

Respondent Name
Citizens for Better Government by IAFF LOCAL 726
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
<p>Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Fri, 13 Dec 2024 at 4:56 PM)</p> <p>Description of Complaint</p> <p>See attached complaint.</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 – and any future cases against you – will simply be dismissed by staff.</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Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with.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 the regulated community 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> <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/</p> <p>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.</p> <p>“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.” — Angela Davis</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
See complaint. The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing disclosure requirements. The agency’s failure to actively monitor compliance with these requirements and enforce them damages both the public and members of the regulated community.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
See complaint and also PDC website.
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
See complaint and also 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.

Complaint Against: CITIZENS FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT BY IAFF LOCAL 726

Submitted: 12/13/24

Notice to Respondent Due By: 12/23/24 per WAC 390-37-050(1)

90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 3/13/25 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)

Statutes Violated: RCW 42.17A.235, .240

Background

Washington State's Campaign Finance Disclosure Law

One of the primary purposes of the public disclosure law is to provide citizens of this state, and especially voters, with the means for becoming informed about the financing of political campaigns.¹ The public disclosure law was enacted through voter approval of Initiative 276 in 1972.

State law requires candidates and committees that register under full reporting to submit regular reports of financial activity. Those reports are filed on schedules outlined on the PDC's key reporting dates calendar.²

Violations

This committee has previously been fined as the result of an SOU signed with the agency, see link:

<https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement/enforcement-cases/157524>

This committee made numerous contributions to candidates appearing on the general election ballot for 2024 but failed to timely file the required post-general C4 report which was due on 12/10/24. See attached.

Conclusion

I urge the PDC staff to take quick action and resolve the noncompliance identified in this complaint.

Best,

/s/

Conner Edwards
(425) 533-1677 cell

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 – and any future cases against you – will simply be dismissed by staff.

¹ <https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics>

² <https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics/key-dates-2024>

This complaint is one of over one thousand complaints 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 the regulated community 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.

“You can’t make an omelet without breaking a few eggs.”
— François de Charette



CITIZENS FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT BY IAFF LOCAL 726 Sponsored by IAFF Local 726 2024

Overview	Contributions	Expenditures	Pledges	Debts	Loans
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Committee Overview

Registered November 1, 2006
Issue
Treasurer is SHAUN CUTHBERT

Committee Contact

PO BOX 726
PUYALLUP, WA 98371
sectreas726@iaff726.org
253-255-9619

Financial Overview

\$14,416.64	+	\$28,529.05	+	\$0.00	=	\$42,945.69
Starting balance		Contributions		Loans		Total raised
\$41,926.00				\$0.00		\$0.00
Total spent				Pledges		Debt

Committee Reports and Forms

Registration Form

[Contributors and Vendors Map](#)

Made to committee for 2024

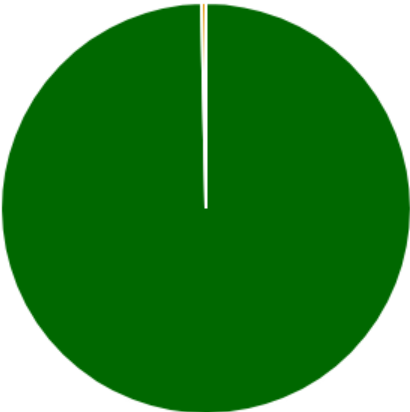
Contributions

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

Contributions made to committee for 2024

Union
\$28,429.05

Other
\$100.00



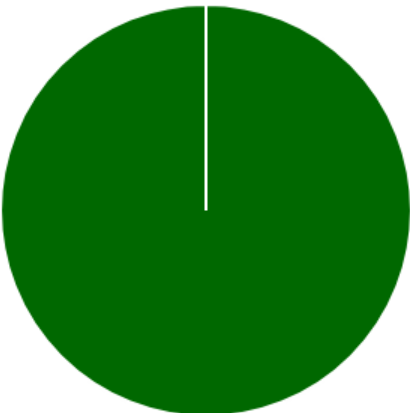
Made by committee for 2024

Expenditures

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

Expenditures made by candidate for 2024

Monetary contributions to PAC...
\$41,926.00



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 25 entries

Download 14 rows as CSV.

