



**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.pdca.wa.gov

January 25, 2019

Delivered electronically to Steven Gonzalez at "stevegonzalez@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint filed by Brian Aker, PDC Case 42981

Dear Justice Gonzalez:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Brian Aker concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Mr. Aker, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by email at jennifer.hansen@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

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



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January 25, 2019

Delivered electronically to Brian Aker at “brian@tangent.org”

Subject: Complaint regarding Steven Gonzalez, PDC Case 42981

Dear Brian Aker:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on November 2, 2018. Your complaint alleged that Justice Steven Gonzalez, candidate for re-election to State Supreme Court, Position 8, in the 2018 election, may have violated RCW 42.17A.335 for making a false claim of endorsement of a candidate for public office.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Philip Lloyd, Treasurer for Steven Gonzalez 2018 Campaign; and the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On June 29, 2016, Steven Gonzalez, filed a C-1 declaring his candidacy for re-election to State Supreme Court, Position 8, in the 2018 election, choosing the “Full Reporting” option and listing Philip Lloyd as Treasurer.
- Justice Steven Gonzalez’s name appeared on the November 6, 2018 general election with opponent, Nathan Choi. Justice Gonzalez won the election with 67.58% of the vote.
- In his response, Campaign Treasurer Philip Lloyd, stated that the Campaign purchased a web domain named www.wajudicialwatchdog.org and disclosed services provided by Northwest Passage Consulting for design and site hosting costs on the 21-day pre-general C-4 report.
- Staff’s review found that Nathan Choi included the website reference above in his voter pamphlet statement, stating “learn more at wajudicialwatchdog.org”.

Staff found no evidence that Mr. Choi’s inclusion of a website paid for by the 2018 Gonzalez Campaign implied that Mr. Choi endorsed Justice Gonzalez or that the Gonzalez Campaign claimed such endorsement.

Based on these findings staff has determined that, in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of an actual violation warranting further investigation.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at jennifer.hansen@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

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

cc: Steven Gonzalez