

Respondent Name
Steven Drew
Complainant Name
Glen Morgan
Complaint Description
<u>Glen Morgan</u> (Tue, 4 Oct 2022 at 12:30 PM) To whom it may concern, It has come to my attention that the Thurston County Assessor Steven Drew has, once again, violated Washington State's campaign finance laws (RCW 42.17A). The details are as follows: 1) Illegal coerced solicitation of campaign contributions from government employees who work under his administration. These illegal solicitations were sometimes successful in extracting campaign cash from employees who feared for their career and job prospects if they failed to comply with the implied threats and solicitations (Violation of RCW 42.17A.565) For PDC staff background on this case, Thurston County Assessor Steven Drew has violated this EXACT law in the past. The former head of the Human Resources Department at Thurston County filed the last complaint on his legal violations at the time. The PDC investigated him for these violations in the past (See PDC Enforcement Case #13-014). I have attached the documentation regarding the final settlement and \$300 fine imposed by the PDC at that time. Bear in mind, the only difference between that case and this current violation is that Steven Drew was attempting to solicit funds for Democrat County Commissioner Candidate Sandra Romero at the time, and this time Steven Drew is illegally (and successfully) soliciting funds for his own personal campaign for office. Many employees have expressed concerns on this subject and others from this office repeatedly over the years, and with some quitting to remove themselves from a hostile work environment, it appears to be long past time to expose the truth in this dark corner of Thurston County. For clarity's sake, I recognize that it is beyond the scope of the Public Disclosure Commission to address complaints about hostile work environments, possible extortion of funds from government staff for non-campaign related issues, or complaints about Assessor Steven Drew never being in the office or doing his job. THOSE types of complaints must be addressed, if they are addressed at all, from other government entities or in other legal settings. I will avoid discussing those subjects in this complaint. I recognize that the PDC staff will be required to interview various employees at the Thurston County Assessor's office to verify the facts referenced in this allegation. However, I will start with a direct quote from an email I recently received from one of these recent employees to give you a sense of the situation I am describing here (Please note, only two details are censored in this quote – both are personal phone numbers that I felt would not be appropriate to make public in this complaint and which the PDC staff can obtain from me via phone if they feel it is relevant): Dear Mr. Morgan: <i>I was an exempt, at will employee working in the Thurston County Assessor's office from July 1, 2014 until my last official day of September 30, 2022. I worked as Chief Deputy Assessor for the elected Assessor Steven Drew.</i> <i>During my employment Mr. Drew solicited me for campaign contributions each and every of the three election cycles of my tenure. I begrudgingly complied each time. The incident described below is for this last election cycle.</i>

On or about February 22, 2022 Mr. Drew contacted me from his personal phone (206) 999-XXXX (Censored by Glen Morgan for privacy reasons) to my personal phone (816) XXX – XXXX (Censored by Glen Morgan for privacy reasons) in the evening. I was at home at the time, and I have no idea where Mr. Drew would have been. He requested \$250.00, which I agreed to. Then on or about February 24, 2022 he drove to the County Court House and had me meet him outside Building 1. He was in his car and I handed him the check. He deposited the check on February 28, 2022.

He made no specific direct requests for additional money, but there were pseudo requests. On the Primary Election Day August 2, 2022 he made one of his rare appearances to the office. Sitting across from me, in my office in the Assessment Department, he stated he may need additional funds but was going to attempt to collect it from other groups.

Nothing more was stated until on or about September 15th, he called me from his cell phone to my county's desk phone (360) 867-2230 (where I was sitting at the time). Again, he made the same mantra of he may need additional funds but would look elsewhere. At this point, I was so disgusted with working for him on several levels, I submitted my resignation on September 19th, and left the office never to return!

I am unsure if Mr. Drew is allowed to solicit funds from exempt employees. Naturally, you may wonder why did I give him the funds? The answer is, it felt like a "shakedown". While it was not an excessive amount of money, I just considered it a form of required "tribute" to a political boss system. Additionally, I felt I had to acquiesce to this demand to either keep my job or at least keep harassment to a minimum. I know of one individual who refused to pay this tribute, and according to this individual, Mr. Drew escalated his harassment.

I am completely disgusted by these demands and his other behavior. Since my employment, together with my fellow merit employees in the Thurston County Assessor's Office, we have been a constant leader in performance measurements, as compared to other counties in the state. It has always been my goal to be a state leader in Assessment quality, and a review of my results in this state as well as other states proves I have always achieved this outcome. To me, when I arrived, the Thurston County Assessor's Office would have been considered mediocre at best. One would think a normal, rational politician would be happy with these measurable results, but his behavior indicates either a lack of understanding of our industry, a lack of character or some sort of personality disorder.

Perhaps this is speculation on my part, it would appear that to Mr. Drew, the payment of these shakedowns is proof of loyalty to him, and/or even an endorsement of his candidacy. If he portrays this to be the case, it would be a bald-faced lie.

Respectfully
(Mike Brooks)

For clarity's sake, again, I am making no judgments as to any lack of character or personality disorders that Stephen Drew may or may not manifest or possess at this time. I am merely accurately repeating the copied statement above made by the employee who experienced Steven Drew's law breaking.

When I followed up with this employee, after discussing the matter with him further, it appears, unfortunately, that this is just the tip of the iceberg, with a pattern of behavior that has transpired at the Thurston County Assessors' office over many years and campaign cycles.

Obviously, due to statute of limitations, PDC staff can't enforce the violations committed by Thurston County Assessor Steven Drew immediately after his last PDC fine and investigation, but the recent violations are certainly enough to investigate and pursue.

It is particularly egregious; I believe, to abuse a power position of trust and use threats (implied or explicit) to extort and extract cash from employees who work for you. I hope the PDC takes this case seriously and based on past experience with investigations into Steven Drew's behavior, that the PDC recognize once this

complaint is public it appears almost certain that Steven Drew will attempt to contact other current and past employees in an effort to suppress or modify their testimony.

