

<b>Respondent Names</b>
Lewis County Democratic Central Committee
<b>Complainant Name</b>
Conner Edwards
<b>Complaint Description</b>
<p><u><a href="#">Conner Edwards</a></u>  reported via the portal  <i>(Wed, 6 Aug 2025 at 3:30 PM)</i></p> <p>See complaint &amp; PDC website.</p>
<b>What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?</b>
<p>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. The public disclosure law was enacted through voter approval of Initiative 276 in 1972.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found</b>
See complaint & PDC website.
<b>List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them</b>
See complaint & PDC website.
<b>Certification (Complainant)</b>
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: LEWIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE - NON-EXEMPT**

**Submitted:** 8/6/2025

**Notice to Respondent Due By:** 8/16/2025 per WAC 390-37-050(1)

**90 Day Initial Hearing Deadline:** 11/4/2025 per RCW 42.17A.755(3)

**Statutes Violated:** RCW 42.17A.235 and WAC 390-16-043

**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.<sup>1</sup> The public disclosure law was enacted through voter approval of Initiative 276 in 1972.

**Violations**

This respondent failed to timely respond to a request to inspect the campaign's books of account during the 10-day window prior to the 2025 August primary election. See below/attached.

This committee has been repeatedly fined/warned by the PDC for a variety of violations:

<https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement/enforcement-cases?respondent=Lewis+County+Democratic>

**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

**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?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/registration-reporting-basics>

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**



Conner Edwards &lt;cg.edwards53@gmail.com&gt;

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**Book Inspection Request (WAC 390-16-043)**

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**Conner Edwards** <cg.edwards53@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 3, 2025 at 5:50 PM

To: LCD Treasurer &lt;treasurer@lewiscountydemocrats.org&gt;

Cc: chair &lt;chair@lewiscountydemocrats.org&gt;, PDC Support &lt;pdc@pdc.wa.gov&gt;

Hello:

"Inspections must be allowed within 48 hours of the request." See link: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/public-inspection-campaign-records>

I still have not heard back from you with a time that would work for the inspection to proceed. Would 10:00 AM on Monday at 110 S Silver St, Centralia, WA 98531 (Centralia Public Library) work?

I also would note I still have not received the income sheet from you.

-Conner

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 12:52 PM LCD Treasurer <treasurer@lewiscountydemocrats.org> wrote:

Here is expenses sheet through July 27. Let me know if you want to see a particular supporting document. If I have time, I will send income on Friday. Best

Sonja "Swede" Svenson, LCD Treasurer

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---- On Mon, 28 Jul 2025 18:11:03 -0700 **Conner Edwards** <cg.edwards53@gmail.com> wrote ----

Hello:

"Inspections must be allowed within 48 hours of the request." See link: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/public-inspection-campaign-records>

Unfortunately, allowing the inspection to occur on the day of the election or the day after the election is not an option.

Will you not allow me to inspect the books of account this week? Please let me know.

-Conner

On Mon, Jul 28, 2025 at 6:04 PM LCD Treasurer <treasurer@lewiscountydemocrats.org> wrote:

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Best,

Conner Edwards  
(425) 533-1677 cell

Conner - I don't have any time this week. I volunteer for the Adna Grange, LC Democrats, and AAUW and am getting ready for the SWW Fair. Additionally, two days is not enough notice when I have a full calendar. Next week is better. Tuesday or Wednesday I have open times and can meet in Chehalis or Centralia.

Best,

Sonja "Swede" Svenson, LCD Treasurer

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---- On Mon, 28 Jul 2025 15:51:14 -0700 **Conner Edwards** <cg.edwards53@gmail.com> wrote ----

Hello Sonja Svenson and Zachary Eckstein:

Per WAC 390-16-043, I would like to arrange a time to inspect the books of account for the committee LEWIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE - NON-EXEMPT (LCDCC).

You can read more about this process here: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/public-inspection-campaign-records>

Most times work for me, but I would prefer to view the books on Wednesday July 30, 2025 at 11:00 AM. Let me know if there is an alternative time that works better for you.

Best,

Conner Edwards  
(425) 533-1677 cell

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