



**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

June 21, 2021

Delivered electronically to "rcs99353@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Wierschke, Kathlen , PDC Case 87806

Dear Renee Slocumb:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on March 27, 2021. Your complaint alleged that Kathlen Wierschke may have violated RCW 42.17A.405(3) by making over-limit contributions to the political committee, Recall Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher, a committee organized for the purpose of supporting the recall of Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statute; the response provided by Kathlen Wierschke; the applicable PDC reports showing receipt of the contributions; and action taken by the Commission at its May 27, 2021 Commission meeting concerning allegations that Committee to Recall Jerry Hatcher accepted over-limit contributions from Kathlen Wierschke, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On August 22, 2020, Kathlen Wierschke made two monetary contributions to Committee to Recall Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher totaling \$2,347, exceeding the \$1,000 contribution limit for contributions to recall committees by \$1,347.
- Kathlen Wierschke stated she was unaware contribution limits applied to a recall campaign since the recall committee did not support a specific candidate to replace the Sheriff who was the subject of the recall effort.
- On May 27, 2021, the Commission accepted a Stipulation as to Facts and Deferred Enforcement of Contribution Limits, signed by PDC staff and the Respondent. The Commission's action deferred enforcement upon adherence to the conditions set forth in the Stipulation for the over-limit contributions accepted by the committee.
- The Respondent's compliance with the conditions of the deferred enforcement will be used by the Public Disclosure Commission to assess any future complaint that alleges any violation of RCW

42.17A.405(3) and (14) by the Respondent in relation to its support for the recall of Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, making over-limit contributions to Committee to Recall Jerry Hatcher does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation. The alleged violation of making over-limit contributions is being dismissed, in part, because enforcement concerning the acceptance of over-limit contributions during a recall campaign is being deferred.

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 Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically Signed Philip E. Stutzman

Phil Stutzman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically Signed Barbara Sandahl

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director