates monetary or in-kind contributions totaling more than \$25 in the aggregate, must be identified by name and full address.
- WAC 390-16-115 obligates campaigns choosing the “Mini Reporting” option to keep current records “in sufficient detail to allow the candidate or political committee to make reports otherwise required by RCW [42.17A.205](#) through [42.17A.240](#) in the event that the filing of such reports becomes necessary as a result of exceeding the contribution or expenditure limitation pursuant to the provisions of WAC [390-16-125](#).”
- On June 29, 2020, you, Norm Smith, made a monetary contribution to Mr. Mahre’s Campaign for \$25.01. Your complaint included screenshots showing the \$25.01 contribution paid by credit card and a PayPal receipt from Mr. Mahre’s website showing the transaction ID number.
- On June 30, 2020, you, Norm Smith, filed a complaint with the PDC alleging that Paul Mahre failed to collect your name and full address at the time you made your electronic contribution exceeding \$25, as required by statute.
- In his response, Mr. Mahre stated that he uses PayPal for online donations through his campaign website and that his website was built using Wix.com. He explained that the built-in Wix PayPal Donate button does not offer the option to ask a donor for address and other information, so for each donation via PayPal, he contacts the donor and requests the necessary information. If the information is not provided, he refunds the full donation.

- Mr. Mahre stated that on June 30, 2020 he received notice of your \$25.01 donation through PayPal prompting him to contact you via email the next day, July 1, 2020, to request the contact information required by PDC laws and rules. Mr. Mahre stated that you provided the information to him for his campaign records.

Mr. Mahre's response confirmed that his campaign has a process for obtaining all required contact information from donors who utilize the donate option on his campaign website. In addition, the evidence shows that the Mahre Campaign had the required information from your \$25.01 online donation within two days of you making the contribution. Staff noted that you sent supplemental information to the PDC regarding your complaint against Mr. Mahre in which you stated "[g]oing forward, I have no doubt that Mr. Mahre will diligently attempt to comply with all PDC Regulations. Please take that into consideration that [sic] making your determination."

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

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 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
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Paul Mahre