



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re: Compliance with RCW 42.17A	PDC Case 141456
Question PAC,	Findings of Fact,
Respondent.	Conclusions of Law, and
	Order Imposing Fine

Pursuant to the notice of brief enforcement hearing (brief adjudicative proceeding) sent to Question PAC on March 27, 2024, a brief adjudicative proceeding was held on May 2, 2024 remotely from Olympia, WA. The purpose of the hearing was to consider whether Question PAC violated (1) RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 for failure to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports), disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the Campaign as required when registered under the “Full Reporting” option; (2) RCW 42.17A.260 for failure to timely and accurately file Independent Expenditure reports (C-6 reports); (3) RCW 42.17A.265 for failure to timely disclose Last Minute Contributions (LMCs); and (4) WAC 390-16-011A for failure to include the sponsor name of the PAC on a Political Committee Registration Statement (C-1PC report).

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 RCW, 42.17A RCW and Chapter 390-37 WAC. Commissioner Nancy Isserlis was the Presiding Officer, and Commissioner Allen Hayward attended. The Commission staff was represented by Compliance Coordinators Jordan Campbell and Colin Peoples and Compliance Officers Alice Fiman, Jennifer Hansen and Kurt Young. Committee Treasurer Charles Wiegand participated on behalf of the Respondent in the hearing via Microsoft Teams.

Having considered the evidence, the Presiding Officer finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Question PAC has been registered with the PDC as a political action committee since at least 2018, submitting a C-1PC report on June 4, 2018, selecting the “Full Reporting” option and listing Charles E. Wiegand as Campaign Manager and Treasurer.
2. On August 16, 2023, PDC staff received a complaint filed by Glen Morgan alleging that Question PAC had violated (1) RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 for failure to timely and accurately file C-3 reports and C-4 reports, disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the Campaign; and (2) WAC 390-16-011A for failure to include the sponsor’s name on the C-1PC report.
3. On August 19, 2023, PDC staff received a supplemental complaint from Glen Morgan adding alleged violations of: (1) RCW 42.17A.260 for failure to timely and accurately file C-6 reports; and (2) RCW 42.17A.265 for failure to timely disclose LMC’s.
4. The first C-4 report for calendar year 2021 submitted by the Respondent disclosed \$1,734.78 in expenditures occurring during the month of January 2021, with no carry forward balance. The C-4 reports submitted for February, March and April 2021, disclosed expenditures of \$31.38 for each month. The May 2021 C-4 report filed on June 4, 2021, disclosed expenditures of \$219.38, ended with a negative cash on hand balance of -\$2,048.30 and was the last such report submitted by the Respondent to date.
5. Prior to receipt of the complaints, Question PAC submitted a C-4 report covering December 1 to 31, 2020, disclosing an ending balance of \$15,530.82 in total contributions received and \$9,078.58 in total expenditures during calendar year 2020.
6. On November 1, 2019, the Respondent disclosed the receipt of a \$3,000 in-kind contribution from Charles Wiegand made on October 1, 2019. No Last-Minute Contribution (LMCs) reports were submitted.
7. During his testimony, Mr. Wiegand stated that Question PAC had ceased campaign activity related to state and local races in the State of Washington.
8. Mr. Wiegand asserted that the only activity done by Question PAC at the local level were expenditures made in 2019 to support the Spokane County mayoral race.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above facts, 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. Question PAC violated RCW 42.17A.235 & RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to timely and accurately file all C-3 and C-4 reports disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the Campaign as required under the “Full Reporting” option and RCW 42.17A.265 by failing to file Last Minute Contribution reports.

ORDER

ON the basis of the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law,

1. **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent shall file any missing campaign reports and correct any previously filed reports disclosing state or local campaign related activity, within 30 days of this Order and is assessed a total civil penalty of \$300 (\$150 for violation of RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 and \$150 for violation of RCW 42.17A.265), in accordance with the Brief Enforcement penalty schedule set forth in WAC 390-37-143.**
2. **It is further ordered that \$100 of the \$300 penalty is suspended on the following conditions:**
 - a. **The non-suspended portion of the penalty (\$200) is paid by the Respondent within 30 days of the date of this Order.**
 - b. **The Respondent files any missing reports and corrects previously submitted campaign reports within 30 days of this Order.**
3. **It is further ordered that, if the Respondent fails to comply with any of the above conditions:**
 - a. **The full \$300 penalty shall immediately become due without further action by the Commission and PDC Staff is directed to refer the matter to collections and/or commence other legal proceedings as authorized by RCW 42.17A and 390 WAC.**
 - b. **Any missing and corrected campaign reports shall be due immediately.**

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

Entered this 30th of May, 2024.

Public Disclosure Commission

Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

I, Jennifer Hansen, certify that I emailed a copy of this order to the Respondent at their respective email address of record.

Electronically Signed Jennifer Hansen

May 30, 2024

APPEALS OF INITIAL ORDER

REVIEW OF INITIAL ORDER - BY THE COMMISSION

You may request that the full Commission review this initial order. To seek review, you must:

- Make the request by email, stating the reason for review, and identifying what alleged errors are contained in the initial order. *See* WAC 390-37-144(1).
- All requests for review must be submitted electronically to pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov **REQUESTS FOR REVIEW MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION WITHIN TWENTY-ONE (21) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE THIS INITIAL ORDER WAS ELECTRONICALLY DISTRIBUTED TO YOU.**

If review of this initial order is timely requested, the full Commission will hear the matter. If the Commission is unable to schedule a meeting to consider the request within twenty (20) calendar days, this initial order becomes a final order, and any request for review will automatically be considered a request for reconsideration of a final order. *See* WAC 390-37-144(4). The matter would then be scheduled for consideration and disposition at the next Commission meeting at which it is practicable to do so.

A Respondent does not need to pay a penalty until after the Commission rules on a request for review of an initial order.

FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS – SUPERIOR COURT

If the Commission does not receive a request for review of this initial order within twenty-one (21) calendar days, the initial order shall be the FINAL ORDER. *See* WAC 390-37-142(7).

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL A FINAL ORDER TO SUPERIOR COURT, PURSUANT TO THE PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS OF RCW 34.05.542.