

Respondent Name
David W. McClain
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
<p>Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Thu, 11 Dec 2024 at 7:41 PM)</p> <p>Description of Complaint</p> <p>See attached complaint.</p> <p>Notice to Respondent</p> <p>I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint. The chance that you will actually be fined for the violations identified above is extremely small because the agency is averse to doing the work necessary to bring cases to hearings. Most likely this case – and any future cases against you – will simply be dismissed by staff.</p> <p>This complaint is one of hundreds that I have filed to highlight and ultimately fix the significant shortcomings associated with the agency responsible for administering our state’s campaign finance laws.</p> <p>What are these shortcomings?</p> <p>Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with. Failure to properly educate the regulated community about the tasks they must perform to remain in compliance with applicable requirements and avoid complaints. Failure of the agency to send regular reminders to filers about pending deadlines. A failure to proactively enforce applicable requirements which enables the complaint system to become weaponized. Non-intuitive, non-user friendly, and buggy reporting software. Failure to meaningfully enforce core requirements. Failure to follow the best operating practices of other neighboring campaign finance agencies. An agency leadership structure that largely disregards stakeholder input and is slow to identify and resolve major agency deficiencies.</p> <p>I believe that the best way to motivate the agency to address these problems is by filing a large number of complaints so that the agency’s problems become impossible to ignore.</p> <p>Slowly (too slowly) this strategy is starting to yield concrete and beneficial changes. You can read about these changes here: https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/why-one-man-filed-800-campaign-finance-complaints-against-wa-candidates/</p> <p>If you believe that the agency could have done something different to help you proactively avoid the issues identified in this complaint, I hope that you will consider including it in your response. The agency, and the public, can benefit from your perspective and feedback.</p> <p>“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.” — Angela Davis</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
See complaint. The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing disclosure requirements. The agency’s failure to actively monitor compliance with these requirements and enforce them damages both the public and members of the regulated community.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
See complaint and also PDC website.
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
See complaint and also PDC website.
Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



David W. McClain

Candidate for PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONER for PACIFIC PUD 02 - ELE in the 2024 election.

- Overview
- Contributions
- Expenditures
- Pledges
- Debts
- Loans
- Independent Expenditures

Itemized Expenditures

\$3,452.82

Shown below are the campaign’s expenditures. Small expenses may be grouped together and reported as one sum. Donated goods and services (known as in-kind contributions) also appear here as expenditures, with the contributor listed in the recipient column.

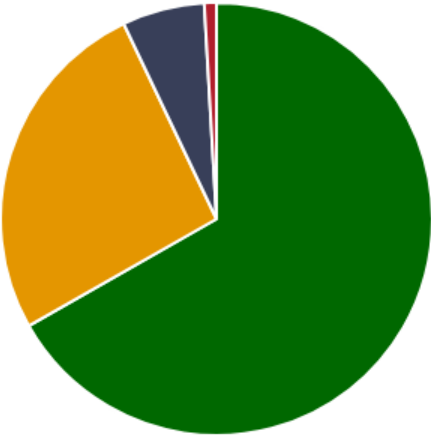
Expenditures by Expense Type

Broadcast/cable TV advertising
\$2,305.84

Campaign merchandise/paraphernalia
\$902.72

Newspaper/periodical advertising
\$213.00

Not Provided
\$31.26



Results for:

No selected filters.

Hide Filters Search Tips

Recipient Name

Enter text

X

Description

Enter text

X

Date

From

To

X

Recipient City

Enter text

X

Recipient State

Select

X

Amount

From

To

X

Show 50 entries

Download 8 rows as CSV.

Recipient	Date	Description	Recipient City	Recipient State	Amount	Report
Build A Sign	08/30/2024	Lawn Signs	AUSTIN	TX	\$350.00	View Report
Build A Sign	08/17/2024	Lawn Signs	AUSTIN	TX	\$552.72	View Report
Build A Sign	06/16/2024	Lawn Signs	AUSTIN	TX	\$535.48	View Report
EO Media Advertising	10/01/2024	Advertising in Chinook Observer	Bend	OR	\$426.00	View Report
EO Media Advertising	09/03/2024	Ad in Chinook Observer	Bend	OR	\$213.00	View Report
EO Media Advertising	07/31/2024	Paid Editorial by Campain	Bend	OR	\$942.73	View Report
EO Media Advertising	07/01/2024	Editorial Paid For By Campain	Bend	OR	\$401.63	View Report
EXPENSES OF \$200.00 OR LESS	05/10/2024				\$31.26	View Report

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David W. McClain

Candidate for PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONER for PACIFIC PUD 02 - ELE in the 2024 election.