2) Misuse of public resources for personal gain and to assist in personal political campaign (Violation of RCW 42.17A.555)

This is another campaign finance law that Thurston County Assessor Steven Drew has violated in the past (See **PDC Enforcement Case #13-014**). The continuing pattern of behavior has not changed substantially. Based on the witness statement detailed in the previous allegation, it appears that Steven Drew was willing to use Thurston County government resources to solicit funds from employees as well as to make a rare appearance on county property to pick up checks coerced from his employees. Additionally calling his employees on their work phones during working hours to discuss how they will fund his political campaigns is a serious misuse of public resources to assist a political campaign.

Steven Drew has violated the law in this manner before, and based on employee testimony, it appears he continues to do so now.

However, the violations appear to have escalated in 2022 with a recent misuse of public resources to convert a regular property assessment value change card mailed to property owners by the Thurston County Assessor's office every year into a thinly disguised piece of carefully timed political self-promotion. This upgraded document, instead of being the traditional 3x5 postcard used over the past few decades was turned into a much more expensive full color mailer which included an extensive "PSA" style three paragraph statement from Steven Drew with about the same self-promotion as his personal statement in the Washington State Voter's Guide. I have attached a sample copy of this for reference. Reportedly, this exceeded the original budget for the property mailer by over \$25,000 because it had never been done before, and it was timed to be mailed to have maximum impact on the election cycle. This appears to be a clear violation of RCW 42.17A.555 once again by Steven Drew who appears to view not just the employees of the Thurston County Assessor's office as his personal campaign piggy bank, but also the taxpayer funds provided so generously to support the office he claims to represent.

3) Misuse of Public Service Announcements to promote political campaign during an election year. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.575 see WAC 390-05-525)

As referenced in the above details associated with Steven Drew's violation of RCW 42.17A.555, it appears that the expensive, unprecedented mailer distributed by the Thurston County Assessor's office on the taxpayer's dime was also an explicit violation of RCW 42.17A.575 specifically. To the best of my knowledge this is the first time Steven Drew has openly violated this specific statute, but I could be wrong about this assumption. It might be possible he has violated this and many other laws before. However, at least this violation was not a repeat of **PDC Enforcement Case #13-014**.

This is not a common violation I have found in the past, but it is also a blatant violation. I wish to point out that even if this new expensive method of communicating Property Value Change Notices to the hundreds of thousands of property owners in Thurston County is to become the standard method in the future by the Thurston County Assessor's office, the time to do this is during a non-campaign year. It does appear this mailer would fall under the definition of a PSA (**see WAC 390-05-525**), but it was a clear violation of this statute to abuse the taxpayer funds in this manner at this time. This was a simple law to avoid violating, and it took willful effort and total disregard for the law to do so. This is particularly true in light of the other avoidable and repeated violations of statute committed by Steven Drew in this case.

Most complaints I have found in past enforcement cases on this matter have involved school districts and some port district complaints regarding their PSA announcements at Sea Tac Airport, for example. A key part of the fact pattern involves if there was something unusual about a PSA during THIS campaign season compared to regular PSAs used in the course of regular business the rest of the time. The classic case is a

school district not sending anything to parents or voters in their district until suddenly campaign season for the upcoming M&O levy is upon them and they suddenly start expending large sums of public dollars to send "PSAs" to local voters.

A pattern of lawbreaking and misuse of elitism and political connections

Most of us believe the law should be applied equally to everyone in every case. This may be a naïve expectation, but it is one worth aspiring to in most cases, even in cases like this before the Public Disclosure Commission. Steven Drew and his wife, Kathleen Drew view themselves as political insiders who can't be touched. They have been appointed to various boards and positions in recent years. Steven Drew was appointed by Inslee to the SPSCC board by Governor Inslee. It appears this belief that he is a political insider with elite connections to the highest political positions in the state would exempt him from following the same laws that the rest of us peons are expected to follow rigorously.

I urge the PDC staff and board to not allow themselves to be intimidated by political connections, threats, or other forms of intimidation just like the Thurston County Assessor's staff appear to be suffering under for many years now. The purpose of the PDC is to enforce the law equally, and to not allow political elites to capture the process to ensure the law does not apply to them.

There is a pattern of behavior documented in this case that will not change without significant consequences to the people who continue to flagrantly violate it when they believe they can escape any significant consequences. **Clearly, the previous \$300 fine in PDC Enforcement Case #13-014 was not taken seriously, and the identical (and now additional) violations continued, apparently without pause.** No public employees should be subject to this type of mental abuse or extortion for campaign cash by a sitting elected official who has the power to abuse, harass or threaten them. Even in Washington State, this should not be acceptable behavior for anyone.

Please feel free to contact me for the personal phone number of the primary whistleblower in this matter, and I can probably provide you with additional contact information for other witnesses in this matter.

Best Regards,
Glen Morgan

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

The public has a right to know if elected officials like Steven Drew are abusing their position of privilege and power to abuse staff and illegally extort or solicit campaign cash for their own political purposes. The public has a right to know if an elected official is misusing public resources illegally for personal or political gain. The public has a right to know how weird some of these lawbreakers really are.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

I have quoted in its entirety one employee's statement. Others are likely to follow. I have attached background documents related to the previous time Steven Drew was caught breaking most of these same laws, and I have also attached a few photos of the recent PSA which I believe solidifies the evidence of this violation. I have also clearly referenced the relevant statutes in this complaint, although it is very possible additional violations have been committed by Steven Drew, but which may only become public after the investigation is completed

List of potential witnesses

In addition to the employee I quoted in the complaint, there appear to be many other current and former employees who need to be interviewed. Unfortunately, due to the pattern of abuse and harassment, it is possible not every employee will want to speak to PDC staff about their experiences, but enough should be willing to come forward to establish the clear pattern of lawbreaking and abuse. It is also likely PDS staff may wish to review the financial records of the Assessor's office to verify the actual amount of misuse of public funds in regards to the campaign piece (presented as a PSA).

