

Respondent Name
Ty Kuehl
Complainant Name
Amanda Mahoney
Complaint Description
<p>Amanda Mahoney reported via the portal (Thu, 10 Jul 2025 at 2:08 AM)</p> <p>Incumbent Tumwater School board candidate Ty Kuehl improperly used the Tumwater School District logo—conveying a false impression of district endorsement—and failed to disclose the website’s sponsor, both of which violate RCW 42.17A.555, WAC 390-05-271/273, and the PDC’s Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns.</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
<p>The use of the Tumwater School District logo and branding on Ty Kuehl’s campaign website misleads the public by creating the false impression that the school district has officially endorsed his candidacy. This violates the public’s right to an impartial, nonpartisan educational system, particularly in local elections where trust in public institutions is paramount.</p> <p>Such misuse of public agency resources undermines fair and transparent elections by:</p> <p>Distorting Voter Perception: Voters may reasonably interpret the logo and design elements as a signal of district endorsement or affiliation, which can improperly influence their support.</p> <p>Eroding Public Trust: When candidates appear to co-opt public resources, it raises questions about ethics and fairness, potentially decreasing trust in both the candidate and the school district.</p> <p>Creating an Unequal Playing Field: Other candidates who abide by election laws are at a disadvantage when one candidate misuses public imagery or fails to disclose campaign sponsorship, violating the principles of equitable campaigning.</p> <p>The failure to include required sponsor identification further obscures transparency, leaving voters unable to verify who is behind the campaign materials. This lack of disclosure undermines the public’s ability to make fully informed decisions and erodes accountability in the electoral process.</p> <p>In short, these violations not only compromise the integrity of this individual campaign, but they also threaten the broader legitimacy of local elections and the neutrality of the public education system.</p>
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
<p>Unauthorized Use of Public Agency Logo Giving Appearance of Endorsement</p> <p>Legal standard: RCW 42.17A.555 forbids using public agency facilities—including logos—to support a candidate. Public agencies may not use or authorize use of their emblem to campaign.</p> <p>PDC guidance: Agency logos should not be used in campaign materials outside “normal and regular” operations.</p> <p>Facts: The website prominently displays Tumwater School District branding (logo, colors, design), which implies the campaign is officially endorsed/sanctioned by the district.</p> <p>Failure to Disclose Sponsor</p> <p>Legal standard: Candidates must clearly identify the sponsor/authority behind political communications. While enforcement focuses on jurisdictional context, transparency is required.</p> <p>PDC guidance: Electronic campaign communications that use public agency channels or appear official must include clear disclosure of sponsor and funding source, particularly when they mimic agency communications.</p> <p>Facts: The site provides no statement of who paid for or who controls the site (“Paid for by...”, “Campaign of Ty Kuehl, Treasurer: ...”). This omission violates the requirement to disclose in campaign communications.</p>

<https://www.ty4tsd.com>

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Unknown

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.

TY KUEHL FOR TUMWATER SCHOOL BOARD

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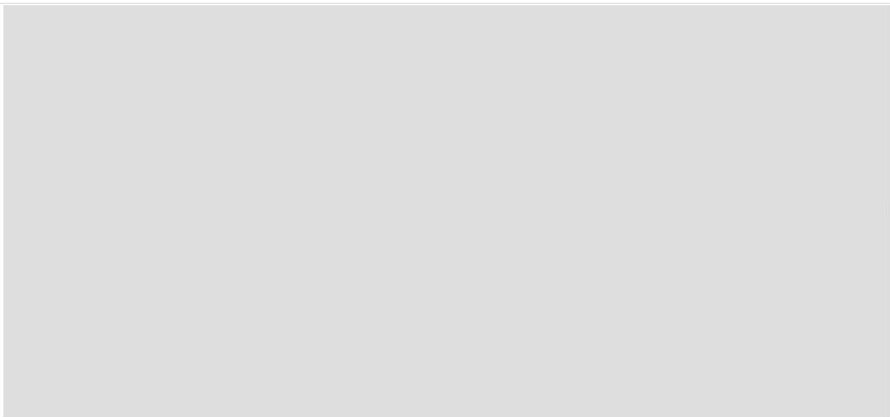


- WHAT DOES “ACCESS” MEAN IN YOUR CAMPAIGN SLOGAN? +
- HOW DO YOU COMPARE TO OTHER CANDIDATES — OR SIMPLY, WHY TY KUEHL? +
- WHERE ARE YOUR ENDORSEMENTS? +



TY KUEHL FOR TUMWATER SCHOOLS

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