

## State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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March 19, 2025

Delivered electronically to info@thurstondemocrats.org

Subject: PDC Case 161581 regarding Thurston County Democrats

Thurston County Democrats:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaints filed by Conner Edwards on August 20, 2024, and September 23, 2024. The complaints alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures on Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) during calendar year 2024.

## Applicable Laws and Rules

<u>RCW 42.17A.235</u> 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.

<u>RCW 42.17A.240</u> 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 and Findings

- The Thurston County Democrats (the Committee) was registered as a county bona fide party committee under the "Full Reporting" option during calendar year 2024.
- The complaints alleged late filing of: (1) the C-4 reports covering July and August 2024; (2) three C-3 reports for deposits made in July 2024; and (3) missing expenditure detail on C-4 reports.
- The Committee filed the July 2024 C-4 report seven days late on August 19, 2024, disclosing \$50,655.07 in total contributions and \$29,124.03 in total expenditures.
- The July 2024 C-4 report was amended on December 8, 2024, to add missing expenditure descriptions.
- The Committee filed three C-3 reports seven days late on August 19, 2024, for deposits totaling \$48,212.26 made during the month of July from seven low-cost fundraisers.

• The Committee filed the August 2024 C-4 report thirteen days late, disclosing \$150 in total contributions and \$6,729.31 in total expenditures.

## Summary and Resolution

Although the Committee submitted three C-3 reports and two C-4 reports late, the Committee did not make contributions to 2024 candidates. In addition, the Committee promptly amended the C-4 reports to include the missing expenditure details.

The Committee 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 C-3 and C-4 reports, disclosing contributions and expenditures during calendar year 2024. The \$150 penalty assessed resolves the allegations listed in this case.

Any allegations regarding reporting by the Thurston County Democrats for calendar year 2024 that are not otherwise addressed are hereby dismissed.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with <u>RCW 42.17A.755(1)</u>.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

<u>Electronically signed by Jennifer Hansen</u> Jennifer Hansen Compliance Officer <u>Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavallee</u> Peter Frey Lavallee Executive Director

cc: Conner Edwards