



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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

January 30, 2017

Campaign@electtopper.com

Subject: PDC case 9384

Dear Ms. Cowen:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on October 28, 2016. Your complaint alleged that Washington Education Association (WEA) violated RCW 42.17A.335 by claiming the false incumbency of Monica Stonier, a candidate for the 49th LD, in a political advertisement.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, and as a result of staff's initial review, we found the following:

- Ms. Stonier previously served as a Representative from the 17th LD.
- The advertisements were distributed only to WEA members through targeted Facebook posts.
- WEA has no previous violations of PDC laws and rules.

Based on these initial findings, I have determined WEA's use of the phrase "re-elect" on a political advertisement featuring Monica Stonier does not constitute actual malice under these circumstances. The PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Jacob Berkey, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at Jacob.berkey@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jacob Berkey
PDC Compliance

Endorsed by,

Evelyn Fielding Lopez
Executive Director

cc: WEA