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.

FOR Taxes Due in	2021	2022	2023
Senior Citizen/Disabled Persons Exemption Frozen Value:			

Message from Assessor Steven J. Drew

Like me, I expect many of you are concerned about the increased cost of living and more specifically about the rapid rise in your property's value over the past few years. For the second year in a row median residential property values here have increased in excess of 20%. Over this period, pressure from more urban counties to our north have been a primary influence. Our values accurately reflect changes in the real estate market between 01/01/2021 and 01/01/2022.

For some, an increased value of their property is welcomed and for others this produces concern about how it will affect their next tax bill. We have learned that much of this concern results from the erroneous belief that one's tax burden will rise in direct proportion to any rise in property value. In the state of Washington however, all property taxes are budget based. This means that each taxing district (schools, cities, fire departments, the County, and others) decide how much money to levy or budget each year for their regular levies, voter approved levies or both. Regular levies are limited to a 1% increase each year without a vote of the people. Other limitations also apply and once these budgets are adopted, the tax to be collected for each district is divided by the total assessed value within the district times 1000 = the levy rate. This levy rate multiplied by your assessed value divided by 1000 determines the tax you owe. What this means is that if all the properties in your tax districts increase or decrease by 20%, the effect on your tax bill will be somewhere below 5%. So, unless you have expanded your improved property the vast majority of changes in your tax bill result from the budgets approved by tax districts and from voter approved bonds and levies.

Our professional staff and appraisal methodology are highly regarded for the quality and equity of the assessed values we produce every year. Still, we embrace the appeals process and direct dialogue with property owners concerned about their value. Eleven years ago, I requested the County commission increase the appeal period from 30 to 60 days, so we have more time for this dialogue. So, if after reading this notice you remain concerned about your assessed value, we recommend that you review the characteristics we reflect for your property which is available on the Assessor website. If you find an error, contact our office to have it corrected. Review the cost valuation report we have prepared for your property and review the sales we used to determine your assessed/market value. If you still have a concern, contact our office for a review well before the appeal deadline. Then, if your concern has not been resolved file an appeal with the Board of Equalization (see reverse of page).

OUR CURRENT OFFICE

2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502-6045
Monday—Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm
OFFICE (360) 867-2200 FAX (360) 867-2201 TTY: 7-1-1
 or 1-800-833-6388
valuenquiry@co.thurston.wa.us

County offices, including the Assessor are moving this November.

OUR NEW ADDRESS WILL BE
 3000 Pacific Ave SE
 Olympia, WA 98501

**SCAN
ME**



State law requires that we conduct physical inspections of real property throughout the County at least once every six years. Each year our dedicated staff must inspect thousands of properties in order to update property characteristics and to assure all property values are fair and equitable. The 22/23 inspection area is identified as Region 4. This area generally includes the City of Tumwater and its Urban Growth Area, as well as the City of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area to the west and north of Interstate 5 and Highway 101.

To conduct these inspections, we will visit your property in a clearly marked white County vehicle with a yellow light bar. Staff will be wearing one of the uniforms and their County photo ID as depicted in the photo. We will knock on your door to introduce ourselves and then proceed to conduct the inspection. We will measure and photograph the exterior of structures including buildings and decks as required. After the inspection some time is required to enter and update your property characteristics; you may see staff working in the vehicle. Our staff will always be kind and respectful and we request that you show them the same courtesy as they carry out their required duties.



MARKET
SALES

USED IN



MASS APPRAISAL
PROCESS

TO DETERMINE



VALUE

USED TO



TAXES
PAYABLE

SENIOR AND DISABLED EXEMPTION PROGRAMS

Property Owners meeting the following three requirements may be eligible for a property tax exemption:

1. Age or Disability (Must meet at least one of the following)
 - 61 years or older
 - Disabled and unable to pursue gainful employment
 - Veteran with an 80% or greater Service Connected Disability Rating
2. Own and occupy the property more than 6 months of the calendar year
3. Total household income of \$48,566 or less

To Apply bring the following items to the Thurston County Assessor's Office:

- Complete Federal Income Tax Return with all Schedules and Attachments, including Social Security 1099, other 1099s, W-2, etc.
- Washington ID or Driver's License
- Proof of any allowable deductions (Receipts, EOB, Etc.)
- Proof of disability, if applicable
- Any other income document

New for 2022 Tax Year: The Legislature expanded deductions when calculating income for the exemption program. Common additional deductions include — Medicare supplemental insurance premiums, long term care insurance premiums, cost-sharing amounts (co-pays, amount paid toward deductible, etc.), out of pocket expenses for prosthetic devices & mobility enhancing equipment. If you are currently enrolled in the exemption program as a Level B or C you may qualify for additional relief. Contact our office or see our website for details.

OTHER EXEMPTION PROGRAMS

Residential Remodel Exemption: Substantial remodels or additions may qualify for a three-year property tax exemption. Applications must be received before work is completed.

Destroyed Property: If all or a portion of your property has been destroyed, you may qualify for a reduction of value or refund of taxes.

Improvement to Historic Building: Improvement made to a historic property may qualify for a ten-year exemption. The cost of rehabilitation must be greater than 25% of the assessed value of the structure prior to rehabilitation.

Land Use Programs: Land used for commercial farming, preservation of open spaces or growing forest products may qualify for assessment based on the land's current use rather than its market value.

Senior Citizen or Low Income Property Tax Deferral Programs: The State pays the deferred tax amount on behalf of the qualifying individual. That amount, plus interest, becomes a lien on the property until repaid.

