



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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March 21, 2024

Tommy Stearns  
1413 May Ave  
Shelton, WA 98584

Also delivered electronically to [tommystearns9@gmail.com](mailto:tommystearns9@gmail.com)

Subject: C-4 Brief Enforcement Hearing Notice; PDC Case Number 150359

Dear Tommy Stearns:

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) records indicate that you are or were a candidate for public office in 2023 who selected Full Reporting on your *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report) for the 2023 election cycle.

RCW 42.17A.235 requires candidates who select Full Reporting to file mandatory C-4 reports covering the 21-day, 7-day, and post-election period due, respectively, on October 17, October 31, and December 11, 2023.

In accordance with RCW 42.17A.110 and RCW 42.17A.755, a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) has been scheduled to determine if you violated RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to file the required C-4 report(s) for the 2023 election cycle. Under the Brief Enforcement Hearing rules, the Presiding Officer has the authority to assess a civil penalty in accordance with WAC 390-37-143, a penalty schedule adopted by the Commission (see enclosed copy).

**HEARING INFORMATION**

Date and time:	May 1, 2024, Time TBD
Place:	Remotely from Olympia Live Audio and Online Transmission
Presiding Officer:	Nancy L. Isserlis, Chair, Public Disclosure Commission
Authority:	RCW 42.17A and WAC 390

## **SUBMITTING THE REPORT**

You are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the required report online prior to the Brief Enforcement Hearing. The report must be submitted electronically. Instruction for filing the C-4 can be found [here](#)

If you have any questions about the hearing process prior to the hearing date, please contact PDC Staff by email at [pdcc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdc.wa.gov) – and be sure to reference your case number in the subject line of the email.

Sincerely,

PDC Staff  
Compliance and Enforcement Division



Enclosures

- PDC Penalty Schedule

## Penalty Schedule [[WAC 390-37-143](#)]:

The Presiding Officer may assess a penalty up to one thousand dollars upon finding a violation of chapter [42.17A](#) RCW or Title 390 WAC.

(1) Base penalty amounts:

Violation	1st Occasion	2nd Occasion	3rd Occasion
Failure to timely file accurate and complete disclosure summary of total contributions and expenditures (C-4):	\$150	\$300	\$600

[Excerpt above]

"Occasion" means established violation. Only violations in the last five years will be considered for the purpose of determining second and third occasions.

(2) In determining the appropriate penalty, the presiding officer may consider the nature of the violation and aggravating and mitigating factors, including:

(a) Whether the respondent is a first-time filer;

(b) The respondent's compliance history for the last five years, including whether the noncompliance was isolated or limited in nature, indicative of systematic or ongoing problems, or part of a pattern of violations by the respondent, or in the case of a political committee or other entity, part of a pattern of violations by the respondent's officers, staff, principal decision makers, consultants, or sponsoring organization;

(c) The respondent's unpaid penalties from a previous enforcement action;

(d) The impact on the public, including whether the noncompliance deprived the public of timely or accurate information during a time-sensitive period, or otherwise had a significant or material impact on the public;

(e) The amount of financial activity by the respondent during the statement period or election cycle;

(f) Whether the late or unreported activity was significant in amount or duration under the circumstances, including in proportion to the total amount of expenditures by the respondent in the campaign or statement period;

(g) Corrective action or other remedial measures initiated by respondent prior to enforcement action, or promptly taken when noncompliance brought to respondent's attention;

(h) Good faith efforts to comply, including consultation with PDC staff prior to initiation of enforcement action and cooperation with PDC staff during enforcement action, and a demonstrated wish to acknowledge and take responsibility for the violation;

(i) Personal emergency or illness of the respondent or member of his or her immediate family;

(j) Other emergencies such as fire, flood, or utility failure preventing filing;

(k) Sophistication of respondent or the financing, staffing, or size of the respondent's campaign or organization; and

(1) PDC staff, third-party vendor, or equipment error, including technical problems at the agency preventing or delaying electronic filing.

(3) The presiding officer has authority to suspend all or a portion of an assessed penalty under the conditions to be determined by that officer including, but not limited to, payment of the nonsuspended portion of the penalty within five business days of the date of the entry of the order in that case.

(4) If, on the third occasion, a respondent has outstanding penalties or judgments, the matter will be directed to the full commission for consideration.

(5) The presiding officer may direct a matter to the full commission if the officer believes one thousand dollars would be an insufficient penalty or the matter warrants consideration by the full commission. Cases will automatically be scheduled before the full commission for an enforcement action when the respondent:

(a) Was found in violation during a previous reporting period;

(b) The violation remains in effect following any appeals; and

(c) The person has not filed the disclosure forms that were the subject of the prior violation at the time the current hearing notice is being sent.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [42.17A.110](#)(1) and 2018 c 304. WSR 18-24-074, § 390-37-143, filed 11/30/18, effective 12/31/18. Statutory Authority: RCW [42.17A.110](#)(1) and [42.17A.570](#). WSR 18-10-088, § 390-37-143, filed 5/1/18, effective 6/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW [42.17A.110](#). WSR 17-03-004, § 390-37-143, filed 1/4/17, effective 2/4/17.]