



**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 2, 2024

Delivered electronically to Steven Minnich at steve@minnichfamily.com

Subject: Complaints filed by Norm Smith, PDC Cases 155439 and 159109

Steven Minnich,

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Norm Smith concerning complaints filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against your 2024 campaign for Pend Oreille County Commissioner, Position 1. In accordance with WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), PDC staff is issuing you a formal written warning concerning the requirement to: (a) file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement within two weeks of becoming a candidate, (b) to timely and accurately file Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions (C-3) reports and Campaign Summary Receipts and Expenditures (C-4) reports, and (c) failure to provide complete sponsor identification on advertisements.

In the future, staff expects you to file timely and accurately as required and provide complete sponsor identification on advertisements. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules. PDC staff has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and WAC 390-37-060(1)(a). If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed Alice Fiman

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director



Public Disclosure Commission
Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972



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August 2, 2024

Delivered electronically to Norm Smith at normsmith307@gmail.com

Subject: Complaints regarding Steven Minnich, PDC Cases 155439 and 159109

Norm Smith:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaints you filed against Steven Minnich, a 2024 candidate for Pend Oreille County Commissioner, Position 1.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the applicable reports filed by Steven Minnich; and the response provided by Steven Minnich, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Steven Minnich filed a Candidate Registration on April 22, 2024, establishing “Steve For Commissioner” (the Committee) and declaring candidacy for Pend Oreille County Commissioner, Position 1, selecting the Full Reporting Option.
- RCW 42.17A.700 requires a candidate to file, within two weeks of becoming a candidate, a statement of financial affairs (F-1) that covers the preceding 12 months. On May 1, 2024, Minnich filed an F-1. The report was filed six days late.
- RCW 42.17A.235 describes the required filing deadlines for disclosure of campaign finance activities including monetary contributions.
- RCW 42.17A.240 requires committees file accurate campaign finance reports with the Public Disclosure Commission.
- WAC 390-16-037 includes directions on disclosing expenditures made for certain types of political advertisements and includes an example of the expected detail.
- To date, six C-4 reports have been filed to report expenditures made by the Committee. The first C-4 report was filed May 12, 2024, and listed one expenditure to the Pend Oreille County Auditor for \$760.87 and an in-kind contribution from Deborah Flory for accounting services. This report was filed two days late.

- As noted in the complaint, the Committee timely filed C-4 reports on July 8 and July 17. However, these reports listed expenditures that were missing detail required by WAC 390-16-037.
- On July 25, 2024, the Committee amended both reports adding the required detail. The reports were amended within two days of being notified of the complaint and 10 days prior to the 2024 Primary Election. Because there are only two candidates for this position, both will advance to the 2024 General Election.
- RCW 42.17A.320 requires electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising to list the party preference for elections to partisan office.
- As provided in the complaint, yard signs were missing the required party preference.
- In response, Minnich stated “First thing on Monday morning, July 1, I contacted my printer and all the new yard and field signs will show the (R) party designation. I am now in the process of carefully handprinting the (R) on all existing yard signs.”
- On July 3, 2024, Minnich responded to the PDC with the updated images that included party preference on the political advertising.

In accordance with WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), PDC staff issued a formal written warning to Steven Minnich concerning the requirements (a) to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement within two weeks of becoming a candidate, (b) to timely and accurately file Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions (C-3) reports and Campaign Summary Receipts and Expenditures (C-4) reports, and (c) to provide complete sponsor identification on advertisements. In the future, staff expects Steven Minnich to file timely and accurately and include sponsor identification as required. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws and 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) and WAC 390-37-060(1)(a).

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at fdc@fdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed Alice Fiman

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed Peter Frey Lavalley

Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director



cc: Steven Minnich