

Complaint Description

Glen Morgan reported via the portal (Thu, 14 Feb 2019 at 3:02 PM)

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that perennial candidate Eric Newman in his 2016 failed campaign for King County Superior Court Judge, position #44, has committed numerous violations of Washington State's campaign finance laws (**RCW 42.17A**).

1) Failure to timely file accurate C4 reports. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.235)

According to the PDC reporting requirements for 2016, a variety of C4s were not accurately or completely filed. Rather than comply with the law, the Eric Newman campaign chose to file these critical reports lacking substantial information and keeping this information from the public until they were amended many days or months later – substantially after the required legal deadline. A list of these incorrect and amended reports are as follows:

See **Report # 100733870**, which was filed almost a month late

See **Report# 100733868**, which was filed two months late

See **Report # 100689675**, which was filed one month late

Unfortunately, Eric Newman failed to file this C4 by the deadline, as required by state law.

2) Failure to accurately describe expense. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.240(6) & WAC 390-16-037)

Eric Newman's campaign regularly failed to follow Washington State's Campaign Finance laws as they apply to the reporting of expenditures. Many C4s his campaign filed with the PDC contain violations of the statute and the rules written by the Public Disclosure Commission which support the statute. Here are some specific examples that need to be corrected by the Eric Newman campaign in an effort to at least go through the motions of compliance with the statute:

Examples of a failure to provide sufficient detail of expenditures (unambiguous violations of **RCW 42.17A.240(6)** and **WAC 390-16-037** (see example B provided at **WAC 390-16-037(3)**):

1. On 2/2/16 the Eric Newman campaign reports they spent \$421.96 for "Remits & Business Cards" at Service Printing in Seattle, but they did not report how many pieces of each type of campaign literature they purchased (remits and campaign cards clearly fall into this category). A clear violation of **WAC 390-16-037(3) example B** (See **PDC Report#100689675**)

2. On 8/20/16 the Eric Newman campaign reports they received an in-kind contribution of \$482.24 for “Yard sign stakes” from Matthew Williams in Auburn, but Newman did not report how many yard sign stakes were provided in-kind (campaign sign stakes clearly fall into this category). A clear violation of **WAC 390-16-037(3) example B** (See **PDC Report#100733868**)

3. On 6/17/16 the Eric Newman campaign reports that they spent \$348.17 on “T-shirts” without specifying how many pieces they purchased. (See **PDC Report #100708339**)

4. On 10/26/16 the Eric Newman campaign reports they spent \$1,260.00 for “Doorbells” from NWP Consulting in Seattle, but Newman did not report how many doorbells were purchased. A clear violation of **WAC 390-16-037(3) example B** (See **PDC Report#100733871**)

5. Additional examples around the “Online ads” which were also purchased by this campaign can be provided to support these allegations, but they are repetitive in nature and the C4s filed by the Eric Newman campaign have multiple examples in the final reports where the legally required details were not provided.

The PDC should investigate the possibility that Eric Newman committed the above violations, and possibly more. The PDC should conduct a thorough review of Eric Newman’s campaign to identify all violations.

Eric Newman was running for Superior Court Judge and is a member of the Washington State Bar Association. He is fully aware of the significance of following the rules, and Eric Newman should understand the rules even apply to him, not just the rest of the little people. The PDC should consider sending a warning letter to Eric Newman for him to take compliance with Washington State’s Campaign Finance Laws more seriously next time he runs for office. This is particularly important because he currently works for the Attorney General’s office and has been involved in prosecuting Campaign Finance Cases (although he is assigned to the Anti-Trust Division). People with the authority to aggressively prosecute and litigate against others while being paid by the Washington State taxpayers should also be expected to comply with these same laws himself.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Best Regards,

Glen Morgan

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

People have a right to know whether candidates for Superior Court Judge can follow the very same laws they enforce on others. When people like Eric Newman can't follow these laws, then they should be held to a higher standard than the people they expect to comply with these

laws on a regular basis. This is particularly true for employees of the AG's office responsible, in part, for prosecuting campaign finance cases against others.

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

All PDC Reference numbers for reports are included in the complaint

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Eric Newman
Christian Sinderman (NWP Consulting - verify the amounts reported)
Abbott Taylor, Treasurer
Possibly other listed campaign officers

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.