



**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.pdcc.wa.gov

March 1, 2022

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at “glen@wethegoverned.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding 45th Legislative District Democrats - Exempt, PDC Case 102360

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on December 30, 2021. The complaint alleged that 45th Legislative District Democrats - Exempt, a bona fide legislative district party committee, may have violated RCW 42.17A.205(5) and WAC 390-16-011A by failing to include its sponsor's name in the committee's name.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Committee Treasurer Christine Ackerman on behalf of the Respondent; the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent; and queried the Respondent's data in the PDC contribution and expenditure database, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- 45th Legislative District Democrats (Committee) is a bona fide legislative district party committee registered with the PDC and active since at least calendar year 2017.
- RCW 42.17A.205(5) requires that the "name" of a sponsored committee must include the name of the person who is the sponsor of the committee.
- WAC 390-16-011A describes the method and timing required to calculate and disclose the sponsor of a registered committee, specifically stating that, a political committee is sponsored, as defined in statute, by having received eighty percent or more of its contributions from a person or from the person's members, officers, employees, or shareholders. The rule goes on to require that a sponsored political committee must amend its C-1pc sixty days before an election in which it participates if the committee's name on its most recently filed C-1pc does not include at least one current sponsor.
- The complaint alleged that the Committee was sponsored by The Eastside Democrats as of September 2021 and had failed to update its committee registration disclosing the sponsorship.
- During its investigation, staff found that a \$7,500 monetary contribution received and deposited on August 31, 2021, from the Eastside Democrats Dinner PAC, made the donor a sponsor as defined in statute.
- In the response, Ms. Ackerman stated that the Complainant's allegations were correct and that the name of the sponsor should have been disclosed prior to the filing of the complaint.
- On January 25, 2022, the Committee submitted an amended C-1pc with the name “45th LD Democrats (Exempt) Sponsored by Eastside Democrats Dinner PAC” and

subsequently submitted amended Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) using the same name.

It appears that the exclusion of the Committee sponsor, Eastside Democrats Dinner PAC in the name of the Committee was unintentional and not meant to purposely deceive the public of the Committee's major funding source. Further, the contribution in question was timely disclosed and thus available to the public.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to timely file an amended committee registration and campaign reports to include the name of the person sponsoring the Committee, does not amount to a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, 45th Legislative District Democrats will receive a formal written warning concerning failure to timely disclose its sponsor's name in the committee's name on the C-1pc, C-3 and C-4 reports. The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that 45th Legislative District Democrats timely files all future required reports of contributions and expenditures and amends its registration as applicable. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or 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.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: 45th Legislative District Democrats