

<b>Respondent Names</b>
Stephen (Steve) K Peterson
<b>Complainant Name</b>
Karen Pagliaro
<b>Complaint Description</b>
<p><u><a href="#">Karen Pagliaro</a></u> reported via the portal (<i>Fri, 23 Jul 2021 at 4:59 PM</i>)</p> <p>I am filing a Public Disclosure Commission complaint against Steve Peterson of Liberty Lake, Washington. I believe he is in violation of PDC campaign rules, and public transparency.</p> <p>Mr. Peterson has been in politics for a very long time, which makes his continued violations that much more disheartening. This isn't one simple mistake, it's a pattern of behavior. He should know better by now, but he continues to flout the rules and violate campaign transparency.</p> <p>Below are some of the examples that I believe to be PDC violations.</p> <p><b>C4 REPORTING:</b> <a href="https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.17A.235">https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.17A.235</a></p> <p>C4 reports were due on July 13th. As of July 23rd, no C4 reports appear to have been filed. Some of the expenses his campaign should have reported by now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domain registration and hosting fees likely incurred for his campaign website. He is accepting online contributions, so presumably there are also likely to be credit card processing fees associated.</li> <li>• Mr. Peterson has custom campaign related clothing that he's been seen wearing in public, and in a campaign video that he circulated on social media.</li> <li>• He has campaign signs.</li> <li>• He hired a social media consultant who tried to stir up misleading information about his current and previous political opponents in local social media groups. The consultant's name is Erica Jo Norris, and she confirmed to me directly that Steve Peterson had recently paid her for her social media services.</li> </ul> <p>I believe all of these things should have been reported for campaign finance transparency, yet none of them have been reported.</p> <p><b>WEBSITE:</b> <a href="https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/political-advertising-guide">https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/political-advertising-guide</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steve Peterson's campaign website is called "<a href="https://mayorstevepeterson.com">mayorstevepeterson.com</a>", immediately suggesting with the title that he currently holds the office of Mayor. He does not.</li> <li>2. His website does not include the required "Paid for by" information. <a href="https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.17A.320">https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.17A.320</a></li> <li>3. His contribution page lists none of the required legal information for contributions, including limits. That's especially noteworthy since one of his donation button amounts is</li> </ol>

\$1500, which is more than an individual donor is allowed to contribute per local election. (screenshot in PDF) <https://www.mayorstevepeterson.com/contribute>

**CAMPAIGN VIDEO:**

<https://www.facebook.com/stevepetersonformayor/posts/119844083649577>

1. In a campaign video posted on June 30th (which appears to have been removed since then), his wording and behavior continued to suggest that he was the incumbent. Attached is a screenshot where he used the present tense statement, "I love being your Mayor of Liberty Lake." (photo in PDF)

2. His campaign video prominently displayed his campaign signs saying "Re-Elect", which continues to misrepresent himself as the incumbent. (photos in PDF)

3. Once again, his campaign video did not have the required "Paid for by" information listed anywhere.

I understand that since that video has since been removed, he may not face consequences for those violations, but I think it's still important to document these issues for public record to show this pattern of behavior.

These are all basic rules that every candidate is supposed to abide by. Mr. Peterson and his campaign staff should know that by now.

I believe in honesty and transparency in our public officials, and I think it's important for those officials (and those candidates aspiring to hold office) to be held accountable when they repeatedly violate the public trust.

Sincerely,

Karen Pagliaro

Concerned Liberty Lake Community Member

Steve Peterson PDC Complaint.pdf  
2.24 MB

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

It's misleading the public and Liberty Lake voters by misrepresenting himself as an incumbent. His behavior violates the public trust with his lack of transparency and accountability.

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

I'm attaching a PDF with included pictures, website links and evidence.

**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.

I am filing a Public Disclosure Commission complaint against Steve Peterson of Liberty Lake, Washington. I believe he is in violation of PDC campaign rules, and public transparency.

Mr. Peterson has been in politics for a very long time, which makes his continued violations that much more disheartening. This isn't one simple mistake, it's a pattern of behavior. He should know better by now, but he continues to flout the rules and violate campaign transparency.

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- Mr. Peterson has custom campaign related clothing that he's been seen wearing in public, and in a campaign video that he circulated on social media.
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**WEBSITE:** <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/political-advertising-guide>

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<https://www.mayorstevepeterson.com/contribute>

[Meet Steve](#)[Issues](#)[News](#)[Volunteer](#)[Contribute](#)

## Contribute

This page should contain information about contribution limits and any legal requirements or special instructions specific to your election, as well as your mailing address for contributions by check. You can edit this page by going to the "Pages" section in the control panel and clicking the "Edit" link next to "Contribute".

1 Amount

2 Details

\$10	\$15	\$25
\$50	\$100	\$250
\$500	\$1000	\$1500
Other Amount		
CONTINUE		

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