

Respondent Name

KITTITAS COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Complainant Name

Conner Edwards

Complaint Description

Conner Edwards reported via the portal
(Tue, 1 Oct 2024 at 4:34 PM)

Description of Complaint

This C4 was filed 21 days late, see link: <https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110248663>

A \$1,314.76 expenditure on the above linked report fails to disclose the quantity of printed items ordered. Additionally, it looks like the respondent failed to identify the subvendor also.

Moreover, there is a discrepancy in the committee's reporting.

For Dec 2023, the committee reported an ending balance of \$5,037.34 , see link: <https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110196261>

Yet, Jan 2024, the committee reported an opening balance of \$3,394.19, see link: <https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110209347>

This discrepancy indicates incomplete reporting of contributions and/or expenditures.

Notice to Respondent

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 will simply be dismissed by staff with a so-called "warning letter".

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Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with.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 filers 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

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

The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing filing requirements. The agency's failure to actively monitor the filings of committees and enforce filing requirements damages both the public and the candidates themselves.

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

PDC Website.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

See respondent contact info on 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.