For additional information on any exemption, deferral, or current use program please visit our website or call the office.

Consider contacting our office through valueinquiry@co.thurston.wa.us or 360-867-2200 prior to beginning the appeal process.

If you decide to file an appeal, you must do so before the appeal deadline **10/18/2022**

To file with the Board of Equalization call 360-786-5135 or email Ruth Elder at ruth.elder@co.thurston.wa.us

The Board of Equalization is independent from the Thurston County Assessor's Office.

Visit their website at www.thurstoncountywa.gov/boe

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OUR NEW ADDRESS WILL BE
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SCAN
ME





STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In RE COMPLIANCE WITH
RCW 42.17A

Steven Drew

Respondent.

PDC Case No. 13-014

Report of Investigation

I.
Background

- 1.1 Steven Drew is the elected Thurston County Assessor.
- 1.2 Following a management meeting held by Mr. Drew in the Thurston County Assessor's Office, a Thurston County Assessor employee became concerned about a statement made by Mr. Drew during the meeting and later expressed the concern to the Thurston County Human Resources Department. As a result, on August 30, 2012, the Director of Human Resources filed a complaint with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against Steven Drew, Thurston County Assessor, alleging that Mr. Drew improperly solicited campaign contributions from county employees and used county facilities to do so.

II.
Allegations

- 2.1 The complaint alleged that Steven Drew, Thurston County Assessor, violated; (1) RCW 42.17A.565, by soliciting contributions to the Sandra Romero campaign for Thurston County Commissioner from management employees of the Assessor's Office; and (2) RCW 42.17A.555, by using the facilities of the Assessor's office to make the solicitation.¹
- 2.2 The complaint was based on a meeting Mr. Drew held at work with four of his Assessor's Office subordinates in which he is alleged to have mentioned contributing to Sandra Romero's campaign. The complaint alleges that during a February 9, 2012, meeting, Mr. Drew urged the four Thurston County Assessor's Office staff and members of his management team "...to donate money to Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero's re-election campaign fund."

¹ The complaint alleged an additional violation of RCW 42.17A.555 for which staff determined there was insufficient information provided to warrant an investigation. That allegation is therefore not addressed in this report.

III. Findings

- 3.1 Mr. Drew served as a Board member for Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation, a state agency from 2007 to 2010, prior to being elected Thurston County Assessor. He also ran as a candidate for the Issaquah City Council in 1999 and 2001.
- 3.2 On November 5, 2012, Stephen Drew submitted a four-page response to the complaint along with a cover letter from Roselyn Marcus, Attorney at Law (**Exhibit 1**). The response stated that Mr. Drew did not urge his staff to donate to a political campaign, and went on to state that *"to urge is to advocate, demand earnestly or pressingly."*
- 3.3 Mr. Drew's response stated that the Thurston County Assessor's management meeting on the day at issue ended on time, and he was going to attend a fundraiser for Commissioner Sandra Romero. According to Mr. Drew's response to the complaint, Mr. Drew remarked as he was leaving the meeting *"...that it was good to support our commissioners as they approve the office budget..."*

Mr. Drew's response stated that he did not solicit a contribution to any candidate at the meeting, including Sandra Romero, but that he did make *"an offhand remark that was both unfortunate and ill advised... but was not in violation of law."*

- 3.4 Mr. Drew's attorney stated, *"This remark was not planned nor intended to solicit campaign donations. He never specifically requested that any of the managers contribute monetarily to Commissioner Romero's campaign..."*
- 3.5 PDC staff reviewed the Monetary Contributions reports (C-3 report) filed by the 2012 Sandra Romero campaign for County Commissioner, and found that Mr. Drew was disclosed as a contributor on a C-3 report. The C-3 report listed Mr. Drew as having made a \$100 monetary contribution received on January 25, 2012, by the Sandra Romero Campaign at a campaign fundraiser. In addition, Mr. Drew made three contributions totaling \$51.58 to the 2008 Sandra Romero campaign: one \$25 monetary contribution and two small in-kind contributions for food for a fundraiser and gasoline to distribute Sandra Romero campaign yard signs.
- 3.6 In April 2013, PDC staff conducted interviews under oath of the four attendees at the February 9, 2012, Thurston County Assessor's Office management meeting. The employees in attendance were all subordinates of Mr. Drew, and part of his management team. All four individuals were provided a copy of the complaint prior to their respective interviews, and each was provided a printout of a PDC contributor database query listing the contributions that each had made since 2010.

Witness 1:

- 3.7 After reading the allegations in the complaint, Witness 1 recalled the statement made by Mr. Drew at the February 9, 2012 management meeting as something to the effect of:

“...at budget time, Ms. Romero might weigh in on our budget request if people from the office or the management team were to contribute to her campaign...”

- 3.8 The witness said the statement made by Mr. Drew was very brief and at the end of the management meeting. He said he thought it was an odd statement, but not a coercive statement. He stated it never dawned on him that Mr. Drew’s statement might be illegal, and at the time, he did not even give the statement a second thought. He stated the overwhelming majority of the meeting information and discussions was focused on Assessor-related issues and business.
- 3.9 The witness could not recall whether Mr. Drew mentioned he was on his way to a fundraiser for Sandra Romero. He said he remembered there being a lot of candidate fundraisers at that time during 2012, and said it was possible Mr. Drew may have been on his way to a fundraiser.
- 3.10 The witness said Mr. Drew never specifically asked him to write a check to Ms. Romero, and said he did not contribute to her campaign. He stated he never felt pressure or coercion from Mr. Drew to contribute to Ms. Romero or any other candidate.
- 3.11 PDC staff made a query of the PDC contributor database and found that Witness 1 made three monetary contributions between 2010 and 2012, but none of them were contributions to Sandra Romero.

