



December 9, 2024

Jordan Campbell
Compliance Officer
Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

RE: Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee, Alleged Violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240 for failure to report contribution and expenditures (OCT24 EY24) PDC Case Number 1622592

Dear Mr. Campbell:

We received a formal complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) by Glen Morgan on November 20, 2024. Mr. Morgan alleges that the Cowlitz County Democrats Central Committee (CCDCC) has a long history of violating the Washington State Laws, and claims that we tried to hide secretive, shady, dark money. He goes on to say that we sloppily reported deficient information in their reports about expenditures. Mr. Morgan goes to the extremes to say who printed the signs, and where did we locate the signs. Was it a foreign corporation located in China or was it Russia? He knows better as we are a local party in Cowlitz County, and we are not concerned about dealing with China or Russia. And he knows that the Republicans use some of the same vendors that we have used. Then he always cites previous complaints that was under different officers and treasurers that have been fully adjudicated without penalty.

As with many volunteers who do the Treasury work, we know the basic laws and we have filed all expenditures, and the dollar amounts will not change. Did we fail to full describe some expenditures, as we review the WAC's he has cited, we have failed to add some of the details, we may have and we have corrected all the items he has pointed out. We try our best to follow the PDC guidelines. Additionally, it would be helpful if the PDC would remind the Treasurers of the various details they need to report from time to time, as Treasurers do change every 2 – 4 years.

Regarding this complaint Case Number 1622592, you will see attached the corrections that have been made to the C-4's. In C-4 report 110261350 it has been amended with report 110262350 on 12/6/2024 for the dates 7/30/2024 through 8/31/2024. In C-4 report 110262341 it has been amended with report 110262353 on 12/6/2024 for the dates covering 9/1/2024 through 10/14/2024. We believe we have captured all the information that is spelled out under WAC 390-16-027 and WAC 390-16-205. Further, we have reviewed all of our previous filings this year and have amended the C-4's that may have been lacking the details as described in the WAC's.



We would like to address the issue of MPG Marketing and Mailing Services regarding the yard-signs that they printed. We placed the orders through MPG Marketing and Mailing Services, and I believe that they printed the yard-signs. We do not ask them who the actual person that prints the signs and we believe it is inappropriate for us to ask a business who is the person who actually prints their signs. I further believe it is inappropriate for us to disclose where we placed our yard-signs, as no political party discloses that information.

Mr. Morgan conjures up a lot of nefarious descriptions for where we get and where we spend our money, but he should be careful as many of the Republicans committees do not disclose all of the information that he is asking of the Democrats.

Regarding Mr. Morgan's previous complaints about the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee, they all have been adjudicated. We are timely and accurately reporting all the monies that come in and all the monies that are expended from our organization. All previous complaints were of a different nature, such as the last one where Mr. Morgan did not check to see that we filed a new Exempt account and filed the proper C-4 for that exempt money. He failed to look at the other reports that we filed before he filed that complaint Case Number 149725 in February 2024.

In this case, there was no question regarding the dollar amount of the expenditure nor was there a question regarding the timing of the disclosure reports. We are an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. All our reporting efforts are prepared by non-professional volunteers and not willful or habitual as our volunteers who will change from time to time. If there are any oversights or errors which can happen, they are occasional and innocent and not willful or habitual, as we continue to learn the PDC system, rules and laws.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this response to Mr. Morgan's allegations and/or complaint, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosemary Siipola".

Rosemary Siipola, Chair
Cowlitz County Democratic
Central Committee
PO Box 928
Kelso, WA 98262

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Thompson".

David Thompson, Treasurer
Cowlitz County Democratic
Central Committee
PO Box 928
Kelso, WA 98262