Overview	Contributions	Expenditures	Pledges	Debts	Loans	Independent Expenditures
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Candidate Overview

Registered May 10, 2024

29220 joy lane
ocean park, Wa 98640
david@mcclainforpud.com

Candidacy Status

- ↳ Candidate registered (5/10/2024)
- ↳ Candidate declared (5/8/2024)
- ↳ Qualified for general
- ↳ Lost in general

Financial Overview

\$5,000.00	+	\$0.00	+	\$0.00	=	\$5,000.00
Starting balance		Contributions		Loans		Total raised
\$3,452.82				\$0.00		\$1,115.72
Total spent				Pledges		Debt
\$0.00						\$0.00
Independent expenditures for						Independent expenditures against

Candidate Reports and Forms

Registration Form

- [Financial Affairs Report](#)
- [Surplus Funds Account](#)
- [Contributors and Vendors Map](#)

Made to candidate for 2024

Contributions

See who has contributed cash and in-kind (non-monetary) contributions to the campaign.

No contributions reported.

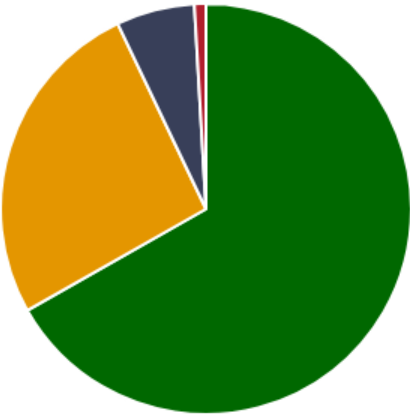
Made by candidate for 2024

Expenditures

See how the campaign has spent money, and what kind of goods and services it received as in-kind contributions.

Expenditures made by candidate for 2024

- Broadcast/cable TV advertising
\$2,305.84
- Campaign merchandise/paraphernalia
\$902.72
- Newspaper/periodical advertising
\$213.00
- Not Provided
\$31.26



Candidates Filed for this Office

Show entries Search:

* declared candidates (eligible for election)

Candidate	Contributions	Expenditures
Debbie Oakes *	\$0.00	\$0.00
David W. McClain *	\$0.00	\$3,452.82

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

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Spending for and against this candidate

Independent Expenditures

Independent expenditures are made by third parties that are not part of a candidate’s campaign.

No independent expenditures reported.

Incurred by candidate

Debts

This information shows the debt for the campaign as of the submission date of the related report.

Outstanding debt for campaign is \$1,115.72

Campaign Finance Reports

See the reports filed by the candidate. Reports with a strikethrough were amended by another report.

Show entries

Download 1 rows as CSV.

Period	Report Number	Filed	Report	Form Type	Election Year
05/10/2024 - 10/28/2024	110255734	10/28/2024	View Report	C4	2024

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Complaint Against: David W. McClain

Submitted: 12/11/24

Notice to Respondent Due By: 12/21/24 per WAC 390-37-050(1)

90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 3/11/25 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)

Statutes Violated: RCW 42.17A.235, .240

Background

Washington State's Campaign Finance Disclosure Law

One of the primary purposes of the public disclosure law is to provide citizens of this state, and especially voters, with the means for becoming informed about the financing of political campaigns.¹ The public disclosure law was enacted through voter approval of Initiative 276 in 1972.

State law requires candidates and committees that register under full reporting to submit regular reports of financial activity. Those reports are filed on schedules outlined on the PDC's key reporting dates calendar.²

Violations

This candidate failed to timely file the post-general C4 report, which was due on 12/10/24.

See link, and attached: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/news-events/events/2023-12/post-election-c-4-due>

Additionally, the respondent also failed to disclose the quantity of YARD SIGNS and the run dates of NEWSPAPER ADS. See attached.

Conclusion

I urge the PDC staff to take quick action and resolve the noncompliance identified in this complaint.

Best,

/s/

Conner Edwards
(425) 533-1677 cell

¹ <https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics>

² <https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics/key-dates-2024>

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