



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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August 7, 2019

Delivered electronically to “[walter@smithdietrich.com](mailto:walter@smithdietrich.com)”

Subject: Complaint regarding Robert McCaslin, PDC Case 24992

Dear Walter Smith:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on September 1, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Robert McCaslin may have violated RCW 42.17A as follows:

- Allegation One: Violation of RCW 42.17A.205 for failure to timely register campaign within two weeks of expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures.
- Allegation Two: Violation of RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely report contributions and expenditures.
- Allegation Three: Violation of RCW 42.17A.445 for contributions to political parties made by campaign funds, not surplus funds.
- Allegation Four: Violation of RCW 42.17A.430 and WAC 390-16-236 for failure to accurately and timely report expenditures made from surplus funds account.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Robert McCaslin; and the applicable PDC reports filed by Respondent to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- Robert (Bob) McCaslin was elected as a State Representative from the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in Spokane, in 2014. He was re-elected in 2016 and 2018, and is currently serving as a State Representative from the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

Alleged Violation of RCW 42.17A.205 for failure to timely register campaign within two weeks of expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures.

- Robert McCaslin and the Committee to Elect Bob McCaslin filed a Candidate Registration (PDC Form C-1) on October 27, 2015.
- On September 8, 2015, the campaign received its first contributions for the 2016 campaign, totaling \$700. A candidate registration was due within 14 days, or by September 22, 2015, making the C-1 35 days late. The C-1 was filed well in advance of the 2016 Primary and General elections.

Alleged Violation of RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely report contributions and expenditures.

- During 2015, the campaign filed five C-3 reports between 31 and 60 days late, with the reports ranging from \$50 to \$1,000. All five reports were filed December 11, 2015, nearly one year before the 2016 General election.
- During 2016, when C-3 reports were due each Monday for the previous seven days, the campaign filed six C-3 reports between 3 and 69 days late, with the reports ranging from \$50 to \$1,200. Five of the six reports were filed July 18, 2016, 15 days before the Primary election, with one report totaling \$500, filed three days late on November 10, 2016, two days after the General election. For two C-3 reports, totaling \$1,950, the contributions were deposited 19 days late.

Alleged Violation of RCW 42.17A.445 for contributions to political parties made by campaign funds, not surplus funds.

- On August 31, 2016, Bob McCaslin's treasurer, Rick Van Zandt, filed the campaign's C-4 report covering the period July 26, 2016 to August 31, 2016. The report included a \$10,000 transfer on August 31, 2016 to the House Republican Organizational Committee (HROC), the caucus committee for house republicans. Although the transfer was listed on the C-4 as a "House Republican Contribution" to HROC, it was a transfer of surplus funds made following the 2016 primary election, allowable under RCW 42.17A.430(3), and not a personal use of campaign contributions, which would be prohibited under RCW 42.17A.445.

Alleged Violation of RCW 42.17A.430 and WAC 390-16-236 for failure to accurately and timely report expenditures made from surplus funds account.

- On August 31, 2016, the campaign reported a \$10,000 expenditure of surplus funds, made on August 31, 2016, to the House Republican Organizational Committee (HROC). The expenditure was made from the campaign account, not from a surplus funds account, but was made from surplus funds. The campaign was not required to establish a surplus funds account to make the expenditure.
- The Respondent does not have previous warnings or violations of PDC requirements.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the late-filed C-1, C-3, and C-4 reports, and the late deposits of contributions, do not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Robert McCaslin about the importance of filing timely C-1, C-3 and C-4 reports, and of timely depositing contributions received, for all future campaigns, in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_

Phil Stutzman  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavalley  
Executive Director

cc: Robert McCaslin