

Respondent Name
Meridian Citizens for Education Committee
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
<p>Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Wed, 2 Oct 2024 at 11:54 AM)</p> <p>Description of Complaint</p> <p>This respondent is registered under the mini-reporting option. See link to current registration: https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/registration?registration_id=60968 .</p> <p>Under this option, the respondent is limited to accepting contributions of \$500 or less.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this restriction, the respondent accepted a \$750 contribution from Tiger Construction LTD, see link to recent C3 filed for deposit occurring on 8/23/24: https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110248676 .</p> <p>By surpassing this limitation, the committee effectively became obligated to file timely and accurate C3/C4 reports under the full-reporting option. See WAC 390-16-105(4).</p> <p>The total C3 linked to above was for a \$1750 deposit that occurred in August of 2024. As such, the respondent surpassed the \$750 activity threshold and was obligated to file a C4 covering the month of August 2024 as well as all activity since the last period they filed a C4 report for (which was February 2024). Despite this, they failed to do so. See attached.</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 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Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with.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 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.</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>

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.

Meridian Citizens for Education Committee - 2024

Committee Information

Registration

December 04, 2023

Treasurer

Sara Bernardy
239 W Bartlett Rd
Lynden, Washington, 98264
3609203479

Political Committee Type

Education

Jurisdiction

MERIDIAN SD 505

Committee Address

239 W Bartlett Rd
Lynden, Washington 98264

Phone

3609203479

Email

meridiancec@gmail.com

Financial Information

Campaign Starting Balance

\$1,232.06

Contributions Amount

\$550.00

Loans Amount

\$0.00

Total Receipts

\$1,782.06

Expenditures

\$0.00

Pledges

\$0.00

Debts

\$0.00

Made to committee for 2024

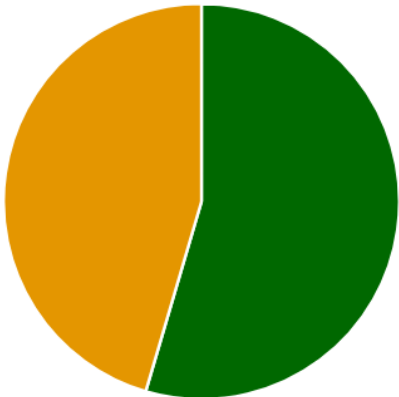
Contributions

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

Contributions made to committee for 2024

Other
\$300.00

Individual
\$250.00



Made by committee for 2024

Expenditures

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

No expenditures reported.

Made to committee

Loans

See loans received, forgiven or paid by the campaign.

\$0.00

Held by committee

Debts

See the campaign's debt reporting history.

\$0.00

Campaign Finance Reports

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

Show entries

[Download 5 rows as CSV.](#)

Period	Report Number	Filed	Report	Form Type	Election Year
03/08/2024 - 03/08/2024	110218128	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
02/14/2024 - 02/14/2024	110218136	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
01/23/2024 - 02/29/2024	110218126	06/03/2024	View Report	C4	2024
12/15/2023 - 12/15/2023	110218134	06/03/2024	View Report	C3	2024
12/04/2023 - 01/22/2024	110218124	06/03/2024	View Report	C4	2024

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Meridian Citizens for Education Committee - 2024

Committee Information

Registration

July 10, 2024

Treasurer

Sara Bernardy
239 W Bartlett Rd
Lynden, Washington, 98264
3609203479

Political Committee Type

Education

Jurisdiction

MERIDIAN SD 505

Committee Address

239 W Bartlett Rd
Lynden, Washington 98264

Phone

3609203479

Email

meridiancec@gmail.com

Financial Information

Campaign Starting Balance

\$0.00

Contributions Amount

\$2,795.00

Loans Amount

\$0.00

Total Receipts

\$2,795.00

Expenditures

\$0.00

Pledges

\$0.00

Debts

\$0.00

Made to committee for 2024

Contributions

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

Contributions made to committee for 2024

Business

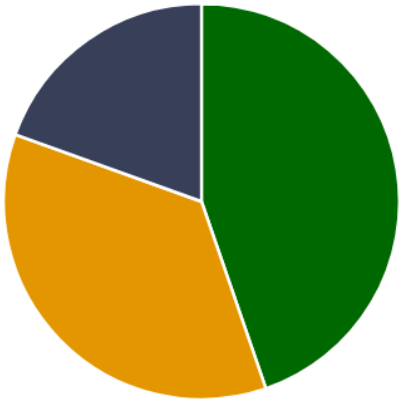
\$1,250.00

Individual

\$1,000.00

Other

\$545.00



Made by committee for 2024

Expenditures

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

No expenditures reported.

Made to committee

Loans

See loans received, forgiven or paid by the campaign.

\$0.00

Held by committee

Debts

See the campaign's debt reporting history.

\$0.00

Campaign Finance Reports

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

Show entries

[Download 3 rows as CSV.](#)

Period	Report Number	Filed	Report	Form Type	Election Year
07/15/2024 - 07/15/2024	110229388	07/15/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/15/2024 - 07/15/2024	110229387	07/15/2024	View Report	C3	2024
08/23/2024 - 08/23/2024	110248676	10/01/2024	View Report	C3	2024

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