



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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July 22, 2016

Sent by electronic mail to Kevin Carns "kevin@thereaganfund.org"

Kevin Carns: C/O The Reagan Fund
PO Box 904
Olympia WA 98507

Subject: Complaint filed against David Sawyer, PDC Case 6637

Dear Mr. Carns:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 14, 2016. Your complaint alleged that David Sawyer, an incumbent State Representative in the 29th Legislative District and a candidate seeking re-election to that office in 2016, may have violated RCW 42.17A by soliciting "illegal gifts" from lobbyists and other donors on a GoFundMe website page.

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

- Representative Sawyer was a Bernie Sanders delegate to the 2016 Washington State Democratic Party Caucus. He stated he was invited to attend the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Convention in Philadelphia as a standing committee member for the Bernie Sanders Campaign.
- Representative Sawyer stated the Sanders Campaign informed his delegates and committee members that they could raise money through a GoFundMe website to assist in paying some of the costs to attend the DNC Convention. He stated he was told that the fundraising rules for delegates and committee members were conducted in accordance with federal election laws [11 CFR 110.14(b)(1)], which allows for fundraising to assist individuals in paying for the costs of the trip to the political party national conventions through online solicitations.
- Representative Sawyer stated he was informed by the Sanders Campaign to budget \$5,000 for the total costs of the trip to the DNC Convention, since he would need to be there extra time to work on the standing committee. He stated that he raised more than \$4,000 in donations to pay for the trip through the GoFundMe website in a little more than 24 hours.
- Representative Sawyer stated that he estimated 20 percent of his time at the Convention would benefit his re-election campaign, and included the time he would be spending checking in on his campaign while he was away. He stated he paid for his airline ticket with campaign funds, which represented less than 20 percent of the \$5,000 total budgeted amount.

- Staff reviewed the 21-Day Pre-Primary Campaign Summary Contribution and Expenditure Report (C-4 report) filed by the Friends of David Sawyer on July 13, 2016, which disclosed a \$895 expenditure to Alaska Airlines made on June 21, 2016. An amended C-4 report was filed on July 15, 2016, which listed in the description column "Travel to DNC Convention as a standing committee member-see attached memo." The memo explained that Representative Sawyer planned to provide a breakdown of the total costs for him to attend the DNC convention, and he would have a better estimate of his time spent campaigning upon his return.
- Representative Sawyer stated that he just recently made the decision to cancel the trip and stay home to spend time focusing on his re-election Campaign. He stated that he is in the process of refunding the GoFundMe donations to the donors and will notify PDC staff when that has been accomplished.

For your information, the PDC does not have jurisdiction over "gifts" and that donations solicited by an individual to attend an event such as the DNC Convention, are not considered to be "contributions" as defined by PDC laws and rules. The donations solicited by Representative Sawyer through the GoFundMe website are not reportable to the PDC, since they were not solicited and received to support or oppose a candidate or ballot proposition.

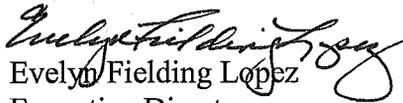
Based on these findings, I have determined that no further action is warranted. For these reasons, the PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing any further action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young at (360) 664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,


Kurt Young
PDC Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,


Evelyn Fielding Lopez
Executive Director

cc: Representative David Sawyer
Branden Durst at "info@votedurst.com"