



**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

August 19, 2024

Delivered electronically to Jody Hodgson at jody.hodgson00@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Conner Edwards, PDC Case 154489

Dear Jody Hodgson:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Conner Edwards concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Mr. Edwards, the PDC has dismissed this matter following RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff finds that, in this instance, failure to accurately and timely report the Cash on Hand for the end of the 2018 campaign and the beginning of the 2024 campaign does not amount to a finding of a violation that calls for further investigation. The Committee to Support Deer Park Schools made minor or ministerial errors on required reports, which did not materially affect the public interest. Upon notification of these errors you, acting as the committee treasurer, promptly amended the reports, making the necessary corrections as requested by staff.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is necessary and hereby resolves this matter as a technical correction per RCW 42.17A.755(1) & (2) and WAC 390-37-060.

If you have questions, you may contact Tanya Mercier by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s/ Electronically signed

Tanya Mercier
Compliance Officer

/s/ Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director



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August 19, 2024

Delivered electronically to Conner Edwards at cg.edwards53@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint against Committee to Support Deer Park Schools, PDC Case 154489

Dear Conner Edwards:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review and assessment of the complaint you filed on May 22, 2024. The complaint alleged that the Committee to Support Deer Park Schools, a political committee supporting local propositions for the Deer Park School District 414, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 by failing to timely and accurately report contributions and expenditures.

PDC staff reviewed the allegation(s); the applicable statutes and rules and reporting requirements; the response(s) provided by the Respondent; the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent; and other relevant information, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- The Committee to Support Deer Park Schools filed a Committee Registration (C-1pc) for the 2018 campaign on January 20, 2018, under the Mini Reporting option, and a C-1pc for the 2024 campaign on September 10, 2023, under the Full Reporting option.
- Upon reviewing the reports, and confirming information with the Respondent, there were errors in the 2018 reporting. However, these errors were unintentional and the difference between the originally reported Cash on Hand and current Cash on Hand for the 2018 campaign was approximately \$1,000. The committee was eligible for and filed under the Mini Reporting option with \$3,079.90 raised, \$1,317.03 spent, and \$1,762.87 Cash on Hand at the end of the campaign.

- In this instance, the allegations of violations committed in the 2018 campaign are beyond the statute of limitations. Per RCW 42.17A.770, action must begin within five years after the date when the alleged violation occurred.
- Regarding the carry forward for the 2024, campaign, the Treasurer amended the first Campaign Summary Receipts & Expenditures (C-4) report (#110191407), to ensure the 2024 campaign reported the correct carry forward balance. The difference between the original reported amount and the currently reported amount is \$215. Consequently, the C-4 reports following the first report also had to be amended to ensure a correct carry forward.
- The Respondent has been previously warned about timely and accurate reporting for the 2024 campaign. However, in this instance we find that amendments are insufficient evidence of late reporting.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to accurately and timely report the Cash on Hand for the end of the 2018 campaign and the beginning of the 2024 campaign does not amount to a finding of a violation that calls for further investigation.

Committee to Support Deer Park Schools made minor or ministerial errors on required reports, which did not materially affect the public interest. Upon notification of these errors the committee treasurer, Jody Hodgson, promptly amended their reports, making the necessary technical corrections as requested by staff.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is necessary and hereby resolves this matter as a technical correction per RCW 42.17A.755(1) & (2) and WAC 390-37-060.

If you have questions, you may contact Tanya Mercier by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s/ Electronically signed

Tanya Mercier
Compliance Officer

/s/ Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Committee to Support Deer Park Schools