

Respondent Names
Paul Charbonneau
Complainant Name
Conner Edwards
Complaint Description
<u>Conner Edwards</u> reported via the portal <i>(Wed, 2 Jul 2025 at 12:26 AM)</i> See attached.
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: Paul Charbonneau

Submitted: 7/2/2025

Notice to Respondent Due By: 7/12/2025 per WAC 390-37-050(1)

90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline: 9/30/2025 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

On this C4 report, the respondent omitted a \$1200 donation from Capitol Press for yard signs. See link: <https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110276854>

The \$1200 in-kind donation was not disclosed until two months after the deadline, see link: <https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110292035> . The in-kind contribution also failed to disclose the quantity of signs ordered.

Additionally, there are apparently other expenditures missing the required details. For instance, the expenditures to Northwest Passages Consulting appear to be missing quantities and subvendor breakdown.

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**

Paul Charbonneau

Candidate for CITY COUNCIL MEMBER for CITY OF NEWCASTLE in the 2025 election.

Overview	Contributions	Expenditures	Pledges	Debts	Loans
Independent Expenditures					

Itemized Expenditures

\$5,009.20

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

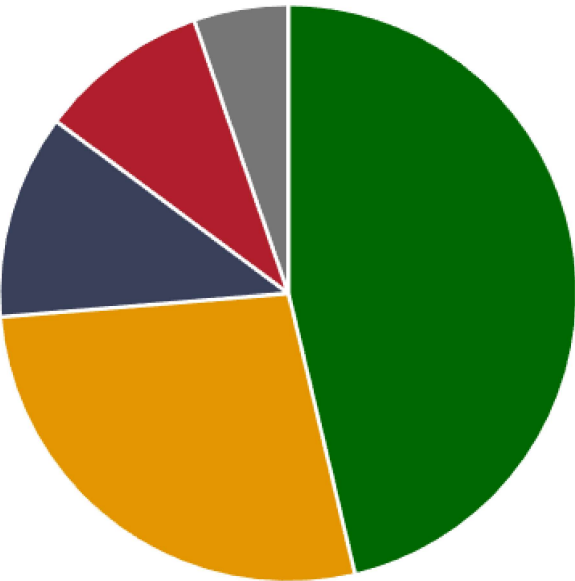
Inkind contribution
\$2,318.86

Printing literature, fliers,...
\$1,373.05

Design/graphic art, etc.
\$573.96

Not Provided
\$478.33

Other
\$265.00



Results for:

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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 14 rows as CSV.](#)

Recipient	Date	Description	Recipient City	Recipient State	Amount	Report
CAPITOL CITY PRESS	12/01/2024	Campaign Yard Signs	TUMWATER	WA	\$1,200.00	View Report

Recipient	Date	Description	Recipient City	Recipient State	Amount	Report
CHARBONNEAU SHARON	05/19/2025	MATERIALS FOR KID'S TABLE AT KICKOFF EVENT	Newcastle	WA	\$25.00	View Report
Doak Jen	04/24/2025	Free-use of "The Coalman" Cafe and Night bar for Campaign Event	Newcastle	WA	\$500.00	View Report
EXPENSES OF \$200.00 OR LESS	06/01/2025				\$132.27	View Report
EXPENSES OF \$200.00 OR LESS	04/01/2025				\$160.95	View Report
EXPENSES OF \$200.00 OR LESS	12/01/2024				\$185.11	View Report
Northwest Passage Consulting	06/06/2025	CAMPAIGN LITERATURE X1000 PIECES + DESIGN COSTS	Seattle	WA	\$1,111.08	View Report
Northwest Passage Consulting	05/01/2025	Re-Elect Stickers for signs	Seattle	WA	\$214.30	View Report
Northwest Passage Consulting	03/18/2025	Printing, Logo Design, Website Design	Seattle	WA	\$359.66	View Report

Recipient	Date	Description	Recipient City	Recipient State	Amount	Report
OVERNIGHT PRINTING	06/17/2025	PRINTING DISCOUNT - REPEAT CUSTOMER	SEATTLE	WA	\$5.70	View Report
Paul Charbonneau	04/13/2025	In-Kind Payment of Mailchimp Account			\$88.16	View Report
Trade Printery	05/13/2025	Remittance Envelopes - 150	Tukwila	WA	\$261.97	View Report
WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE	04/24/2025	Surveys, polling, research costs	Seattle	WA	\$500.00	View Report
WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE	04/24/2025	Votebuilder/VAN Software Access	Seattle	WA	\$265.00	View Report

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Other Election

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