



**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: [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov)**

January 20, 2021

Delivered electronically to Greg Tompkins at “[greg@tompkinsappliance.com](mailto:greg@tompkinsappliance.com)”

Subject: Complaint filed by Richard Monacelli, PDC Case 79347

Dear Commissioner Tompkins:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Richard Monacelli concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Mr. Monacelli, 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.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of strictly following the prohibitions and restrictions regarding the use of public facilities. PDC staff expects in the future that you will use personal Facebook pages for personal use only and refrain from posting candidate or ballot measure support on those created and used primarily for official county business, in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

*Electronically signed*

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Jennifer Hansen  
Compliance Officer

*Electronically signed*

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Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavalley  
Executive Director



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January 21, 2021

Delivered electronically to Richard Monacelli at "rm-mba@charter.net"

Subject: Complaint regarding Greg Tompkins, PDC Case 79347

Dear Richard Monacelli:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 22, 2020. The complaint alleged that Greg Tompkins, a current Walla Walla County Commissioner, Position 3, may have violated RCW 42.11A.555 by using public facilities (Facebook page) to assist the election campaign of 2020 State Senate candidate, Perry Dozier.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Greg Tompkins (the "Respondent"); PDC Interpretation 04-02; and the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Greg Tompkins is a current Walla Walla County Commission member and won in the November 5, 2019 general election.
- RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates, including county equipment and staff time.
- The Commission adopted PDC Interpretation 04-02, *Guidelines for Local Government Agencies in Election Campaigns*, which provides information concerning the use of public facilities including activities that are permitted or prohibited, activities which are part of the "normal and regular conduct" of the county equipment, staff time, permissible activities of local elected officials and other general considerations.
- The complaint alleged that Greg Tompkins was using a Facebook page, previously created by him to support candidates for public office, specifically 2020 State Senate candidate, Perry Dozier, in violation of the use of public facilities because the page was being used for official public office purposes.
- In his response, Commissioner Tompkins stated that the Facebook page referenced in the complaint was his personal page and that he used it to inform the community of Walla Walla County about items of general interest to them as well as sharing and posting information related to candidate support. He further stated that the use of this personal Facebook page to support candidates had been previously discussed with PDC staff and believed that he was acting as a citizen, even adding disclaimers to the page, to clarify to the reader of its intended use.
- Staff reviewed the Facebook page referenced in the complaint and found that the posts were primarily related to the business of the Walla Walla County Commission, general news about events in the area and posts related to the 2020 Dozier campaign. Staff found

that the name of page is “Greg Tompkins-Walla Wall County Commissioner District 3” and that the “about” section of the page the official phone number and hours for the Walla Walla County office.

Given the general content of information and posts, it appears that the Facebook page created “Greg Tompkins-Walla Wall County Commissioner District 3” was intended to be used primarily for Commissioner Tompkins to communicate with his constituents in his official capacity and not for personal business. Commissioner Tompkins’ response confirmed that the Walla Walla County Commissioner’s office has purposely not created social media pages for its elected officials. Staff believes, with the exception of the disclaimer stating otherwise, that a member of the public landing on this Facebook would likely interpret it as the official page for Walla Walla County Commissioner Greg Tompkins and not Mr. Tompkins’ personal page.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, use of a Facebook page with almost every component of an official public page of an elected public official to support a candidate for public office, does not amount to a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Greg Tompkins about the importance of strictly following the prohibitions and restrictions regarding the use of public facilities in the future in accordance with PDC statutes and 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, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Electronically signed*

Jennifer Hansen  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

*Electronically signed*

Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Greg Tompkins