



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 27, 2020

Sent electronically to ron@ronmuzzall.com and dawgperry@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Alex Bond, PDC Case 78620

Dear Ron Muzzall:

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 by accepting contributions from a county central committee that, when combined with 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 to Alex Bond, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, this letter serves as a formal written warning concerning your Campaign's acceptance of an over-limit contribution as noted in the attached letter. This warning includes staff's expectation your Campaign will adhere to the contribution limits for the remainder of the 2020 election cycle and not accept any contributions that exceed the contribution limits in the future, as required by law. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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 _____
Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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October 27, 2020

Sent electronically to alexjbond@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Ron Muzzall, PDC Case 78620

Dear Alex Bond:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint you filed October 12, 2020. Your complaint alleged Ron Muzzall violated RCW 42.17A.405 by accepting contributions from a county central committee that, when combined with 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; the applicable PDC reports; and the response from Tom Perry, treasurer for Friends of Ron Muzzall (Campaign), to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- 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.
- On September 30, 2020, the PDC reminded Ron Muzzall about the importance of not accepting over-limit contributions from affiliated entities, in accordance with PDC laws and rules.
- RCW 42.17A.405 limits Legislative candidates to receiving a maximum of \$0.50 per registered voter per cycle combined from county/legislative district committees. The 10th Legislative District included 103,150 voters 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 20, 2020 Perry responded, noting: “With three different counties making contributions it is clear that they weren’t communicating with each other, and with the campaign running at full speed we missed catching the combined county total contributions going over the limit of \$51,575. I immediately wrote a refund check for the most recent Snohomish County Republican Party contribution from 10/9/20. Please see the attached file showing a refund in the amount of \$13,595. That refund check has been mailed, and the C3 report from 10/9/20 as well as the C4 report from 10/12/20 have been amended.”

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the Campaign accepting contributions from a county central committee that, when combined with other county central committees and a legislative district committee, exceeded the contribution limits for a 2020 legislative candidate allowed in RCW 42.17A.405(4)(b), does not amount to a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Ron Muzzall will receive a formal written warning concerning the acceptance of an over-limit contribution as noted in this letter. The formal written warning includes staff’s expectation the Campaign will adhere to the contribution limits for the remainder of the 2020 election cycle and not accept any contributions exceeding the contribution limits in the future, as required by law. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on future 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, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdcpdc@pdcpdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____

Peter Lavalley
Executive Director