



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.pdca.wa.gov

October 19, 2020

Delivered electronically to Jason Michaud, Treasurer for John Kartak Campaign

Subject: Complaint regarding the 2020 John Kartak for State Representative Campaign, PDC Case 75907

Dear Mr. Michaud and Mayor Kartak:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint filed by Debby Lippincott on August 29, 2020 against the Vote Kartek Campaign. As noted in the letter addressed to Ms. Lippincott, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking any enforcement action in this matter.

The PDC is reminding the Campaign about the importance of timely and accurate disclosure of contribution and expenditures activities, including the required expenditure details for political advertisements undertaken by the Campaign and the reporting of in-kind contributions from the candidate and other sources for the remainder of the 2020 election cycle.

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.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

Electronically Signed Kurt Young
Compliance Officer

/s

Electronically Signed BG Sandahl, Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director



Public Disclosure Commission
Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972



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October 19, 2020

Delivered electronically to Debby Lippincott

Subject: Complaint regarding the 2020 John Kartak for State Representative Campaign, PDC Case 75907

Dear Ms. Lippincott:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 29, 2020, against John Kartak, a 2020 candidate seeking the office of State Representative in the 44th Legislative District. The complaint alleged a violation of RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to disclose the required expenditure details for political advertising purchased by the campaign for yard signage.

PDC staff reviewed the allegation; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements for a legislative candidate; the Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) filed by the 2020 John Kartak for State Representative Campaign – Vote Kartak (Campaign); and the response provided by Jason Michaud, Treasurer for the Campaign. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On May 19, 2020, John Kartak filed a Candidate Registration declaring his candidacy for election to the office of State Representative in the 44th Legislative District in 2020, selecting the Full Reporting Option and listing himself as Chair, and Jason Michaud as Ministerial Treasurer. Mr. Kartak previously was a candidate for Mayor of Snohomish in 2017 and was elected Mayor selecting the Mini Reporting Option.
- On July 14, 2020, the Campaign timely filed the 21-Day Pre-Primary C-4 report disclosing \$5,522 in monetary contributions, and \$100 for in-kind contributions received, and total expenditures were \$6,838 during the period of June 1 through July 13, 2020. The 21-Day Pre-Primary C-4 report disclosed two expenditures for signage that included: (1) a \$3,221.40 expenditure made to Dave's Campaign and Business on June 30, 2020 and listing the description as "655 Campaign Signs"; and (2) a \$123.20 expenditure made to Countryman Signs on June 26, 2020 and listing the description as "66 Campaign Signs."
- Mr. Michaud stated in the response that the Campaign is not contesting the allegations listed in your complaint, and they have filed amendments on the 21-Day Pre-Primary C-4 report to correct the report. He stated the amended C-4 report disclosed the purchase of 655 campaign signs from Dave's Campaign and Business on June 30, 2020, which consisted of two different yard sign sizes.

- Mr. Michaud stated *“To be more transparent, we separated the purchase into 2 categories, one for 18” x 24” signs and the other for 8’ x 4’ signs, on the amended report”* and added that Mr. Kartak donated 200 wire stakes to the Campaign that were already in his possession prior to the 2020, to use for the yard signs. He stated the Campaign conducted some online searches to determine the fair market value for the wire stakes and that amount was disclosed on the amended 21-Day Pre-Primary C-4 report as an estimated in-kind contribution from Mr. Kartak valued at \$237.76.
- Mr. Michaud stated that the *“wire stakes purchased and donated were cut in half, which doubled the number of signs they could be used on. There are still signs in the campaign’s possession that are not yet staked.”*
- On September 17, 2020, the Campaign filed an amended 21-Day Pre-Primary C-4 report disclosing the same \$5,522 in monetary contributions received and \$6,838 in expenditures made but the Campaign disclosed an additional \$237.76 for the in-kind contributions received from Mr. Kartak during the period. As noted in the response from Mr. Michaud, the Campaign broke the \$3,221.40 June 30th expenditure made to Dave’s Campaign and Business into two separate entries on the amended C-4 report that included a \$2,271.36 expenditure to produce 640 18” x 24” yard signs, and a \$950.04 expenditure to produce 15 4’ x 8’ Campaign signs.

While the Campaign timely filed the 21-Day Pre-Primary C-4 report disclosing the expenditure for the yard signs, the Campaign did file an amended C-4 report providing the required description detail for the yard signs and the \$237.76 in-kind contribution Mr. Kartak for the wire stakes after you filed the complaint. Based on these facts, and the fact that Mr. Kartak is a candidate under the Full Reporting Option for the first time, staff found that the allegations identified in your complaint and the Campaign’s filing of the amended information would not constitute a material violation that would require conducting a more formal investigation into the complaint or pursuing any enforcement action in this instance.

The PDC is reminding the Vote Kartak Campaign about the importance of timely and accurate disclosure of contribution and expenditures activities, including the required expenditure details for political advertisements undertaken by the Campaign and the reporting of in-kind contributions from the candidate and other sources for the remainder of the 2020 election cycle.

The PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young at (360) 664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by email at 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: Jason Michaud, Treasurer for the Vote Kartak Campaign