

Respondent Name

South Sound Future Enterprise Washington

Complainant Name

Alex Bond

Complaint Description

Alex Bond (Sun, 25 Oct 2020 at 12:26 PM)

WAC 390-18-040 is crystal clear about the use of the terms re-elect, retain, and return when it comes to incumbents in office and appointees. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=390-18-040> When referring to a candidate who was appointed to office and was never elected to it, you must use "retain" or "return" and cannot use "re-elect".

Republican Ron Muzzall was appointed to the Washington state Senate in LD 10 to fill the vacancy left by Barbara Bailey in 2019 and he is running to hold the seat this year. He has never been elected to it. South Sound Future Enterprise Washington is a continuing committee running independent expenditures to support Muzzall, even though most people would describe the 10th LD as being in the North Puget Sound area, not the South Sound.

South Sound Future Enterprise Washington has sent at least two pieces of mail, both attached, asking voters to "re-elect" Muzzall. On the piece received by voters on Oct 10, it's on the non-address block side, in the upper left. On the piece received by voters on Oct 24, it's at the center top of the address block side of the piece.

Enterprise Washington and its network of PACs are an organization who have been doing this for years and they should know the laws. They hire professional consultants and treasurers and there's no excuse to get this kind of thing wrong. Given that they likely have more mail and communications on their way out to voters right now, and the election is just a few days away, the PDC must act quickly to halt these illegal communications and sanction Enterprise Washington for deceiving voters.

This is especially important because Enterprise Washington and its network of PACs, of which South Sound Future is just one, break our campaign finance laws all the time. See PDC complaints 47998 where Our Olympic Communities Enterprise Washington was found in violation and fined, 39180 where Our Olympic Communities Enterprise Washington received written warning, 42387 where North Cascade Jobs Enterprise Washington was found in violation and fined, 39159 where Citizens for Progress Enterprise Washington was found in violation and fined, 26841 where Citizens for Progress Enterprise Washington was scolded for inaccurate reporting, and these are all just since October 2017. These aren't one-off cases, this is a network of PACs with a serious record of repeated campaign finance violations. They change the names of the PACs by using different ones from year to year in different districts but they're all run by one group, Enterprise Washington.

That's why in this case, I don't think it would make sense for the PDC to say "well, South Sound Future Enterprise Washington has never broken the law before, so we'll just ask them to please

use the accurate re-elect/retain language from now on." The whole point is that this organization HAS broken the law before, albeit under different names, but they're all Enterprise Washington. South Sound Future, Our Olympic Communities, North Cascade Jobs, and Citizens for Progress all have the same president, executive director, treasurer, and officers per their current C1s. And just as South Sound Future Enterprise Washington should face a penalty for its violations now, the PDC should go back and look at complaints 47998, 42387, and 39159 where Enterprise Washington PACs were fined but told they only had to pay half the fine as long as they didn't break the law anymore, and say "you broke the law again, you have to pay the other half now."

There should really be some kind of investigation into how and why a major player in Washington state legislative elections repeatedly breaks the campaign finance laws every election cycle, because this should be kind of a big deal. At the very least, my personal advice to the staff and leadership of Enterprise Washington would be to make at least an elementary effort to follow the law from now on because you've already faced fines of \$100,000 over the past couple years and I imagine you'd rather spend that money on other stuff.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

Deceiving voters about whether Ron Muzzall has been previously elected to his seat.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

Attached two mail pieces

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

RE-ELECT SENATOR
RON MUZZALL
 LEADING THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19



VOTE BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

No candidate authorized this ad. It is paid for by South Sound Future Enterprise Washington.
 Top 5 Contributors: Washington Realtors PAC, Enterprise Washington's Jobs PAC, Top 3 donors to PAC Contributors: Phillips 66 Company, Tesoro Companies, Inc., National Association of Realtors.
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 Lacey, WA 98516

*****ECRWSH**R011
 Or Current Resident
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 MS

RE-ELECT

RON MUZZALL

OUR PRINCIPLED VOICE IN OLYMPIA



LOCAL

Ron Muzzall (R) has deep roots here on Whidbey Island, where his family live and run their own farm for over a hundred years. Ron served us as a local firefighter and provides his family farmed goods at the 3 Sisters Market.

PRINCIPLED

Ron takes a civil and pragmatic stance in the state legislature. He fights for solutions that benefit us; he supports law enforcement, low taxes and age-appropriate elementary education.

HOMEGROWN

Ron is ingrained in our community; for years he worked with us as a farmer and businessman, sitting on the boards of such companies as Land O'Lakes and Skagit Farmers Supply. His business acumen is valuable in the legislature.

RON MUZZALL

— FOR STATE SENATE —

LOCAL. PRINCIPLED. HOMEGROWN.



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