Period	Report Number	Filed	Report	Form Type	Election Year
10/15/2024 - 10/28/2024	110256533	10/29/2024	View Report	C4	2024
09/01/2024 - 10/14/2024	110252287	10/14/2024	View Report	C4	2024
07/30/2024 - 08/31/2024	110245143	09/13/2024	View Report	C4	2024
07/25/2024 - 07/25/2024	110234642	07/31/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/24/2024 - 07/24/2024	110232269	07/24/2024	View Report	C3	2024
07/16/2024 - 07/29/2024	110234641	07/31/2024	View Report	C4	2024
06/01/2024 - 07/15/2024	110232270	07/24/2024	View Report	C4	2024
05/01/2024 - 05/31/2024	110232266	07/24/2024	View Report	C4	2024
04/16/2024 - 04/30/2024	110232263	07/24/2024	View Report	C4	2024
04/02/2024 - 04/15/2024	110232260	07/24/2024	View Report	C4	2024
03/01/2024 - 04/01/2024	110232259	07/24/2024	View Report	C4	2024
02/06/2024 - 02/29/2024	110232258	07/24/2024	View Report	C4	2024
01/23/2024 - 02/05/2024	110232257	07/24/2024	View Report	C4	2024
01/01/2024 - 01/22/2024	110232255	07/24/2024	View Report	C4	2024

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CITIZENS FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT BY
IAFF LOCAL 726 Sponsored by IAFF Local
726 2024

- Overview
- Contributions
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- Debts
- Loans

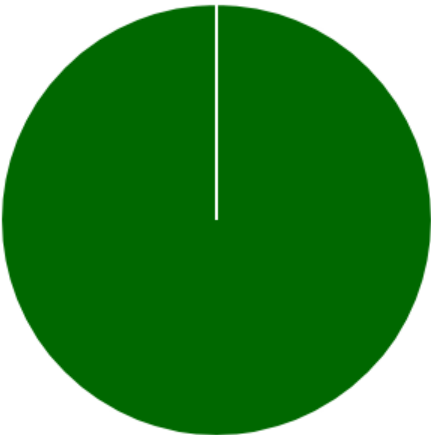
Itemized Expenditures

\$41,926.00

Shown below are the campaign’s expenditures. Small expenses may be grouped together and reported as one sum. Donated goods and services (known as in-kind contributions) also appear here as expenditures, with the contributor listed in the recipient column.

Expenditures by Expense Type

Monetary contributions to PAC...
\$41,926.00



Results for:

No selected filters.

Hide Filters Search Tips

Recipient Name

Enter text

X

Description

Enter text

X

Date

From

To

X

Recipient City

Enter text

X

Recipient State

Select

X

Amount

From

To

X

Show 50 entries

Download 25 rows as CSV.

Recipient	Date	Description	Recipient City	Recipient State	Amount	Report
CITIZENS FOR STEVE BERGQUIST	04/09/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	RENTON	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Committee to Elect Ingrid McCloud	07/25/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	University Place	WA	\$250.00	View Report
Committee to elect Kevin Van De Wege	04/09/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Seattle	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Committee to elect Marty Campbell	04/09/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Tacoma	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Committee to elect Scott Peters	05/31/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	University Place	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT JUDGE GRANT BLINN	04/09/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	TACOMA	WA	\$500.00	View Report
Common Sense for Severns	09/30/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Federal Way	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Common Sense for Severns	05/31/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Federal Way	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Cyndie Fajardo for Sheriff	07/24/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Spanaway	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Firefighters for Protecting Public Lands	07/24/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Olympia	WA	\$15,726.00	View Report
FRIENDS OF DAN BRONOSKE	05/31/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	LAKEWOOD	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report

Recipient	Date	Description	Recipient City	Recipient State	Amount	Report
Friends of Erasmo Ruiz Victory Fund	09/30/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Spanaway	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Friends of Jani Hitchen	04/09/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Tacoma	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Friends of John Linboe	09/30/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Roy	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Friends of John Linboe	05/31/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Roy	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
FRIENDS OF MARI LEAVITT	09/30/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	TACOMA	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
friends of Robyn Denson	04/09/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Gig Harbor	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
FRIENDS OF RYAN MELLO	09/30/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	TACOMA	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
FRIENDS OF RYAN MELLO	04/09/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	TACOMA	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Neighbors for Ronda	07/25/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Eatonville	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Nick Brown for Attorney General	05/31/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Seattle	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
People for Shellie Willis	07/25/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Puyallup	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Rebecca for Judge	07/25/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	University Place	WA	\$250.00	View Report
Village for Davida	09/30/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Puyallup	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report
Village for Davida	07/24/2024	Monetary contributions to PAC or candidate	Puyallup	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report

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