

Respondent Name
Ryan Bowman
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
<p>Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Thu, 17 Oct 2024 at 11:43 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 with a so-called "warning letter".</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Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with.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>"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." — Mahatma Gandhi</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.

Complaint Against: Ryan Bowman

Submitted: 10/17/24

Notice to Respondent Due By: 10/27/24 per WAC 390-37-050(1)

90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 1/15/25 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

Reporting History of Respondent

This candidate has failed to file their 21-day pre-general C4 report. See attached, and also link: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/news/2024/pdc-sends-late-notice-41-candidates-missing-mandatory-reporting-deadline>

Conclusion

With the 2024 general election rapidly approaching, 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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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.

What are these shortcomings?

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.

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.

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/>

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.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi



Ryan Bowman

Candidate for COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSIONER for WHATCOM CO in the 2024 election.

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

Candidate Overview

Registered May 13, 2024

3333 Redwood Ave, Unit 8
Bellingham, Washington 98225

buzzedbeeryan@gmail.com

Candidacy Status

- ↳ Candidate registered (5/13/2024)
- ↳ Candidate declared (5/6/2024)
- ↳ Qualified for general

Financial Overview

\$0.00	+	\$0.00	+	\$0.00	=	\$0.00
Starting balance		Contributions		Loans		Total raised
\$0.00				\$0.00		\$0.00
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

Candidates Filed for this Position

Show 10 entries Search:

* declared candidates (eligible for election)

Candidate	Contributions	Expenditures
J. G. Sandy Phillips *	\$21,572.08	\$27,279.91
Hannah Ordos *	\$0.00	\$0.00
ELENBAAS JOSEPH R (Joe Elenbaas) *	\$0.00	\$0.00
Katherine Orlowski *	\$0.00	\$0.00
Brad Kelly *	\$0.00	\$0.00
Russell N. Dzialo *	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ryan Bowman *	\$0.00	\$0.00

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

Previous

1

Next

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.

Campaign Finance Reports

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

Show 25 entries

Download 0 rows as CSV.

Period	Report Number	Filed	Report	Form Type	Election Year
No records found					

There are no reports available for this campaign

Previous

Next

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Other Election Agencies

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For Incidental Committees

For Lobbyists

For Elected Officials

For Voters & the Public

Registration & Reporting

Political Disclosure Reporting Data

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