



**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 18, 2020

Delivered electronically to Kelly Chambers at “info@kellychambers.org”

Subject: Complaint filed by Joseph Colombo, PDC Case 74189

Dear Representative Chambers:

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

As noted in the letter to Mr. Colombo, 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 including the proper and full disclosure of the sponsor on all written political advertisements. PDC staff expects in the future that you will take steps to ensure that your campaign advertisements include any required sponsor identification in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

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

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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August 18, 2020

Delivered electronically to Joseph Colombo at "joe_colombo@hotmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Kelly Chambers, PDC Case 74189

Dear Mr. Colombo:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 20, 2020. The complaint alleged that Kelly Chambers, incumbent State Representative in Legislative District 25, Position 1 and candidate for re-election in the 2020 general election, may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 and WAC 390-18-010 for failure to disclose sponsor identification on written political advertisement.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; and the response provided by campaign consultant Alex Hays of AB Hays, LLC, on behalf of Rep. Chambers ("the Respondent"), to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- Kelly Chambers is a current State Representative in Legislative District 25, Position 1 after being elected in 2018 and a declared candidate for re-election in the November 3, 2020 general election.
- RCW 42.17A.320 requires written political advertisements to identify the sponsor of the ad in the manner further described in WAC 390-18-010.
- The complaint included a copy of a handwritten, photocopied letter signed by Rep. Chambers sent to voters around July 10, 2020 and alleged that the letter was political advertisement but failed to include the required sponsor identification.
- In his response, Mr. Hays took responsibility for sending out political advertisement with missing sponsor identification. Mr. Hays stated that the informal, handwritten nature of the piece led him to believe that it did not need the required sponsor information. Mr. Hays said that a second mailing was done shortly after that did include the proper sponsor identification.

Although Rep. Chambers is not a first-time candidate and her campaign consultant, AB Hays, LLC, has general knowledge of PDC laws and rules regarding written political advertisement and sponsor identification, it appears that the creation and mailing of this specific ad was mistakenly viewed by the campaign as something different than the more traditional type of mailers done in the past. Furthermore, the response to the complaint shows that the campaign is fully aware of the sponsor identification requirements as they used this knowledge in a subsequent mailing.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to include sponsor identification on one piece of political advertisement, does not amount to a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Rep. Chambers about the importance of including the proper and full disclosure of the sponsor on all future written political advertisement in accordance with PDC 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 Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed
Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Representative Kelly Chambers