



## 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](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcca.wa.gov](http://www.pdcca.wa.gov)**

August 26, 2020

Delivered electronically to Jeannine Tater

Subject: Complaint filed by Jamie Douglass, PDC Case 74623

Dear Jeannine Tater:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Jamie Douglass, Chair of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District Democrats (Committee) concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). The complaint concerned a slate card political advertisement originally produced by the Committee that you reproduced and added information to including additional candidate endorsements, your name as an endorser, as well as your name in the sponsor identification that was included at the bottom of the flyer stating "Printed and distributed by."

As noted in the letter to Mr. Douglass, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking any enforcement action in this matter, since you were clearly identified as the sponsor on both versions of the flyer that you reproduced. In addition, you added information to explain the differences between the candidates endorsed by the Committee, and the candidates that you personally endorsed, which included the endorsement of yourself as a Democratic Precinct Committee Officer candidate.

The PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

\_\_\_\_\_  
Electronically Signed Kurt Young  
Compliance Officer

/s

\_\_\_\_\_  
Electronically Signed, BG Sandahl, Deputy Director  
for Peter Lavallee, Executive Director



**Public Disclosure Commission**  
Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972



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August 26, 2020

Delivered electronically to Jamie Douglass, Chair 42<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District Democrat's

Subject: Complaint filed against Jeannine Tater, PDC Case 74623

Dear Jamie Douglass:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed against Jeannine Tater on July 18, 2020. The complaint alleged that Ms. Tater, a Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) for the 42nd Legislative District Democrats (Committee), reproduced a slate card political advertisement originally produced by the Committee endorsing candidates for the 2020 primary election, that included additional candidate endorsements that had not been approved by the Committee.

PDC staff reviewed the complaint and allegations; the applicable statutes and rules for political advertising; and the response from Jeannine Tater. Based on staff's review we found the following:

- You stated in the complaint that Ms. Tater misused the Committees logo "to produce her own printed endorsement flyers." You went on to state that the "flyer mimics the 2020 preprimary endorsement card from the 42nd LD Dems deceiving voters into believing these are the 42nd LD Dems endorsements." In addition, you stated Ms. Tater misused the Committee's "logo and endorsement" and that use "has damaged the faith voters have in our endorsements and therefore compromised the organizations prime objective to elect Democrats to public office."
- Staff reviewed the political advertisement you submitted along with your complaint that Ms. Tater had reproduced from the Committee original slate card and found that she added additional candidate endorsements that were not included in the original version of the flyer printed by the Committee.
- Ms. Tater added her name as an endorser of the candidates listed as well as the sponsor of the advertisement at the bottom of the flyer. The added information stated: "Endorsement by 42<sup>nd</sup> LD Democrats &/or Your PCO Jeannine Tater" and "Printing and Distribution Paid By Jeannine Tater, Precinct Committee Officer #210."

- The flyer printed and distributed by Ms. Tater endorsed all of the candidates endorsed by the Committee, plus the flyer endorsed seven additional candidates that included six 2020 Statewide candidates and Ms. Tate for PCO. The six additional Statewide candidates endorsed on the flyer included Mike Pellicciotti, Pat McCarthy, Bob Ferguson, Hillary Franz, Chris Reykdal, Mike Kreidler), and the flyer did not endorse Christine M. Grant, a candidate for Whatcom County PUD Commissioner in District 1, Position 1 that had been endorsed by the Committee.
- Ms. Tater stated “There was never any malice on my part. I only wanted to provide my constituents in the 42<sup>nd</sup> LD Precinct 201 a complete slate of Democratic candidates. The voters asked for this when I distributed a 42<sup>nd</sup> LD slate of endorsements in previous elections.” She stated that she spent several hours revising her flyer which needed to be re-designed after conversations she had with other party members, and she attached a copy of the final version of the flyer she produced along with her response.
- Staff reviewed the revised flyer which included the Committee’s logo, two columns that stated “Official 42nd LD Endorsements” and “PCO Tater Recommends” followed by the lists of candidates endorsed by the Committee and Ms. Tater. The flyer included the sponsor identification stating: “Printing and Distribution Paid By Jeannine Tater, Precinct Committee Officer # 201” and the additional following information “Endorsements and Recommendations Included in Precinct 201 ballot order. When candidates are dual endorsed, or no endorsement on race, PCO #201 Jeannine Tater from LD#42 PCO Tater selected the best electable Democratic Party candidate without 42nd LD Endorsement. The 42nd LD Never Endorses PCO Candidates. Voters make that determination!”

PDC staff found no evidence of a violation that would require conducting a more formal investigation into the complaint or pursuing any enforcement action in this instance. While the flyer included the logo of the 42nd Legislative District Democrats, Ms. Tater was clearly identified as the sponsor on both versions of the flyer that she reproduced. In addition, she added information to explain the differences between the candidates endorsed by the 42nd Legislative District Democrats, and those endorsed by Ms. Tater, including the endorsement of herself as a PCO candidate.

The PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s  
 Electronically Signed Kurt Young  
 Compliance Officer

/s  
 Electronically Signed, BG Sandahl, Deputy Director  
 for Peter Lavallee, Executive Director

cc: Jeannine Tater