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Public Disclosure Commission



State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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**Public Disclosure Commission Statement of Understanding**

**Grays Harbor County Democratic Central Committee: PDC Case 26838**

I Jamie Nichols, hereby acknowledge as a Committee Officer,

(Printed Name of Treasurer/Committee Officer) that the Grays Harbor County Democratic

Central Committee violated:

(1) RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution (C-3) reports and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the Grays Harbor County Democratic Central Committee (Committee) for calendar years 2016, 2017 and 2018 as detailed below; and (2) RCW 42.17A.245 by failing to file C-3 and C-4 reports electronically:

**Election year 2016:** On January 30, 2017, the Committee manually filed on paper C-3 and C-4 reports for July 1 through December 31, 2016, disclosing \$12,334 in contributions received and \$18,061 in expenditures made for party building activities and \$4,000 in monetary contributions made to candidates for public office and one political party committee. The party building activities included the costs of the monthly meeting; costs for precinct, legislative district, and county party convention; and fundraising proceeds from running the Burger Booth at various events including at the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, and other local festivals.

The contributions made during the 2016 election cycle included: (1) two monetary contributions totaling \$1,100 to Frank Gordon, a candidate for Grays Harbor County Commissioner; (2) a \$1,000 monetary contribution to Jamie Nichols, a candidate for Grays Harbor County Commissioner; (3) a \$500 monetary contribution to Teresa Pursell, a candidate for State Representative; (4) a \$500 monetary contribution made to Mike Chapman, a candidate for State Representative; and (5) a \$900 monetary contribution to the Thurston County Democrats. The C-4 reports disclosing the \$4,000 in contributions made were filed by the Committee between 23 and 206 days late.

During 2016 the Committee failed to file C-3 and C-4 reports electronically using the Online Reporting of Campaign Activity (ORCA) software, or similar campaign finance reporting software.

**Calendar year 2017:** On September 10, 16, and 17, 2019, the Committee electronically filed C-3 and C-4 reports for April 1 through December 31, 2017, and electronically filed C-3 and C-4 reports covering January 1 through March 31, 2017, for C-3 and C-4 reports that had been filed manually on paper. The C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Committee disclosed \$17,605 in contributions had been received and \$13,751 in expenditures made for calendar year 2017, with the majority of the Committee's activities involved running the party and various party building and fundraising activities. The fundraising activities included the proceeds from running the Burger Booth at various events including at the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, the Logger's Playday, and there were also rental and storage fees. No monetary or in-kind contributions were made to any candidates or political committees during calendar year 2017. The C-3 and C-4 reports were filed between 616 and 981 days late.

During 2017 the Committee failed to file C-3 and C-4 reports electronically using the ORCA software, or similar campaign finance reporting software.

**Election Year 2018:** On September 17, 2019 the Committee electronically filed C-3 and C-4 reports for March 1 through December 31, 2018, and electronically filed C-3 and C-4 reports covering January 1 through February 28, 2018, for C-3 and C-4 reports that had been filed manually on paper. The C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Committee disclosed \$19,603 in contributions received and \$14,051 in expenditures made that included party building activities such as fundraising proceeds and costs from running the Burger Booth at the Grays Harbor County Fair, Logger's Playday, and various other events fees, and making a few small contributions to candidates.

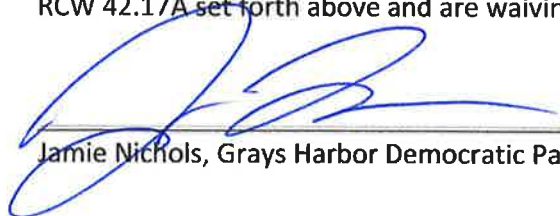
The Committee reported contributions to local candidates Kym Foster (\$250) and Chris Thomas (\$250). Its contributions came from small donations and proceeds from the fundraisers. The late reports were filed between 250 and 584 days late.

The Committee would like to avoid the time and expense resulting from a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) being scheduled by Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff.

Therefore, in lieu of PDC staff scheduling a Brief Enforcement Hearing, I am completing this Statement of Understanding, and enclosing a check or money order in the amount of \$900 as a penalty payment in this matter. The \$900 penalty being assessed in this matter is in accordance with the Penalty Schedule adopted by the Commission for Brief Enforcement Hearings set forth in WAC 390-37-143 as follows:

- \$300 for the two acknowledged violations of RCW 42.17A.245 by failing to electronically file C-3 and C-4 reports in 2016 and 2017 (\$150 for each year);
- \$300 for the acknowledged violations of 42.17A.235 and .240 listed above for failing to timely and accurately file C-3 and C-4 reports during 2016, including disclosure of \$4,000 in contributions made to candidates and a political party committee; and
- \$300 for the acknowledged violations of 42.17A.235 and .240 listed above for failing to timely and accurately file C-3 and C-4 reports for calendar years 2017 and 2018, (\$150 for each year)

I understand that by completing this Statement of Understanding, I am acknowledging multiple violations of RCW 42.17A set forth above and are waiving the right to a hearing in this matter.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Nichols, Grays Harbor Democratic Party Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

Please make your check or money order payable to the **"Washington State Treasurer"** and be sure to include the PDC Case number in the memorandum field, and mail or deliver this Statement of Understanding along with your payment/check to the PDC at the following address:

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