Witness 2:

- 3.12 Witness 2 confirmed he was in attendance at the February 2012 management meeting when Mr. Drew made the alleged solicitation, but said he did not remember a lot of details about the meeting.
- 3.13 The witness stated that very near the end of the meeting, Mr. Drew commented that he was on his way to a fundraiser. The witness thought Mr. Drew said the fundraiser was for Sandra Romero, and that he said something like, ***“It would be nice if you contributed to her campaign.”*** He stated he did not consider the statement to be a solicitation for a contribution to Ms. Romero’s campaign, and said he did not feel any pressure or coercion to contribute to her campaign. He noted that prior to the management meeting, both he and his spouse had already decided to support Sandra Romero’s Thurston County Commissioner campaign, and said they were waiting for an event to make a contribution to her campaign.
- 3.14 The witness stated his decision to contribute to the Sandra Romero campaign was not influenced by Mr. Drew’s statement. He said he made the decision to contribute on his own and that he is his “own person.” The witness said he did not recall Mr. Drew discussing contributing to any other candidate, including Kathleen Drew.

- 3.15 Witness 2 recalled that Mr. Drew later apologized to him personally about making the statement about Ms. Romero, but could not remember the date of the apology. He said Mr. Drew made the apology privately, and not during a management meeting. He stated that he thought Mr. Drew apologized to him about a month after the February 2012 Assessor management meeting at which the initial comment took place. He confirmed Mr. Drew apologized before the complaint was filed against him with the PDC.

Witness 3:

- 3.16 Witness 3 was in attendance at the February 9, 2012 meeting when Mr. Drew stated something like ***"...there are elections going on....county officials are involved in those elections...those county officials make our budget.... if you could consider making a contribution it could help us out..."*** The witness stated she felt there was no pressure or coercion to contribute to a specific candidate, or to make a contribution to the Sandra Romero Campaign.
- 3.17 The witness said she did not think Mr. Drew made a statement at the meeting about leaving to attend a Sandra Romero fundraiser, but she knew from other sources that he was going to be attending the fundraiser.
- 3.18 The witness stated that it was a one-time statement by Mr. Drew, and that she could not recall him making any similar statements concerning any candidates, including his spouse's 2012 campaign. She did not discuss the statement with him at that time, and he did not mention it again or apologize for making the statement.
- 3.19 The witness stated she felt the statement by Mr. Drew was inappropriate and that she was upset about it. She stated she met with one of the other managers who had attended the meeting to discuss the issue and she stated that if Mr. Drew made a similar statement about any candidate again, they would mention it to him. She stated that if Mr. Drew was going to make a mistake as an official, it was better that he made it in front of his management team.
- 3.20 Witness 3 confirmed that she had made monetary contributions to Mr. Drew's Assessor's campaign in 2010, and that she also made monetary contributions to Kathleen Drew's campaign for Secretary of State in 2012. The witness stated she made contributions to Kathleen Drew's campaign on her own based on previous experience with Ms. Drew and not due to any pressure or solicitation by Mr. Drew. She stated Mr. Drew did not mention his wife's campaign or solicit contributions on her behalf, and that Mr. Drew was careful to not mention his spouse's campaign while at work.

Witness 4:

- 3.21 Witness 4 stated that at the end of the meeting at issue, Mr. Drew made a statement that he did not want anyone in attendance to feel any pressure, and went on to state something to the effect that ***"...Sandra Romero allowed Mr. Drew to hire employees during a hiring freeze, and it would be good for managers to contribute to her campaign."***

- 3.22 Witness 4 stated she did not understand what Mr. Drew was talking about and told him she did not understand what he meant, and he commented something to the effect ***“...that it would be nice to contribute to her campaign and that a small amount would be okay...maybe \$20 or more...but I want you to remember that she does keep score...I will not look to see how much you give...”*** She stated that Mr. Drew also said something directed at her like ***“... you are exempt since you were in your position before I got here...but [another witness] and I chose to be career politicians so it is different for us...”***
- 3.23 Witness 4 stated that Mr. Drew continued on, stating “...I am living paycheck to paycheck...I have a candidate in my family that is running for office...and I just wrote a check for \$2,800 to Kathleen’s campaign...” The witness said she did not know at the time whether the statements made by Mr. Drew were illegal, but that she started keeping a journal prior to the meeting, and she had notes concerning the meeting.
- 3.24 The witness stated that after the February 9, 2012 meeting, Mr. Drew did not discuss or mention the Sandra Romero campaign or making contributions to her campaign again. She confirmed that Mr. Drew did not solicit contributions for his spouse’s campaign, or any other campaign, and did not mention or discuss any candidates, including his spouse, while she was present and in the office. She confirmed Mr. Drew did not mention or discuss with her the fact that she had contributed to Kim Wyman’s campaign or to the Rob McKenna Campaign for Governor.

IV. **Scope**

4.1 During the investigation, PDC staff:

- Reviewed the complaint filed against Steven Drew by Diana Townsend.
- Reviewed the November 5, 2012, response letter from Roselyn Marcus, a local attorney representing Mr. Drew.
- Conducted interviews under oath at the PDC office with the four Assessor’s Office employees present at the meeting at issue.

V. **Laws and Rules**

RCW 42.17A.565 states:

“(1) No state or local official or state or local official's agent may knowingly solicit, directly or indirectly, a contribution to a candidate for public office, political party, or political committee from an employee in the state or local official's agency.

(2) No state or local official or public employee may provide an advantage or disadvantage to an employee or applicant for employment in the classified civil service concerning the applicant's or employee's:

- (a) Employment;
- (b) Conditions of employment; or
- (c) Application for employment,

based on the employee's or applicant's contribution or promise to contribute or failure to make a contribution or contribute to a political party or political committee.”

RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits elected officials, their employees, and persons appointed to or employed by a public office or agency from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a candidate's campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any ballot proposition. This prohibition does not apply to activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of June, 2013.



