



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 • Website: www.pdcca.wa.gov

January 22, 2019

Delivered electronically to "wendybeach13@gmail.com"

Subject: PDC Case 42716

Dear Wendy beach:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Norm Smith concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). As noted below to Norm Smith, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of disclosing sponsor identification for political advertising as required by RCW 42.17A.320, including the statement: "It is paid for by (name, address, city, state)." It is also PDC guidance that the party preference on the Candidate Registration (C-1 report) should match the party preference on the declaration of candidacy and political advertising.

If you have questions, you may contact Micaiah Ragins at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s_____

Micaiah Ragins

Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s_____

Barbara Sandahl

Deputy Director

For Peter Lavallee

Executive Director



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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

January 22, 2019

Delivered electronically to "normsmith307@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Wendy Beach, PDC Case 42716

Dear Norman Smith:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 25, 2018. Your complaint alleged that Wendy Beach, a first-time candidate seeking the office of Commissioner for the Pend Oreille Public Utility District, may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to identify party affiliation on campaign signs and failure to disclose sponsor identification.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, the statutes and rules, the C-1 report filed by the Campaign, and the response from Wendy Beach. As a result of staff's review, we found the following:

- On September 11, 2018, Wendy Beach filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring her candidacy for Public Utility District Commissioner for the the Pend Oreille Public Utility District, and selecting the Mini Reporting option. The C-1 report identified the party preference as "Republican."
- Wendy Beach provided a response stating that she was not required to list the party preference on political advertisements since the "PUD Dist #1 position is a Non Partisan (NP) position."
- RCW 42.17A.320(1) requires that for partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a party or independent preference on the declaration of candidacy, that party or independent designation shall be clearly identified in electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising. According to the Voter's Pamphlet for the Pend Oreille County 2018 General Election, the

Public Utility District No. 1 position is a nonpartisan office. The campaign signs for Wendy Beach were labeled with "NP" for Nonpartisan which accurately reflected the office sought.

- RCW 42.17A.320(2)(a) requires that political advertising disclose sponsor information which includes the statement: "It is paid for by (name, address, city, state)." The campaign signs for the Wendy Beach did not disclose the necessary sponsor identification.

Based on these findings and the following facts, staff has determined that in this instance, the failure to identify political party preference and sponsor identification does not amount to a material violation warranting further investigation since: (1) Wendy Beach was not required to list party preference for a nonpartisan office; (2) Wendy Beach was a first-time candidate for public office in 2018; (3) Wendy Beach is a candidate that lost the election and the failure to include sponsor information did not materially impact the public interest.

PDC staff is reminding Wendy Beach about the importance of disclosing sponsor identification for political advertising as required by RCW 42.17A.320, including the statement: "It is paid for by (name, address, city, state)." It is also PDC guidance that the party preference on the Candidate Registration (C-1 report) should match the party preference on the declaration of candidacy and political advertising.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1), and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing further enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Micaiah Ragins at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Micaiah Ragins
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Wendy Beach