

RE: PDC - Ross, Charles - Alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.555 for use of public facilities to support a political campaign.

Charles Ross reported 3 days ago (Tue, 9 Aug at 1:59 PM) via Email
To: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Response to PDC Complaint #7428 by Candidate Eric Geary

As to RCW 42.17A.555

Candidate Mike Leita submitted his statement via email within the required deadline and later that same day Leita was in the Auditor's office and asked if Auditor Ross could use the photo we had on file of him for the Yakima County Online Voter Guide. Leita was told yes, historically this office has considered these verbal requests as formal submissions and allowed previously submitted campaign photos to be used again. Auditor Ross forgot to instruct staff to upload the photo. His error was not noticed until July when Auditor Ross was reviewing how to use the online guide over the phone with a reporter from the Yakima Herald Republic and noticed no photo was available for Leita. At the conclusion of that call Auditor Ross informed the election manager of his error and she instructed staff to upload the photo immediately as per our omission rule states. Point of clarification military ballots had been mailed out in June.

The following is taken directly from the 2016 Candidate and Election Guidebook;

Inadvertent omission of statement

In the event your statement is inadvertently omitted or not posted in its entirety due to an election department error, the County Auditor will immediately post the statement and photo.

As to RCW 29A.32.230

The photo uploaded to the 2016 online guide was the photo we had on file in the election database from the previous campaign that was submitted to our office in 2012. We do not have access to anyone's personal files nor would we search for a photo in any location except our submitted candidate election photo database. We consider date of submission to be date of photo.

My Best,



Charles R. Ross
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This email is subject to disclosure as a public record under the Public Records Act, RCW Chapter 42.56