Kurt Young
PDC Compliance Officer

List of Exhibits

Exhibit 1 Response to complaint submitted on behalf of Steven Drew by Roselyn Marcus

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2012

Certification for a **Public Disclosure Commission**
Complaint to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission Relating to an
Elected Official or Candidate for Public Office
(Notary Not Required)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the facts set forth in this attached complaint are true and correct.

Your signature: *Tania Townsend, Human Resources Director*

Your printed name: Thurston County Human Resources

Street address: 2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW

City, state and zip code: Olympia, WA 98502

Telephone number: (360) 786-5498

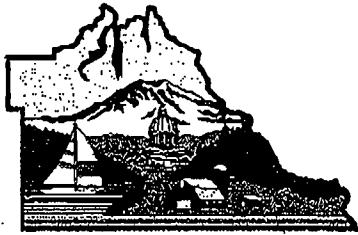
E-Mail Address: (Optional) _____

Date Signed: *August 30, 2012*

Place Signed (City and County): Olympia Washington
City County

*RCW 9A.72.040 provides that: "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement, which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."

COMPLAINT ATTACHED



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2012
Public Disclosure Commission

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cathy Wolfe
District One

Sandra Romero
District Two

Karen Valenzuela
District Three

HUMAN RESOURCES

Diana Townsend, Director

August 30, 2012

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
P.O. Box 40908
Olympia, Washington 98504-0908

Dear Public Disclosure Commission:

I am writing to bring to your attention potential violations of chapter 42.17A RCW in accordance with WAC 390-37-020, which states that a violation may be brought to the attention of the Public Disclosure Commission by a local agency.

On August 6 and 24, 2012, the following information was reported to Human Resources:

It was reported that Steven Drew, Thurston County Assessor, urged four members of his management team to donate money to Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero's re-election campaign fund. This solicitation for campaign funds occurred on February 9, 2012, during a meeting that Mr. Drew held with his managers in the Thurston County Assessor's Office. Attending the meeting, in addition to the Assessor, were Chief Deputy Assessor Gene Widmer, Division Managers Lynn Richard and Jeff Gadman, and Executive Assistant Nadine Sordahl. Two employees confirmed that they attended that February 9 manager's meeting and that Mr. Drew, at the close of the meeting, urged the employees in attendance to contribute funds to Commissioner Romero's campaign.

On a separate occasion, date uncertain but within the last year, Mr. Drew requested that his employee, Lynn Richard, investigate an inquiry from a vendor claiming that the Auditor's Office was not collecting certain recording fees and provide him with information that could be used against Kim Wyman, the current Thurston County Auditor, who is running for office (Washington State Secretary of State). According to Ms. Richard, Mr. Drew told her words to the effect of, "For full disclosure, I don't need

Public Disclosure Commission
August 30, 2012
Page 2

AUG 30 2012

Public Disclosure Commission

this information in my capacity as Assessor, but the information would be helpful for my wife." Mr. Drew's wife is also running for the position of Washington State Secretary of State.

I believe the above violates the following:

1. RCW 42.17A.565, which prohibits solicitation of contributions by a public official from an employee in the official's agency.
2. RCW 42.17A.555, which prohibits an elective official from using a public office for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election.

Assessor Drew's contact information is as follows:

Assessor's Office
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Building 1, Room 127
Olympia, Washington 98502
(360) 867-2202

I would be glad to provide you contact information for individuals known to my office who may have knowledge of the facts regarding these matters. Because these matters concern Mr. Drew's interactions with his employees, to the extent possible, the employees' identities should be maintained as confidentially as possible.

Respectfully,



Diana Townsend, Director
Human Resources Department



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX
(360) 753-1112 • Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

August 16, 2013

Roselyn Marcus, on behalf of Steven Drew
2846 Benjamin Court SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Subject: PDC Case No. 13-014

Dear Ms. Marcus:

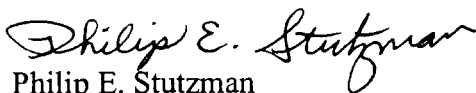
Enclosed is a copy of the Public Disclosure Commission's Order Imposing Fine that was entered in the above-referenced case.

The Presiding Officer assessed a civil penalty of \$300 against Mr. Drew, with the entire \$300 suspended on the condition the Respondent is not found to have committed any further violations of RCW 42.17A for the remainder of his term of office, which is through December 31, 2014.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation during the Brief Enforcement hearing process.

If you have questions, please contact Kurt Young at (360) 664-8854; toll free at (877) 601-2828 or by email at kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,


Philip E. Stutzman
Director of Compliance

Enclosures: (1) Order Imposing Fine; (2) Stipulation



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Steven Drew
Attn: Roselyn Marcus
2846 Benjamin Court SE
Olympia, WA 98501

In Re Compliance with RCW 42.17A

Steven Drew

Respondent.

PDC Case No. 13-014

Findings of Fact,
Conclusions of Law, and
Order Imposing Fine

A brief enforcement hearing (brief adjudicative proceeding) was held August 1, 2013, in Room 206, Evergreen Plaza Building, 711 Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington to consider administrative charges in this case. The administrative charges concerned a complaint alleging that Steven Drew, Thurston County Assessor, violated: (1) RCW 42.17A.565 by knowingly soliciting contributions to a candidate for public office from four subordinate employees of the Thurston County Assessor's Office; and (2) RCW 42.17A.555 by using facilities of the Thurston County Assessor's Office to make the solicitation.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17A RCW and Chapter 390-37 WAC. Commission Chair Amit Ranade was the Presiding Officer. The Commission staff was represented by Phil Stutzman, Director of Compliance. Ms. Marcus, the Respondent's legal counsel, participated at the hearing in-person on the Respondent's behalf. The hearing was open to the public and recorded.

