



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

October 27, 2020

Sent electronically to chair@snocogop.org

Subject: Complaint filed by Alex Bond, PDC Case 78599

Dear Debbie Blodgett, Chair, Snohomish County Republican Party:

Enclosed is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Alex Bond concerning a complaint filed October 12, 2020 with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) alleging a violation of RCW 42.17A.405, making an over-limit contribution. The complaint alleged contributions to a legislative candidate, when combined with contributions from another county central committee and legislative district committee, exceeded the contribution limits for a 2020 legislative candidate allowed in RCW 42.17A.405(4)(b).

As noted in the letter below, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of compliance with RCW 42.17A.405 and PDC staff expects the Snohomish County Republican Central Committee will adhere to the contribution limits for the remainder of the 2020 election cycle and not contribute in excess of contribution limits in the future, as required by law.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

October 27, 2020

Sent electronically to alexjbond@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Snohomish County Republican Central Committee, PDC Case 78599

Dear Alex Bond:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint you filed October 12, 2020.

Your complaint alleged the Snohomish County Republican Central Committee, a county central committee registered with the Public Disclosure Commission, violated RCW 42.17A.405 by contributing to Ron Muzzall, who was appointed to Washington State Senate from the 10th District in October 2019 and is a candidate for the same position in 2020. The complaint alleged the contribution, when combined with contributions from another county central committee and legislative district committee, exceeded the contribution limits for a 2020 legislative candidate allowed in RCW 42.17A.405(4)(b).

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements and the response from Debbie Blodgett, Chair, Snohomish County Republican Party to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- The Snohomish County Republican Central Committee is a Bonafide County Party and is registered with the PDC for full reporting.
- Ron Muzzall was appointed to the Washington State Senate in October 2019 and is a current candidate for the Washington State Senate from the 10th District.
- RCW 42.17A.405 limits Legislative candidates to receiving \$0.50 per registered voter per cycle. The 10th Legislative District included 103,150 in the most recent General Election, allowing for a total combined county/legislative district committee contribution limit of \$51,575.
 - RCW 42.17A.405 uses the terms "per election" for non-party contributions and "election cycle" for party contributions. Election cycle is defined by RCW 42.17A.005(20) as "the period beginning on the first day of January after the date of the last previous general election for the office that the candidate seeks and ending on December 31 after the next election for the office. In the case of a special election to fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the period beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on December 31st after the special election."

- Friends of Ron Muzzall (Campaign) accepted donations from three county central committees during the 2020 election cycle, totaling \$65,170:
 - \$2,500 on November 9, 2019 from the Skagit County Republicans
 - \$2,500 on December 10, 2019 from Skagit County Republicans
 - \$1,500 on May 21, 2020 from Skagit County Republicans
 - \$170 on June 20, 2020 from Skagit County Republicans
 - \$2,000 on July 22, 2020 from Island County Republican Party Central Committee
 - \$2,000 on August 29, 2020 from Snohomish County Republican Central Committee
 - \$2,500 on September 5, 2020 from Skagit County Republicans
 - \$1,000 on September 21, 2020 from Island County Republican Central Committee
 - \$10,000 on September 24, 2020 from Skagit County Republicans
 - \$25,000 on October 6, 2020 from Snohomish County Republican Central Committee
 - \$16,000 on October 9, 2020 from Snohomish County Republican Central Committee
- On October 23, 2020, Debbie Blodgett, Chair, Snohomish County Republican Party, responded, stating “We were not aware that Skagit County Republican Party had also donated \$10,000 shortly before our contribution of \$25,000.00. We have received a refund of the over the limit donation in the amount of \$13,595.00. We are sorry for the confusion and will continue to make sure this doesn’t happen again.”

Based on these findings, staff has determined in this instance, exceeding the contribution limits for a 2020 legislative candidate allowed in RCW 42.17A.405(4)(b) does not amount a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding the Snohomish County Republican Central Committee about the importance of compliance with RCW 42.17A.405 and PDC staff expects the Snohomish County Republican Central Committee will adhere to the contribution limits for the remainder of the 2020 election cycle and not contribute in excess of contribution limits in the future, as required by law.

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, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director