



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcc.wa.gov](http://www.pdcc.wa.gov)

Nov. 28, 2018

Delivered electronically to "info@votepinkyvargas.com"

Subject: PDC Case 41757

Dear: Pinky Vargas

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to Mark Nelson concerning a complaint he filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) on Oct. 10, 2018 against Friends of Pinky Vargas.

As noted in the letter to Mark Nelson, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter. The PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1), since your Campaign timely filed an amended C-4 report within 14 days of being notified about the complaint and filing error, making the necessary technical correction.

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_

Alice Fiman  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

-----



**State of Washington**  
**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**  
711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112  
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcc.wa.gov](http://www.pdcc.wa.gov)

Nov. 28, 2018

Delivered electronically to “markspeaksout@gmail.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Pinky Vargas PDC Case 41757

Dear Mark Nelson:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed against Pinky Vargas, a 2018 candidate for State Senator from the 42<sup>nd</sup> District. The complaint alleged that the Friends of Pinky Vargas may have violated RCW 42.17A.240 for failing to itemize an expenditure on a Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditure report (C-4 report) filed Sept. 10, 2018.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint, the statutes, rules and reporting requirements, the C-4 report filed by Friends of Pinky Vargas (Campaign), and the response from Jay Petterson, Campaign Treasurer.

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

- On January 18, 2018, Pinky Vargas filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring her candidacy for State Senator for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District, selecting the Full Reporting Option and listing Jay Petterson as Treasurer. Ms. Vargas is an incumbent Bellingham City Councilmember since being elected to that office in 2013, and she was re-elected City Councilmember in 2017.
- On September 10, 2018, the Campaign timely filed a Post-Primary Election C-4 report (100857642), disclosing an Aug. 1, 2018 expenditure made to Cerillion N4 Partners for \$7,500, listing its purpose on the Schedule A as “Direct Mail Production: Morel Ink, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Design.” The expenditure did not identify the number of items printed, as required for an expenditure in accordance with WAC 390-16-037.

- On Oct. 16, 2018, PDC staff informed the Campaign about the complaint and provided copies of the complaint and exhibits to Shelby Kremenich.
- On Oct. 30, 2018, the Campaign filed an amended Post-Primary Election C-4 report (100870575) and providing the additional information for the Aug. 1, 2018 expenditure made to Cerillion N4 Partners, disclosing that 10,000 was the number of direct mail pieces printed.
- Mr. Petterson stated in his response “The campaign made one expenditure for direct mail production in August. At the time this expenditure was required to be disclosed on the C4 report, the information available was the date purchased, subvendor names, and total amount. We have obtained the number of pieces produced, printed and mailed since the original report was filed. We appreciate the opportunity to amend the relevant C4 report to include this number and ensure full transparency.”

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the Friends of Pinky Vargas’s failure to provide a detailed description for one expenditure does not amount to a material violation warranting further investigation.

The Friends of Pinky Vargas Campaign made a minor error in providing the description for one expenditure that was timely disclosed on the initial C-4 report. The Campaign timely filed an amended C-4 report disclosing the information within 14 days of being notified about the complaint and filing error, making the necessary technical correction. The late filed information did not materially impact the public interest.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [alice.fiman@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:alice.fiman@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Alice Fiman  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director