

State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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June 13, 2025

Delivered electronically to www.ountydemocrats@gmail.com

Subject: PDC Case 169725 regarding Walla Walla County Democratic Central Committee

Kari Isaacson, Chair, Walla Walla County Democratic Central Committee:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint filed by Conner Edwards on March 28, 2025. The complaint alleged that the Walla Walla County Democratic Central Committee (Committee) may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures on its C-3 and/or C-4 reports. The complaint also alleged that the Committee failed to provide sufficient detail on two of its January 2025 advertising expenditures.

Applicable Laws and Rules

RCW 42.17A.225, .235 and .240 require candidates, single election political committees, and continuing political committees to file timely, accurate reports of contributions and expenditures. Under the full reporting option, until five months before the general election, C-4 reports are required monthly when contributions or expenditures exceed \$750 since the last report. C-4 reports are also required 21 and 7 days before each election in which the committee makes expenditures, and in the month following the election. Contributions are reported weekly during this same period and must be disclosed on Monday for contributions deposited during the previous seven days.

WAC 390-16-037 obligates any person required to report the "purpose" of an expenditure under RCW 42.17A.240(7) or 42.17A.255(5)(b) to identify any candidate(s) or ballot proposition(s) supported or opposed by the expenditure, and to describe in detail the goods and/or services provided by the expenditure. The rule includes two examples for disclosing the details of the goods and/or services provided.

Background and Findings

• The Walla Walla County Democratic Central Committee has been reporting to the PDC since at least 2007. The Committee's current chair is Kari Isaacson.

- The complaint alleged that the Committee's Line 18 Cash on Hand balance for its December 2024 C-4 report was \$9,793.75 but its beginning Line 1 cash balance on its January 2025 C-4 report was \$12,454.76, a difference of nearly \$3,000.
- On April 2, 2025, PDC staff sent a copy of the compliant to the Respondent and on April 16, 2025, the Committee amended its January 2025 C-4 report to show the correct Line 1 beginning cash balance of \$9,793.75. The Assistant Treasurer stated she inadvertently used the December Cash on Hand balance before accounting for December 2024 expenses when submitting the January 2025 C-4 report.
- The complaint also alleged that the Committee "failed to include the precise run dates for advertisements running in festival/theatre programs."
- On April 16, 2025, the Committee amended its January 2025 C-4 report to provide additional detail concerning its advertisements.
- For a Jan. 2, 2025 Ad expenditure of \$950.00, the amended report included run dates for Ad 1 of Jan. 20 to June 30, 2025 and run dates for Ad 2 of July 1 to Dec. 1, 2025.
- For a Jan. 3, 2025 Ad expenditure of \$1,030.00, the amended report included run dates for Ad 1 of Jan. 16-19, 2025 and run dates for Ad 2 of June 5-28, 2025.
- The Committee's previous Warning letter cited by the Complainant concerned late reporting and was issued more than five years ago.

Technical Correction

The Walla Walla County Democratic Central Committee made minor or ministerial errors on required reports which did not materially harm the public interest. The Committee made the necessary technical corrections within 14 days of being notified by PDC staff.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Phil Stutzman, Compliance Officer, at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

<u>Electronically signed by Phil Stutzman</u> Phil Stutzman

Compliance Officer

Electronically signed by Kim Bradford

Kim Bradford Deputy Director

Endorsed by,

For Peter Frey Lavallee Executive Director

cc: Conner Edwards