



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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May 22, 2024

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint against Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee, PDC Case 149725

Dear Glen Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review and assessment of the complaint you filed on Feb. 26, 2024. The complaint alleged the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee, a political committee, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately disclose expenditures and contributions on reports.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee; the applicable PDC reports filed by the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee; and other relevant information, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On Oct. 3, 2023, the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee registered the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee Exempt account, filing under full reporting.
- As noted in the complaint, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) reported contributing \$1,955 to the Cowlitz County Democrat Central Committee on August 23, 2023.
- In response to the complaint, Rosemary Brinson Siipola, Chair Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee, provided a copy of the Oct. 3, 2023 registration and a Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions (C-3) report filed with the PDC on Oct. 5, 2023 listing the \$1,955 contribution from the WSDCC received on Sept. 19, 2023 and deposited on Oct. 5, 2023.
- RCW 42.17A.235 describes the required filing deadlines for disclosure of campaign finance activities including monetary contributions, including the requirement a committee deposit all contributions within five business days of receipt and also file a report on the 10th day of the month if contributions of \$200 or more are received in the prior month. Per RCW 42.17A.235, the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee was required to deposit the \$1,955 contribution before or on September 26, 2023.
- The donation from the WSDCC to the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee was deposited nine days late.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the failure to timely deposit the contribution does not amount to a violation that calls for further investigation.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, the Cowlitz County Democratic Central Committee will receive a formal written warning concerning the requirement under RCW 42.17A.235. Staff expects the committee, moving forward, to timely deposit contributions and file all required reports. If violations of PDC laws or rules occur in the future, the Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action necessary and has dismissed this matter per RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at fdc@fdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s/ Electronically signed

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

/s/ Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director