

## **Public Disclosure Commission Statement of Understanding Northshore School District Officials: PDC Case 163458**

I, Michael Tolley, in my capacity as Superintendent of Northshore School District (the District), hereby acknowledge that during election year 2024, I violated RCW 42.17A.555 by authorizing the use of district facilities for the purpose of opposing a ballot measure.

The facts are as follows:

- The District is located in Bothell, Washington. The school board consists of five members.
- Statewide ballot measure I-2109 appeared on the November 5, 2024, General Election.
- On October 15, 2024, Representative Davina Duerr held a community meeting in the District's North Creek High School Commons. The District understood this event was to be an informational session with community members to discuss statewide ballot measure I-2109.
- The event was not a traditional Town Hall event where general legislative information was shared by Rep. Duerr or other members of the legislature, nor was it a District public meeting where those supporting and opposing I-2109 had an equal opportunity to speak.
- The District's facilities rental webpage shows the weekday rate for a high school commons area by commercial and for-profit organizations as \$150; however, it is the District's normal and regular scheduling practice to waive fees for legislative events.

Acknowledgments:

- I acknowledge that RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits the use of public facilities for the purpose of assisting the promotion or defeat of a ballot measure. The statute does not prevent activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the district, including specifically making the district facilities available on a nondiscriminatory, equal access basis for political purposes.
- I acknowledge that the October 15, 2024, event was not a traditional Town Hall event where general legislative information was shared by members of the legislature, nor was it a District public meeting where those supporting and opposing I-2109 had an equal opportunity to speak.
- I acknowledge that the District did not charge the normal facility rental fee per the District's website for this event.

I would like to avoid the time and expense resulting from a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) before the Presiding Officer. Therefore, in lieu of a hearing, I

acknowledge that at my direction and under my authority District officials violated Washington State law as described above and agree to enter into this *Statement of Understanding* to resolve this matter with the Public Disclosure Commission.

I understand that this will resolve all issues with the PDC regarding the use of district facilities to oppose I-2109.

I understand that by signing this SOU, I acknowledge the violation of RCW 42.17A and Title 390 WAC set forth above and waive my right to a hearing in this matter. I further understand that signing this SOU and returning it to the PDC will resolve the issue of use of district facilities for the purpose of opposing a ballot measure.

Michael F. Tolley  
Signature on behalf of Respondent

6/12/25  
Date Signed

Instructions for options for returning the signed Statement of Understanding can be found on the next page.