

Complaint Description

File a Formal Complaint - Paul Pickett

[Fraxinus](#) reported (Fri, 26 Oct at 8:05 AM) via Portal [Meta](#)

I received a flyer in the mail from political committees recently registered with the PDC: A Brighter Thurston County PAC; and Real Progressives in Thurston County PAC. The Campaign Manager for the committees listed is Glen Morgan. I allege that the political committees listed above, and/or Morgan individually, produced and distributed independent expenditure (IE) political advertising in the form of direct mail pieces that violated:

(1) RCW 42.17A.205 by failing to timely disclose the committee officers and other required information on the Committee Registration (C-1pc report); (2) RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include the party preference for a candidate featured in the IE political advertisements; (3) RCW 42.17A.335 by sponsoring IE political advertising that contained either false statements of material facts, or false endorsements about a candidate, made with malice; and (4) RCW 42.17A.442 for making unauthorized contributions to another committee without first receiving contributions of ten dollars or more each from at least ten persons registered to vote in Washington State.

The IE advertisements sent the message that the sponsoring political committees requested recipients to write-in the name of EJ Zita in the 2018 elections, even though that individual is not a declared candidate seeking public office in 2018. Real Progressives in Thurston County PAC and A Brighter Thurston County PAC violated RCW 42.17A by sponsoring an IE advertisement in opposition to Tye Menser, a 2018 candidate for Thurston County Commissioner. The mailer mentioned Fuse Washington (Fuse), the state's largest progressive organization (whose goals according to its website include assisting progressive candidates in getting elected to office and to “give ordinary people a strong voice in politics”) and a Fuse publication entitled Fuse WA Progressive Voters Guide. The mailer requested that voter’s write-in EJ Zita as the real Progressive candidate for County Commissioner in 2018, despite the fact Ms. Zita is not a declared candidate for public office or registered with the PDC in 2018 and is not conducting a write-in campaign. FUSE endorsed Tye Menser for Thurston County Commissioner in 2018, and in 2017 Fuse endorsed Ms. Zita for her campaign for Port of Olympia Commissioner. A quote on the mailer from the

Fuse Progressive Voters Guide about Ms. Zita was from the 2017 election, although the mailer does not so indicate.

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

Alters the true will of the public by defrauding voters with false information.
Erodes the public's trust in democracy.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.

I received the flyer described below and can provide it on request. It appears to be part of a mass mailing of which you likely already have examples.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Myself and my wife Autumn Pickett - same address.

Complaint Certification:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.