

<b>Respondent Names</b>
Carole Sue Braaten
<b>Complainant Name</b>
Connor Edwards
<b>Complaint Description</b>
<p><u><a href="#">Conner Edwards</a></u>  reported via the portal  <i>(Wed, 30 Oct 2024 at 9:17 PM)</i></p> <p><b>Description of Complaint</b></p> <p>See attached complaint.</p> <p><b><u>Notice to Respondent</u></b></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Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with.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: <a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/why-one-man-filed-800-campaign-finance-complaints-against-wa-candidates/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/why-one-man-filed-800-campaign-finance-complaints-against-wa-candidates/</a></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.

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

— Lao Tzu

**What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?**

**List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found**

**List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them**

**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: Carole Sue Braaten**

**Submitted: 10/30/24**

**Notice to Respondent Due By: 11/9/24 per WAC 390-37-050(1)**

**90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 1/28/24 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

### **Violation**

This candidate has failed to file their 7-day pre-general C4 report. See attached, and also link: <https://pdc.wa.gov/news/2024/pdc-sends-late-notice-43-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

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

<sup>2</sup> <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.

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# Braaten Carole Sue (Carole Sue Braaten)

Candidate for STATE SENATOR for LEG DISTRICT 27 - SENATE in the 2024 election.

Overview	Contributions	Expenditures	Pledges	Debts	Loans	Independent Expenditures
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## Candidate Overview

Registered June 10, 2024  
Party: REPUBLICAN

P.O. Box 111581  
Tacoma, Washington 98411

[braaten4the27th@outlook.com](mailto:braaten4the27th@outlook.com)

## Candidacy Status

- ↳ Candidate registered (6/10/2024)
- ↳ Candidate declared (5/10/2024)
- ↳ Qualified for general

## Financial Overview

<b>\$0.00</b> Starting balance	+	<b>\$837.11</b> Contributions	+	<b>\$0.00</b> Loans	=	<b>\$837.11</b> Total raised
<b>\$837.11</b> Total spent				<b>\$0.00</b> Pledges		<b>\$0.00</b> Debt
<b>\$0.00</b> Independent expenditures for						<b>\$0.00</b> Independent expenditures against

## Candidate Reports and Forms

[Registration Form](#)

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

Made to candidate for 2024

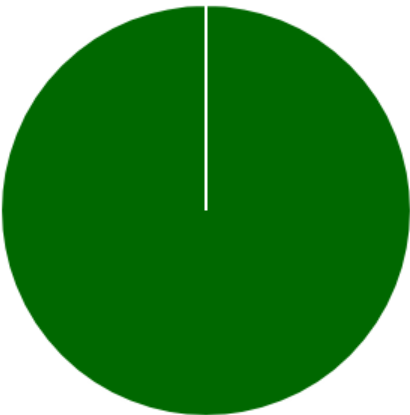
**Contributions**

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

Contributions made to candidate for 2024

Self

\$837.11



Made by candidate for 2024

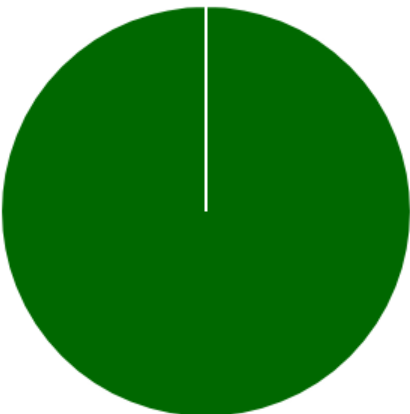
**Expenditures**

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

Inkind contribution

\$837.11



Candidates Filed for this Office

Show

10

▼ entries

Search:

\* declared candidates (eligible for election)

Candidate	↕ Contributions ▼	Expenditures ↕
<u>Yasmin A. Trudeau (Yasmin Trudeau)</u> *	\$115,846.92	\$92,678.86
<u>Braaten Carole Sue (Carole Sue Braaten)</u> *	\$837.11	\$837.11
<u>Jeannie Darneille</u>	\$0.00	\$7,300.29

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 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.

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 \$0.00

Campaign Finance Reports

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

Show

25

▼ entries

Download 5 rows as CSV.

Period	Report Number	Filed	Report	Form Type	Election Year
05/10/2024 - 05/31/2024	110221331	06/10/2024	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C4	2024
06/01/2024 - 07/15/2024	110230942	07/17/2024	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C4	2024

Period	Report Number	Filed	Report	Form Type	Election Year
07/16/2024 - 07/29/2024	110236874	08/08/2024	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C4	2024
07/30/2024 - 08/31/2024	110242840	09/08/2024	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C4	2024
09/01/2024 - 10/14/2024	110251765	10/14/2024	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C4	2024

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

- Contact Us
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- Other Election Agencies
- Privacy Notice
- For Candidates
- For Political Committees
- For Incidental Committees
- For Lobbyists
- For Elected Officials
- For Voters & the Public
- Registration & Reporting
- Political Disclosure Reporting Data
- Rules & Enforcement
- About the PDC
- News & Events
- Employment Opportunities



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