



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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October 15, 2020

Delivered electronically to Michael Bell, at [mrbellcpa@gmail.com](mailto:mrbellcpa@gmail.com)

Subject: Complaint regarding Steven Parker, PDC Case 74691

Dear Mr. Bell:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 2, 2020. Your complaint alleged that Steven Parker, a 2020 candidate for County Commissioner in Stevens County, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to timely and accurately report Monetary Contributions (C-3) and Summary Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports.

PDC staff reviewed your allegation; the applicable statute, rules, and reporting requirements; the 2020 C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Steven L. Parker for Commissioner Campaign; and the September 10, 2020 response to the complaint provided by Steven Parker.

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

- On June 4, 2020, Steven Parker timely filed a Candidate Registration (C-1) report and selected the Full Reporting Option.

***Alleged failure to file timely and accurate C-3 and C-4 reports (RCW 42.17A.235 and .240).***

- On September 25, 2020, the Campaign filed four separate C-4 reports. Two of the reports were required to be filed during the accelerated reporting period before the 2020 primary election, and one after the primary election as indicated below:
  - 21-Day Pre-Primary C-4 report covering the period beginning June 1 through July 13, 2020. This report was due no later than July 14, 2020 and was filed 73 days late.
  - 7-Day Pre-Primary C-4 report covering the period beginning July 14 through July 27, 2020. This report was due no later than July 28, 2020 and was filed 59 days late.
  - The Post-Primary C-4 report covering the period beginning July 28 through August 31, 2020. This report was due no later than September 10, 2020 and was filed 15 days late.
- In his response to the complaint, received on September 10, 2020, Mr. Parker stated, "First let me say that I did fail to fill out all required reports in a timely manner. Second, in my 8 years of PDC reporting I have

faithfully filed reports when I was able to file paper reports by mail. It is only this year when I was no longer allowed to file in my customary manner that out of confusion, frustration, and other mitigation circumstances that I missed the timelines for reporting. The confusion and frustration came about in trying to use the Secure Access Washington portal into the PDC site and then working to access the needed documents for filing. I clearly recall my first experiences of filing out the first forms and then going over and over to find and clear up the ‘incomplete’ notations. I know that others were also struggling. A second frustration was in trying to find someone to assist me with the financial record keeping and reporting requirements. In all I neglected to correct the PDC issues that were needed. Not callously and certainly not maliciously but neglected nevertheless. I never did actively pursue fundraising from the public or family or any other source. At first I thought I would and so I filed accordingly. On later reflection I decided that because there were 5 people campaigning; I did not want to ask for any campaign donations and to spend the little that I felt I could afford. I still had signs from 2012. I would ask to be considered for amending from full reporting to minimal. The total for these expenditures is \$1057.20 from my own funds for campaign expenditures.”

While staff found the Campaign’s reporting deficient, Mr. Parker qualified for Mini Reporting although he did not request to switch from Full to Mini Reporting in a timely manner. His campaign also experienced difficulties with the new PDC filing platform. Additionally, Mr. Parker did not receive any monetary contributions from the public and placed third in the primary election and therefore he did not advance to the 2020 general election. Lastly, Mr. Parker has no prior PDC violations.

Based on these findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the Campaign’s failure to timely file Summary Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports in the 2020 election year does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Steven Parker will receive a formal written warning concerning the failure to file timely Summary Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports in the 2020 election year, as required by law. Mr. Parker will be informed the Commission will consider the formal warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or 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 Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at 360-586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [erick.agina@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:erick.agina@pdc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Steven Parker