

<b>Respondent Name</b>
Benton County Democratic Party
<b>Complainant Name</b>
Conner Edwards
<b>Complaint Description</b>
Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Tue, 20 Aug 2024 at 5:52 PM)
Description of Complaint
On this committee’s last C4 for 2022, it reported a Cash on Hand balance of -\$2,156.00, see link: <a href="https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110131525">https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110131525</a> .
On the committee’s first C4 for 2023, it reported a starting cash balance of \$15,128.93, see link: <a href="https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110147479">https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110147479</a> .
This suggests that the agency has failed to properly/accurately report contributions and/or expenditures.
Notice to Respondent
I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint.
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Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with.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: <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>
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
<b>What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?</b>
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.
<b>List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found</b>
PDC Website.

<b>List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them</b>
See respondent contact info on PDC website
<b>Certification (Complainant)</b>
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.

# BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE (BenCo Dems) - 2023

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## Committee Information

### Registration

September 19, 2010

### Treasurer

Robert Slovic  
P.O. BOX 636  
RICHLAND, WA, 99352  
17022805804

### Political Committee Type

Democratic County Party

### Jurisdiction

None reported.

### Committee Address

P.O. BOX 636  
RICHLAND, WA 99352

### Phone

509-438-6467

### Email

CHAIR@BENCODEMS.ORG

# Financial Information

## Campaign Starting Balance

\$15,128.93

## Contributions Amount

\$22,104.19

## Loans Amount

\$0.00

## Total Receipts

\$37,233.12

## Expenditures

\$25,791.00

## Pledges

\$0.00

## Debts

\$0.00

## Made to committee for 2023

### Contributions

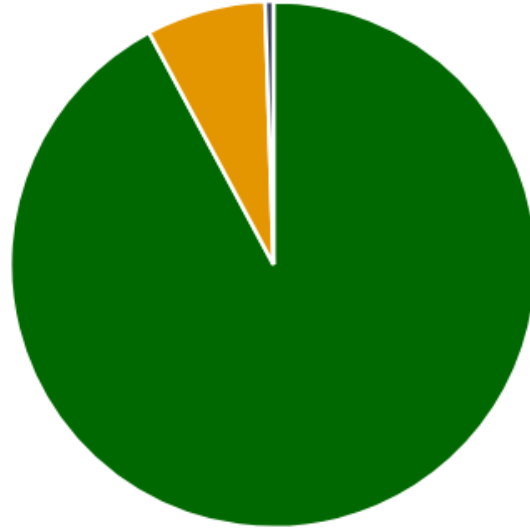
See who has contributed cash and in-kind (non-monetary) contributions to the committee.

### Contributions made to committee for 2023

**Individual**  
\$20,371.75

**Business**  
\$1,620.00

**Other**  
\$112.44



### Made by committee for 2023

#### **Expenditures**

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

### Expenditures made by committee for 2023

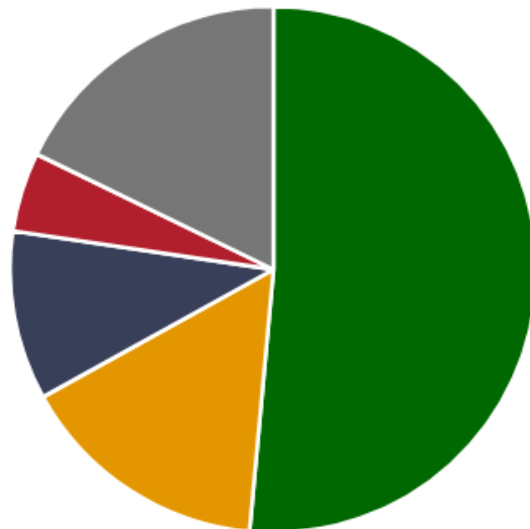
**Fundraising events and related...**  
\$13,270.61

**Radio advertising**  
\$4,000.00

**Not Provided**  
\$2,677.59

**Campaign merchandise/paraphernalia**  
\$1,254.74

**Miscellaneous**  
\$4,588.06



## 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 114 rows as CSV.

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05/10/2023 - 05/10/2023	110147876	05/24/2023	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C3	2023
05/12/2023 - 05/12/2023	110147894	05/24/2023	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C3	2023
05/16/2023 - 05/16/2023	110147895	05/24/2023	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C3	2023
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05/18/2023 - 05/18/2023	110147904	05/24/2023	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C3	2023
05/22/2023 - 05/22/2023	110147907	05/24/2023	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C3	2023
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09/29/2023 - 09/29/2023	110176044	10/02/2023	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C3	2023
09/30/2023 - 09/30/2023	110176047	10/02/2023	<a href="#">View Report</a>	C3	2023
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