A brief enforcement hearing notice concerning the administrative charges was sent to the Respondent through his legal counsel, Roselyn Marcus, on June 17, 2013, for a Brief Enforcement Hearing scheduled for June 27, 2013. On June 27, 2013, the Presiding Officer continued the hearing to August 1, 2013.

The Presiding Officer was provided with a Notice of Administrative Charges dated June 17, 2013; a Report of Investigation dated June 17, 2013 (with exhibits); a proposed Stipulation as to Facts and Violation (Stipulation) dated July 31, 2013; and a memo from Mr. Stutzman dated August 1, 2013 stating that staff and the Respondent jointly recommend that the Presiding Officer accept the Stipulation and that a penalty of \$300 be imposed with the entire amount suspended on the condition that the Respondent commit no further violations of RCW 42.17A during the remainder of his term of office, which runs through December 31, 2014.

Mr. Stutzman addressed the Presiding Officer. He summarized the investigation and described the joint recommendation of PDC staff and the Respondent that the Presiding Officer accept the Stipulation and recommended penalty.

The Respondent's legal counsel addressed the Presiding Officer, and asked that the Presiding Officer accept the Stipulation and recommended penalty.

The Presiding Officer accepted the Stipulation. Having considered the evidence and presentations of the parties, the Presiding Officer finds and concludes as follows:

FINDINGS

1. The Jurisdiction, Facts, Violation and Penalty are as provided in the Stipulation, which is hereby attached and incorporated by reference.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above findings, as a matter of law, the Presiding Officer concludes as follows:

1. This matter was duly and properly convened and all jurisdictional, substantive and procedural requirements have been satisfied.
2. As provided in the Stipulation, Respondent Steven Drew stipulates that, on one occasion, he made a statement to four subordinate employees of the Thurston County Assessor's Office in violation of RCW 42.17A.565 and that he violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using facilities of the Thurston County Assessor's Office to make the statements.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing findings and conclusions:

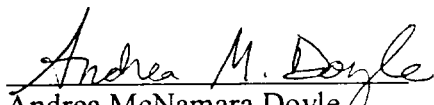
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Stipulation is accepted. The Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of \$300, of which the entire \$300 is suspended on the condition the Respondent is not found to have committed any further violations of RCW 42.17A for the remainder of his term of office, which is through December 31, 2014.

If the Respondent fails to comply with this condition, the suspended portion of the penalty will become immediately due and payable without further action by the Commission.

This is an **Initial Order** of the Public Disclosure Commission.

Entered this 16th day of August, 2013.

Public Disclosure Commission

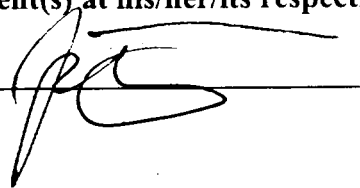

Andrea McNamara Doyle
Executive Director

Attachment: Stipulation dated July 31, 2013

Enclosure: Information about Appeal Rights

I, James Berkey, certify that I mailed a copy of this order to the
Respondent(s) at his/her/its respective address, postage pre-paid, on the date stated herein.

Signed



Date

8/16/2013

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against:

Steven Drew

Respondents.

Case No. 13-014

STIPULATION AS TO FACTS AND
VIOLATION

The parties to this Stipulation, namely, the Public Disclosure Commission Staff, through its Executive Director, Andrea McNamara Doyle, and Respondent Steven Drew, appearing through his attorney, Roselyn Marcus, submit this Stipulation as to Facts and Violation in this matter. The parties agree that the Commission has the authority to accept, reject or modify the terms of this Stipulation. The parties further agree that in the event that the Commission suggests modification to any term of this agreement, each party reserves the right to reject that modification. In the event either party rejects a modification, this matter will proceed to hearing before the Commission.

JURISDICTION

The Public Disclosure Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to RCW 42.17/42.17A, the Public Disclosure Act; RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedure Act; and WAC 390.

FACTS

1. Respondent Steven Drew is the elected Thurston County Assessor. He was elected to office in the November 2, 2010 General Election.
2. Following a February 9, 2012 management meeting held by Mr. Drew in the Thurston County Assessor's Office, a Thurston County Assessor employee became concerned about a statement made by Mr. Drew at the conclusion of the meeting. Approximately six months after the meeting, the employee expressed the concern to the Thurston County Human Resources Department.

3. Witness 1 recalled the statement made by Mr. Drew at the February 9, 2012 management meeting as something to the effect of:

“...at budget time, Ms. Romero might weigh in on our budget request if people from the office or the management team were to contribute to her campaign...”
4. The witness said Mr. Drew never specifically asked him to write a check to Ms. Romero, and said he did not contribute to her campaign. He stated he never felt pressure or coercion from Mr. Drew to contribute to Ms. Romero or any other candidate.
5. Witness 2 confirmed he was in attendance at the February 2012 management meeting when Mr. Drew made the alleged solicitation. The witness stated that very near the end of the meeting, Mr. Drew commented that he was on his way to a fundraiser. The witness thought Mr. Drew said the fundraiser was for Sandra Romero, and that he said something like, ***“It would be nice if you contributed to her campaign.”*** He stated he did not feel any pressure or coercion to contribute to her campaign.
6. Witness 3 was in attendance at the February 9, 2012 meeting when Mr. Drew stated something like ***“...there are elections going on....county officials are involved in those elections...those county officials make our budget.... if you could consider making a contribution it could help us out...”*** The witness stated she felt there was no pressure or coercion to contribute to a specific candidate, or to make a contribution to the Sandra Romero Campaign.
7. Witness 4 stated that at the end of the meeting at issue, Mr. Drew made a statement that he did not want anyone in attendance to feel any pressure, and went on to state something to the effect that ***“...Sandra Romero allowed Mr. Drew to hire employees during a hiring freeze, and it would be good for managers to contribute to her campaign.”***
8. Witness 4 stated she did not understand what Mr. Drew was talking about and told him she did not understand what he meant, and he commented something to the effect

“...that it would be nice to contribute to her campaign and that a small amount would be okay...maybe \$20 or more...but I want you to remember that she does keep score...I will not look to see how much you give...” She stated that Mr. Drew also said something directed at her like *“... you are exempt since you were in your position before I got here...but [another witness] and I chose to be career politicians so it is different for us...”*

9. Respondent Drew has stated that he takes seriously the obligation not to knowingly solicit, directly or indirectly, a contribution to a candidate for public office or to use public resources in any election campaign, and that he did not intentionally violate any such restrictions.
10. Respondent Drew has not previously been found to have violated any provision of RCW 42.17 or 42.17A.

