

[Steve Parker](#)

replied

a month ago (Thu, 10 Sep 2020 at 9:44 AM)

To: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

To Erick/PDC staff;

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the complaint filed. Please accept this narrative account of all activities and expenditures by me or by others on my behalf regarding the 2020 primary election for Stevens County District 3 Commissioner. 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 mitigating 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 filling 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 and that your office graciously offered online training sessions for help. As a sitting County Commissioner I was not able to participate during working hours as I was in my office using county equipment. A second frustration was in trying to find someone to assist me with the financial record keeping and reporting requirements and a third was in trying to reopen a campaign bank account. To open a bank account required an EIN for IRS requirements. The bank I originally used in 2012 was sold to another and my attempts to retrieve that information was not successful. This was partly due to the business restrictions imposed by the Covid response requirements I believe and that was especially true in my inability to enlist more professional help in this area.

The Covid situation additionally impacted my duties as a sitting commissioner. With the flood of information, the pressing need to reconfigure county offices and functions for health and safety, coping with how to serve the public with essential services and follow the ever changing guidance from the governor's office and the state and local health jurisdictions was fully encompassing and distracting to say the least. Additionally our office was fully engaged in working with funding issues, especially in the attempt to properly gear the federal funding made available to us to alleviate our business sector and keep small business owners in business, a process that is still ongoing. To do that one piece required intense focus on webinars with WASAC and Commerce and the SAO. In all of this I let certain things be neglected and I neglected to correct the PDC issues that were needed. Not callously and certainly not maliciously but neglected nevertheless.

In a final note, I now realize that my initial filing was not reality and I would like to amend it to reflect the reality of my actions. 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 my signs from 2012. I would ask to be considered for amending from full reporting to minimal. The following is a full accounting of money that I spent from my own funds for campaign expenditures:

- One print ad in the North Columbia Monthly - cost \$150
- Stamped envelopes from USPS in two transactions - cost \$345
- Colville Printing - cost \$53.80
- County Auditor Election Dept. for mailing labels in two transactions - cost \$260.92
- Small yard signs from PressCats - cost 247.48

Total for these expenditures is \$1057.20. The only other item is a second invoice from PressCats for postcards in the amount of \$897.38 that I have asked to be refunded. I placed the order on July 22 with the promise of delivery in time to mail. Unfortunately they arrived after the Primary election and we were not able to use them.

I place third in the Primary election and will not advance to the General. My term will expire Dec 31, 2020. Please accept this report of my campaign activity and make known to the public my full disclosure of all expenditures. I ask that you consider the circumstances involved in my late accounting to the public and the commission and that you understand there was no intent to miss the reporting timelines, please accept my apology for any extra work on this. I look forward to the favorable resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,
Steve Parker