



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: fdc@fdc.wa.gov • Website: www.fdc.wa.gov

September 28, 2020

Sent electronically to Richard Offner at rickoffner@gmail.com and Robert Parker at recordstransferacct@gmail.com

Subject: Complaints regarding Michelle Caldier, PDC Case 74122

Dear Messrs. Offner and Parker:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaints you filed on July 13, 2020 and July 25, 2020, respectively. The complaints alleged that Michelle Caldier, a 2020 candidate for State Representative in the 26th District (Position 2), may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to include sponsor identification (“Paid for or Sponsored by” followed by the candidate’s name and complete address) on political advertisement.

To better use the PDC staff time, both complaints have been merged into one complaint and addressed in this letter since the allegations in both complaints are substantially similar.

PDC staff reviewed the applicable statute(s), rule(s), the two exhibits attached to the complaint, and the reporting requirement(s) pertinent to the sponsor identification statute/rule.

Based on staff review, we found the following:

- On January 13, 2019, Michelle Caldier, filed a Candidate Registration (C-1) report declaring her candidacy for State Representative in the 26th District, Position 2, in the 2020 election.
- The Michelle Downey Caldier For State Representative Committee, sponsored a mailer/flier used for the 2020 election campaign that was required to include sponsor identification. The flier/mailer did not have the required statutory sponsor identification as required by law/rule.
- In her response, received on August 10, 2020, Michelle Caldier stated, “My campaign did not send out the flier in the complaint, along with the two other similar fliers with similar graphics. There was an error in communications with the graphic artist and the printing company regarding the backside of the is particular flier. It was supposed to have the paid disclosure information on the bottom with the tic-tac-toe graphics rotated 90 degrees and consuming the entire page. When it was sent to the printer, the graphics were rotated, and the paid disclosure information was cut off the bottom portion. I am legally

blind in both eyes and unfortunately did not catch the mistake. The two other fliers did not have this problem.”

While our review found that Michelle Caldier failed to include sponsor identification on her political advertisement for the mailer/flier that was sent to the voters on or about the week of July 20, 2020, it appears that Ms. Caldier made a mistake and neglected to review the mailer/flier before being sent to the printer. Ms. Caldier was also responsive and provided a response/explanation as soon as this complaint was brought to her attention.

However, Michelle Caldier will receive a reminder letter about the importance of including sponsor identification on political advertisement for all future mailers/fliers. Michelle Caldier will be informed that PDC staff expects her to review all political advertisements in the future that, she or her campaign sponsors, to ensure they contain all required sponsor identification (“Paid for or Sponsored by” followed by the candidate’s name and complete address), as required by the statutory scheme.

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, Compliance Officer at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

/s _____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director for
Peter Lavallee, Executive Director

cc: Michelle Caldier

