

Respondent Names
Kyle Christensen
Complainant Name
Ray Gilbride
Complaint Description
<p><u>Ray Dean Gilbride</u> reported via the portal <i>(Wed, 28 May 2025 at 4:44 PM)</i></p> <p>Factual Background</p> <p>1. Possible Unauthorized Amendment of 2022 Campaign Registration: On March 10, 2025, the treasurer for the Vote Kyle Christensen 2025 County Council campaign amended the 2022 campaign registration (C1) by removing the original treasurer and adding a new one without any notice or communication. This raises questions about whether such an amendment was properly authorized or lawful, especially given that the treasurer of record had not been notified or released.</p> <p>2. Improper Transfer of Funds Between Campaigns: Three C4 reports (#110275848, #110275853, #110275854) were filed for the 2022 legislative campaign in March 2025—well after the campaign cycle had ended—covering the period 1/1/2023 to 2/28/2025. These filings disclosed six “Contribution Refunds: Transfer to 2025 Campaign with written permission” totaling \$1,788.95. The refunded contributions were reported as deposited into the 2025 County Council campaign account.</p> <p>The 2022 campaign had already been closed with a zero balance and no surplus declared. Therefore, no legitimate surplus funds should have existed to transfer. Transferring non-existent surplus funds to a new campaign constitutes a serious breach of RCW 42.17A.430.</p> <p>3. Failure to Properly Report Fund Transfers and Refunds: The reporting of these fund transfers on both the 2022 and 2025 campaign filings lacks clarity and raises transparency concerns. There is no evidence provided to show that these refunds were authorized by the original contributors or that the transfers met legal surplus disposal requirements.</p> <p>4. Late and Possibly Falsified Reporting: The C4 filings for the 2022 campaign were submitted in 2025, more than two years after the end of the campaign’s active fundraising and reporting period. This delayed reporting appears designed to justify the questionable movement of funds and violates the timely disclosure requirements under RCW 42.17A.235.</p> <p>Legal Violations Cited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RCW 42.17A.430 – Improper disposal of surplus funds - RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 – Failure to timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures - WAC 390-16 – Misuse of C4 forms to retroactively legitimize unlawful transactions - RCW 42.17A.445 – Personal use of contributions or misuse of campaign funds <p>Requested Relief</p>

The complainant respectfully requests that the PDC investigate these matters, determine whether laws were violated, and impose any necessary penalties or corrective measures. This includes:

- Determining the legality of the fund transfers and amended filings;
- Reviewing whether surplus funds were fabricated or misrepresented;
- Ensuring full public disclosure and accounting of both campaigns' financial activities.

Supporting Documentation

Attached: "Signed Vote Kyle Christensen Research Review Report – May 13, 2025"

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

This complaint concerns potential violations of Washington State campaign finance laws (RCW 42.17A and applicable WAC regulations) by the Vote Kyle Christensen campaign, stemming from irregular financial activities related to the 2022 and 2025 campaign filings.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

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.



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May 13, 2025

Re: Research, review and analysis of Vote Kyle Christensen 2022 & 2025 PDC Reports.

To whom it may concern,

Topic: Potential Vote Kyle Christensen Violation of RCW 42.17A for false reporting and failure to timely & accurately disclose funds transfer information between two campaigns for different elected offices; and for transferring non-existent surplus funds to new campaign. (EY 22, 23, 25)

(It needs to be understood that mistakes happen in the PDC disclosure reporting process. I have made mistakes when disclosing the required information for my clients. My services have been retained multiple times to go back years, in some cases, to correctly prepare, amend and certify reports when it was discovered mistakes had been made. I have also been retained multiple times to defend against filed complaints.

Given the mistakes are corrected, in good faith, by a campaign or committee, I do not support weaponizing the PDC disclosure reporting requirements by filing complaints for political purposes. I prefer to work with the candidate or committee to correct and accurately disclose, in compliance with statutes and codes, the required public information. The goal is full, accurate and timely disclosures in accordance with RCW Statutes and WAC code requirements, not filing complaints.)

Research, Review and Analysis Report

As the Treasure of record in and for the 2022 Vote Kyle Christensen 42nd Legislative District campaign. Ayers Consulting LLc was asked to review, research and prepare a written report of the 2025 C4 reports and amended C1 for the 2022 campaign on 3/10/2025. Specifically, the three C4 contribution refunds and transfers of funds from the 2022 Vote Kyle Christensen 42nd Legislative District campaign to the Vote Kyle Christensen County Council campaign on 3/10/2025.

1. The Treasure for the Vote Kyle Christensen, 2025 County Council campaign on 3/10/2025 Amended the 2022 registration C1 deleting Ayers Consulting LLc as the Treasure and added

Jason Michaud as the ministerial Treasure for the 2022 Vote Kyle Christensen 42nd Leg District Campaign. There was no communication from the candidate or his treasure with Ayers Consulting LLc at the time of this amendment to the 2022 C1 registration.

2. Second, the new registered 2022/2025 Ministerial Treasure filed three C4' s for the 2022 42nd Leg District campaign for period 1/01/2023 to 2/28/2025: C4' s #110275848, # 110275853, 110275854. Listing 6 "Contribution Refunds: Transfer to 2025 Campaign w/written permissions" totaling \$1,788.95. These listings appear as "Corrections Line 15 C4# 110275848. These listed Refund/Transfers were reported on the 2025 Council campaigns C4' s and C3' s and the Refund/Transfers were deposited in the 2025 Vote Kyle Christensen County Council campaign.

