

Respondent Name
Rural Americans United
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
Conner Edwards reported via the portal (Tue, 1 Jul 2025 at 7:17 AM) See complaint.
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
See complaint & PDC website.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
See complaint & PDC website.
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
See complaint & 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: Rural Americans United**Submitted:** 7/1/2025**Notice to Respondent Due By:** 7/11/2025 per WAC 390-37-050(1)**90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline:** 9/29/2025 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

Here is the original C4 filed by the committee for the 21-day pre-primary C4, see link:

<https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110230726>

This above referenced C4 omitted a \$1,109.82 payment to "wix.com" for "Purchase of item from website for donor giveaway". It appears this description is missing subvendor information.

This information wasn't disclosed until nearly a year after the deadline, see link:

<https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110293493>

Additionally, the committee failed to properly disclose the ADDRESS of SUBVENDORS as I understand PDC staff believe is required. 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

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>

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.

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.

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

RURAL AMERICANS UNITED

(RAU)

2024

Overview	Contributions	Expenditures	Pledges	Debts	Loans
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Itemized Expenditures

\$127,984.47

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

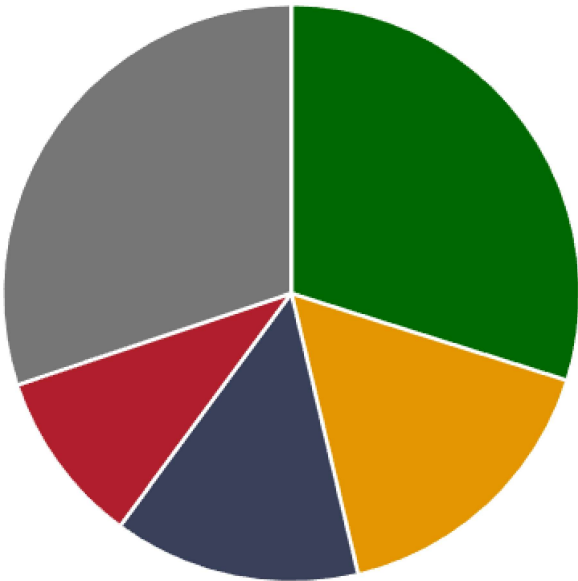
Management and consulting services
\$38,228.42

Radio advertising
\$21,003.00

Printing literature, fliers,...
\$17,691.57

Digital advertising
\$12,490.00

Miscellaneous
\$38,571.48



Results for:

Description: reimburs X

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Recipient Name

Enter text X

Description

reimburs X

Date

From To X

Recipient City

Enter text X

Recipient State

Select X

Amount

From To X

Show 50 entries

Download 13 rows as CSV.

Recipient	Date	Description	Recipient City	Recipient State	Amount	Report
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Recipient ▲	Date ▼	Description ◆	Recipient City ◆	Recipient State ◆	Amount ◆	Report ◆
Grossman Shirley	07/16/2024	Reimburse for hotel expense (Kettle Falls) while traveling for campaign work	Spokane	WA	\$179.23	View Report
Grossman Shirley	07/16/2024	Reimburse for meal expense (Subway) while traveling for campaign work	Spokane	WA	\$13.09	View Report
Grossman Shirley	07/16/2024	Reimburse for meal expense (Little Gallea) while traveling for campaign work	Spokane	WA	\$31.84	View Report
Grossman Shirley	07/16/2024	Reimburse for poster purchased from Amazon	Spokane	WA	\$29.42	View Report
Grossman Shirley	07/16/2024	Reimburse for paper purchased at Office Depot for policy printing	Spokane	WA	\$36.08	View Report
Grossman Shirley	07/16/2024	Reimburse for meal expense (Zips) while traveling for campaign work	Spokane	WA	\$13.27	View Report

Recipient ▲	Date ▼	Description ◆	Recipient City ◆	Recipient State ◆	Amount ◆	Report ◆
Grossman Shirley	06/10/2024	Reimburse for purchase of magnetic sign at Office Depot	Spokane	WA	\$50.56	View Report
Grossman Shirley	06/10/2024	Reimburse for printing of posters at Office Depot	Spokane	WA	\$161.02	View Report
Grossman Shirley	06/10/2024	Reimburse for purchase of paper at Office Depot	Spokane	WA	\$32.58	View Report
Grossman Shirley	06/10/2024	Reimburse for purchase at JoAnn Fabrics for pins for banner	Spokane	WA	\$11.86	View Report
Grossman Shirley	06/10/2024	Reimburse for purchase of candy at Costco for event	Spokane	WA	\$31.98	View Report
Grossman Shirley	06/10/2024	Reimburse for graphic design of flyer paid to Leah Berkowitz	Spokane	WA	\$30.00	View Report
White Doug	04/09/2024	Management and consulting services - mileage reimbursement	Yakima	WA	\$543.20	View Report

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