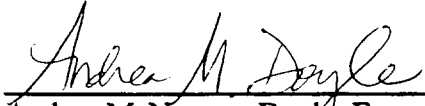
STATUTORY AND RULE AUTHORITY

11. **RCW 42.17A.565** states: “(1) No state or local official or state or local official's agent may knowingly solicit, directly or indirectly, a contribution to a candidate for public office, political party, or political committee from an employee in the state or local official's agency.
(2) No state or local official or public employee may provide an advantage or disadvantage to an employee or applicant for employment in the classified civil service concerning the applicant's or employee's:
 - (a) Employment;
 - (b) Conditions of employment; or
 - (c) Application for employment,based on the employee's or applicant's contribution or promise to contribute or failure to make a contribution or contribute to a political party or political committee.”
12. **RCW 42.17A.555** prohibits elected officials, their employees, and persons appointed to or employed by a public office or agency from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a candidate's campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any ballot proposition. This prohibition does not apply to activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.

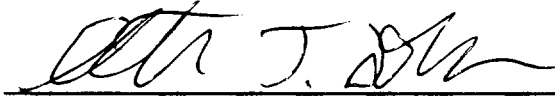
VIOLATION

Based on the Stipulation of Facts set forth above, Respondent Steven Drew stipulates that, on one occasion, he made a statement to four subordinate employees of the Thurston County Assessor's Office in violation of RCW 42.17A.565 and that he violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using facilities of the Thurston County Assessor's Office to make the statements.


Respondent Steven Drew re-affirms his intention to comply in good faith with the provisions of RCW 42.17A in the future.


Andrea McNamara Doyle, Executive Director
Public Disclosure Commission

7/31/2013
Date Signed


Steven Drew, Thurston County Assessor
Respondent

07/30/2013
Date Signed


Roselyn Marcus, Attorney for Respondent

07/30/2013
Date Signed



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against

Steven Drew

Respondent.

PDC Case No. 13-014

Notice of Administrative Charges
(Brief Enforcement Hearing)

I. JURISDICTION

1. The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter 42.17A RCW, the state campaign finance and disclosure laws; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC. These charges incorporate the Report of Investigation and all related exhibits by reference.

II. ALLEGATIONS

2. PDC staff alleges that Steven Drew, Thurston County Assessor, violated RCW 42.17A.565 by knowingly soliciting a contribution to a candidate for public office from four subordinate employees of the Thurston County Assessor's Office; and RCW 42.17A.555 by using facilities of the Thurston County Assessor's Office to make the solicitation.

III. FACTS

3. Steven Drew is the elected Thurston County Assessor.
4. Following a management meeting held by Mr. Drew in the Thurston County Assessor's Office, a Thurston County Assessor employee became concerned about a statement made by Mr. Drew during the meeting and later expressed the concern to the Thurston County Human Resources Department.

Witness 1:

5. Witness 1 recalled the statement made by Mr. Drew at the February 9, 2012 management meeting as something to the effect of:

"...at budget time, Ms. Romero might weigh in on our budget request if people from the office or the management team were to contribute to her campaign..."

Witness 2:

6. Witness 2 stated that very near the end of the February 9, 2012 management meeting, Mr. Drew commented that he was on his way to a fundraiser. The witness thought Mr. Drew said the fundraiser was for Sandra Romero, and that he said something like, *"It would be nice if you contributed to her campaign."*

Witness 3:

7. Witness 3 was in attendance at the February 9, 2012 meeting when Mr. Drew stated something like *"...there are elections going on....county officials are involved in those elections...those county officials make our budget.... if you could consider making a contribution it could help us out..."*

Witness 4:

8. Witness 4 stated that at the end of the meeting at issue, Mr. Drew made a statement that he did not want anyone in attendance to feel any pressure, and went on to state something to the effect that *"...Sandra Romero allowed Mr. Drew to hire employees during a hiring freeze, and it would be good for managers to contribute to her campaign."* And *"...it would be nice to contribute to her campaign and that a small amount would be okay...maybe \$20 or more..."*

IV. LAW

RCW 42.17A.565 states:

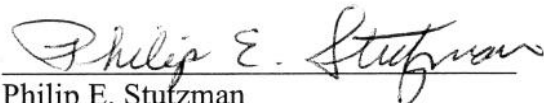
“(1) No state or local official or state or local official's agent may knowingly solicit, directly or indirectly, a contribution to a candidate for public office, political party, or political committee from an employee in the state or local official's agency.
(2) No state or local official or public employee may provide an advantage or disadvantage to an employee or applicant for employment in the classified civil service concerning the applicant's or employee's:

- (a) Employment;
- (b) Conditions of employment; or
- (c) Application for employment,

based on the employee's or applicant's contribution or promise to contribute or failure to make a contribution or contribute to a political party or political committee.”

RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits elected officials, their employees, and persons appointed to or employed by a public office or agency from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a candidate's campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any ballot proposition. This prohibition does not apply to activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 17th day of June, 2013.



Philip E. Stutzman
Director of Compliance