



**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.pdca.wa.gov

November 21, 2024

Delivered electronically to Maggie Yates at maggie.yates@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Conner Edwards, PDC Case 160532

Dear Maggie Yates:

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 in accordance with [RCW 42.17A.755\(1\)](#) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

Pursuant to [WAC 390-37-060\(1\)\(f\)](#), you completed and signed a Statement of Understanding (SOU) on November 14, 2024, and paid a \$150 civil penalty on November 15, 2024, in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule). The signed SOU was received by PDC staff on November 14, 2024. By signing the SOU, you acknowledged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240.

In addition, pursuant to [WAC 390-37-060\(1\)\(d\)](#), this serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to timely file C-3 reports disclosing contributions received during 2022. PDC staff expects that, in the future, you follow all applicable PDC laws and rules. If violations of PDC laws or rules occur in the future, the Commission will consider the SOU and warning in deciding on further Commission action.

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 pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed Jennifer Hansen

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director



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November 21, 2024

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

Subject: Complaint regarding Maggie Yates, PDC Case 160532

Dear Conner Edwards:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 13, 2024. The complaint alleged that Maggie Yates, a candidate for Spokane County Commissioner in 2022, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to timely and accurately file *Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions* reports (C-3 reports) and *Campaign Summary Receipts & Expenditures* reports (C-4 reports), disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the campaign.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations and evidence you submitted; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Maggie Yates (the “Respondent”); the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent; the Respondent’s data in the PDC contribution and expenditure database; and other relevant information, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Applicable Laws & Rules

- [RCW 42.17A.235](#) describes the required filing deadlines for disclosure of campaign finance activities including monetary contributions, in-kind donations of goods or services, and expenditures made by the campaign.
- [RCW 42.17A.240](#) describes the required content of each campaign report including the name and address of each person making contributions and to whom an expenditure was made.

Background & Findings

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

- On April 1, 2022, Maggie Yates submitted a Candidate Registration Statement (C-1 report) declaring her candidacy for Spokane County Commissioner in the 2022 election, selecting the "Full Reporting" option and listing Brian McClatchey as Ministerial Treasurer.
- As a candidate registered under the "Full Reporting" option, the Respondent was required to file the Post Election C-4 report covering November 1 – 30, 2022, by no later than December 12, 2022.
- The Post Election C-4 was submitted 610 days late on August 13, 2024, disclosing \$47,658.24 in total expenditures.
- In addition, the Respondent submitted two *Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions* reports (C-3 reports) disclosing \$754.47 in total monetary contributions late on August 13, 2024.
- In her response, Ms. Yates stated that upon reviewing the 2022 campaign after a long period of no reportable activity, she found that the final campaign activity had not been disclosed.
- The Respondent does not have previous warnings/violations of PDC requirements.

Summary and Resolution

It appears that the late reporting of the 2022 Yates Campaign was due to an oversight and not done to purposely conceal campaign activities from the public. Additionally, PDC staff encourages self-reporting even at the risk of a complaint, as was done in this case (with a complaint being filed the same day as the reports were submitted).

After consideration of all the circumstances, further proceedings would not serve the purposes of the Fair Campaign Practices Act. Under WAC 390-37-070, the executive director, at any time prior to consideration by the Commission, may dismiss a complaint which on its face, or as shown by investigation, provides reason to believe that a violation has occurred, but also shows that the respondent is in substantial compliance with the relevant statutes or rules, or shows that formal enforcement action is not warranted.

Maggie Yates completed a Statement of Understanding (SOU) and paid a \$150 civil penalty in accordance with [WAC 390-37-143](#) (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule), acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240 for failing to timely and accurately file the Post General Election C-4 report during the 2022 election.

In addition, pursuant to [WAC 390-37-060\(1\)\(d\)](#), Maggie Yates will receive a formal written warning concerning failure to timely disclosure of all contributions received. The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that Maggie Yates timely files all future required reports of contributions and expenditures. The \$150 penalty assessed, and the written warning resolves the allegations listed in your complaint.

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@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed Jennifer Hansen

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed Peter Frey Lavalley

Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Maggie Yates