(Note: The 2025 6 listed "Contribution refunds: Transfers to 2025 campaign with written permission" donors are not the same general election listed donors Contribution Refunds on the 2022 C4 #110110848 filed by Ayers Consulting LLc on 9/07/2022.)

3. Vote Kyle Christensen 42nd Leg District Campaign lost the primary election in August of 2022. Ayers Consulting LLc then filed/listed 6 Contributions 2022 C4 #110110848 as general election refunds for the 42nd Leg District Campaign. In August 2022 checks were issued and mailed to the 6 listed general election donors, refunding their general election donation. Two of the 2022 6 general election donors never cashed their checks. A second mailing was done in an effort to refund the general election donations. Again, these two refund checks never appeared on the campaigns bank account as cleared. The total of \$2,000.00 issued refund checks stayed in the 2022 campaign checking account.

4. In August 2022 there were insufficient funds in the 2022 campaign account to cover the total amount being refunded for the 6 general elections refund checks. Ayers Consulting LLC requested the Candidate make an added deposit of \$725.00 to existing funds in the bank to cover the total cost of the 6 refunds checks when cashed. The candidate made the requested deposit to the campaign account on 8/21/2022. This deposit was reported as a candidate loan to the campaign on C3 #110109417 dated 8/31/2022 and C4 #110109417 dated 9/07/2022. It was clear to Ayers Consulting LLc at this time that the Candidate was advised and understood these were not surplus funds. If the refund checks were not cashed the funds would be required by State statute to be given to the State of Washington.

5. Ayers Consulting LLc filed C4 #110128378 dated 12/07/2022. The last C4 for the campaign by Ayers Consulting LLc listed a \$15.00 non-itemized expense and showed on "Line 18 Cash on Hand of \$103.06". This \$103.06, Cash on Hand, is the total of surplus funds for the 2022, 42nd Leg District campaign. This surplus fund balance of \$103.06 did account for the outstanding refund checks that still had not cleared the bank account.

It was communicated at this time and in future conversations and communications with the candidate that the \$2000.00 still in the 2022 42nd Leg District campaign bank account was uncashed refund checks and not available for candidate loan repayment or as surplus funds and if the refund checks were not cashed by the general election donors the funds should be sent to the State of Washington per statute.

6. In our research the 3/10/2025 C4's #110275848, 110275853, 110275854 reported Total Expenditures for the 2022 campaign equaled \$42,585.78 (Line 17). The December 2022 C4 filed by Ayers Consulting LLC Total Expenditure of \$44,371.67 Line 17, for a differential of \$1,785.67. We researched the 2022 ORCA files and discovered a Lynden Tribune expense for \$1,755.37 had been deleted from the June Total Expenses in the ORCA files. That had been correctly reported on C4 #110101829 dated 7/25/2022. That was listed in the 2022 campaign's June bank statement. The C4 #110101829 period 6/01/2022 to 7/11/2022 has not been amended in 2025 to date. It is suspicious that this deleted June expense is almost the total amount needed to create an ORCA available surplus funds balance for the 3/10/2025 C4 reports of corrections/transfers in ORCA.

7. There was additional transfer from the 2022 42nd Leg District campaign into the 2025 County Council campaign, Nims, Steve \$209.95, that was transferred/deposited on C3 #110275748 dated 3/10/2025. This contribution was not listed as a "Contribution Refund or Transfer" on the 2022 C4's filed in 2025 for the 42nd Leg District Campaign. This transfer/deposit together three other C3 deposits was noted as "Transferred from 2023 campaign w/written permission". This 2023 date would appear to be an error, and these donor funds are transferred from the 2022 campaign.

(All cited C1, C3 and C4 PDC reports are available for review online at
<https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data>.)

In summary it appears that the Vote Kyle Christensen 2025 Council campaign had \$2,100.00 more or less remaining in the 2022 campaign account. Rather than send the uncashed general election refund money to the State of Washington, the 2025 candidate/treasure decided to go back into the 2022 42nd Leg District campaign and file C4's reporting "Contribution Refunds" then transferring the bank balance funds to the 2025 council campaign as surplus funds.

In my discussions with the Candidate Kyle Christensen on May 10, 2025, about their 2025 3/10/2025 C4 reporting/filings for the 2022 42nd Leg District campaign and the remaining uncashed general election refunds in the bank he indicated a miss-communications concerning the allowable use of the funds and their 2025 PDC reporting for the 2022 42nd Leg District campaign.

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In addition, I received a telephone call on May 12, 2025, from the Ministerial Treasure for the 2025 County Council campaign Jason Michaud stating he and candidate intended to amend all of their 2025 42nd leg District campaign reports, reverse the corrections and transfers and send a check back for the total funds transferred to the 2022 42 Leg District campaign from the 2025 County Council Campaign.

In addition, re-register Ayers Consulting as the 2022 42nd Leg District campaign as the ministerial treasure for lawful distribution of the uncashed general election non-surplus refund purposes.

Sincerely



Bruce Ayers, PDC Compliance Services

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