



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

December 21, 2018

Delivered electronically to "sjf13@comcast.net"

Subject: PDC Case 12574

Dear Steven Fields:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Sherri Nichols concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted below to Sherri Nichols, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of timely filing a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) in future elections, even when making a public declaration of candidacy that is conditioned on a future occurrence. A F-1 report is required within two weeks of becoming a candidate. PDC staff expects that you will timely file an F-1 report in future years in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at (360) 586-8929, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s _____
Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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December 21, 2018

Delivered electronically to "snichols@live.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Steven Fields, PDC Case 12574

Dear Sherri Nichols:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on January 19, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Steven Fields may have violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) within two weeks of declaring candidacy.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements, and the response provided by Steven Fields to determine whether your allegations support a finding of one or more violations. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- The definition of a "candidate" set forth under RCW 42.17A.005(9)(b) is triggered the first time an individual engages in certain activities including, but not limited to, making a public announcement or filing for office. Per WAC 390-05-200(2), an individual becomes a candidate upon making "a public declaration of candidacy," even if the decision is conditional/based on a future occurrence. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, candidates are required to submit an F-1 report to the PDC within two weeks of declaring candidacy.
- Steven Fields ("Respondent") was featured in a December 20, 2016 news article, which stated "Steve Fields will run for one of two City Council positions that will be open next year." The Respondent was not directly quoted in the news article.
- The Respondent stated that the 12/20/16 news article was inaccurate and that he had not made a final decision to run when asked by the newspaper. Mr. Fields added that he had since decided to become a candidate with the intention of filing in May of 2017.
- Respondent paid his candidate registration fee on May 18, 2017 and filed a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) with the PDC on June 1, 2017.
- Respondent did not receive contributions, make expenditures or incur debts (other than the candidate filing fee) between 1/3/17 and 6/1/17, the period before the F-1 report was filed. Subsequently, the public was not deprived of critical information.
- The Respondent does not have any warnings or prior violations with the PDC.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, the Respondent's failure to file an F-1 report within two weeks making a public declaration of candidacy does not appear to be an actual violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Steven Fields about the importance of timely filing the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) in future elections, even when making a public declaration that is conditioned upon a future occurrence.

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 Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-586-8929, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s _____
Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Steven Fields