



**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 • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

December 17, 2021

Delivered electronically to "karaaley@yahoo.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Robin Fry, PDC Case 99249

Dear Kara Suzanne Aley:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on September 29, 2021. Your complaint alleged that Robin Fry sponsored political advertising in the form of a flyer supporting a candidate for Gig Harbor City Council and two candidates for Peninsula School District 401 School Board, that did not include sponsor identification.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; and responses from Robin Fry to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- WAC 390-18-030(4) states: Political advertising created and distributed by an individual using their own modest resources is not required to provide the disclosures in RCW [42.17A.320](#), when all of the following criteria are satisfied:
 - (a) The individual spends in the aggregate less than one hundred dollars to produce and distribute the advertising or less than fifty dollars to produce and distribute online advertising;
 - (b) The individual acts independently and not as an agent of a candidate, authorized committee, political committee, corporation, union, business association, or other organization or entity;
 - (c) The advertising is not a contribution under RCW [42.17A.005](#) (16)(a)(ii) or (iii) or WAC [390-05-210](#);
 - (d) The individual does not receive donations, contributions, or payments from others for the advertising, and is not compensated for producing or distributing the advertising; and
 - (e) The advertising is either:
 - (i) A letter, flier, handbill, text, email or other digital communications from the individual that does not appear in a newspaper or other similar mass publication (except for letters to the editor and similar communications addressed in WAC [390-05-490](#)(4)); or

(ii) Disseminated on the individual's social media site, personal website, or an individual's similar online forum where information is produced and disseminated only by the individual.

- Robin Fry personally produced and distributed a flyer expressing her personal recommendations to support John Skansi, a candidate for Gig Harbor City Council, and Linda Ader and David Olson, candidates for Peninsula School District 401 School Board.
- In September 2021, Ms. Fry personally paid \$25, which was the total cost for paper and printing her flyer, and personally distributed the flyer to what she described as a small group of her neighbors and friends. No person other than Ms. Fry paid for the flyer.
- Ms. Fry stated producing and distributing the flyer was her idea and not part of any political campaign or political party, nor was it sponsored by any political organization.
- Ms. Fry stated she was given permission to distribute the flyer by the Canterwood security officer on duty the day she distributed her flyers.
- As noted above, there is an exception from the sponsor identification requirements in RCW 42.17A.320 for individuals using their own modest resources of less than \$100 when the political advertising meets all the criteria in WAC 390-18-030(4). In this instance, Ms. Fry met all the criteria in the rule.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a violation warranting further investigation.

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 Kim Bradford

Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Robin Fry