

Complaint Description

Andrew Saturn reported via the portal February 18, 2019

The Olympian has (1) violated RCW 42.17A.345 (as defined in WAC 390-18-050) by habitually refusing to furnish commercial advertising records and information upon request, and possibly violated other sections of RCW 42.17A by (2) violating 42.17A.335 in knowingly publishing false statements about a candidate, (3) failing to disclose sponsor information on political ads under 42.17A.320, and (4) failing to report in-kind contributions under 42.17A.310.

REFUSAL TO FURNISH RECORDS

On Oct 19, 2018, I requested advertisement disclosure (via email to Rolf Boone, attached) for the 10/9/18 expenditure for \$1420 in Olympian ads. This request was ignored. I sent a follow-up email inquiring about buy ads for my campaign and was again ignored. The next day, I sent a message via Olympian's web portal to purchase online ads, and was once again ignored. My campaign spent thousands of dollars on advertising with other print and online mediums, and would have liked the opportunity to publish a comparable number of ads on The Olympian in order to offer the public a fair view of the candidates in the PUD race.

On Feb 12, 2019, I again asked for disclosure on Oosterman ads via email to Dusti Demarest (Olympian Executive Editor, and only contact listed on TheOlympian.com), and again was ignored. On Feb 14, 2019, I visited The Olympian's office, but again was not allowed access to any records. I left my contact information at the front desk, and I was told I would be contacted, but as of this complaint, I have received no calls or emails.

KNOWINGLY PUBLISHING FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT A CANDIDATE

On Oct 27, 2018, an Olympian editorial board article (endorsing Oosterman) falsely states I am "misleading" and "stretching the facts" and does not offer any counter perspective or any explanation to how I am allegedly incorrect or mistaken. The article remained unchanged even after an email sent to the editor asking for explanation of the editorial board's claims.

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/editorials/article220694045.html>

On Oct 30, 2018, Brad Shannon retires from The Olympian after decades of service to the community.

On Nov 9, 2018, another Olympian editorial board article falsely states I am "hostile and bullying" without offering any details. The article falsely states I "claimed to be assaulted without offering any details" even though a Tumwater Police report (#182040794) on the assault was public record, and my campaign provided video and photo evidence of the incident to the public, as well as many statements of eyewitnesses. I made these all available to The

Olympian, but I received no reply, and the article remained unchanged.
<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/editorials/article221400880.html>

Additionally, the article misleadingly attempted to tie-in the assault, which took place in July, with an attack email sent by certain members of the Thurston County Democrats, which went out in November, to “prove” the statement about the assault was somehow not factual. This was intentionally misleading to the public, and fabricated “evidence” to support an entirely false claim in order to attack my campaign.

The article also falsely claims I “spread misinformation about the PUD,” which was never actually made clear; a separate article by Rolf Boone showed there were two sides to the story. Two later PDC determinations showed that not only was I not in violation of RCW or found to be making false statements about a candidate, but that the “internal memo” written by PUD Director John Weidenfeller, used to attack me and as the sole source for the article, was in violation of 42.17A.555 (case #43061).

FAILURE TO REPORT IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

On Feb 18, 2018, Joe Hyer admitted in an email (attached) that The Olympian designed ads and campaign literature for the Linda Oosterman campaign (attached). These items, which were used by the Linda Oosterman campaign, were sent to an unknown number of voters both by hand and via postal mail, and were never reported as in-kind contributions.

The articles referenced in this complaint, in the context of their bias and The Olympian’s refusal to correct known false statements, constitute campaign ads for Linda Oosterman. These ads were neither disclosed as such nor were they reported as in-kind contributions.

BACKGROUND

Feb 11, 2017, The Olympian announced their new Editorial Board would consist of Dani Madrone and Priscilla Terry (<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/editorials/article132059164.html>), with Dani Madrone representing “the political left.”

Dani Madrone, one of the members of The Olympian’s editorial board during the election, is also a co-host of the podcast “Olympia Pop Rocks” and “Olympia Standard.” During the election, Dani Madrone routinely spread false information about me as a person, claiming I am “a bully,” citing “my behavior,” and spreading other misinformation about my campaign. Dani Madrone was a vocal supporter of my opponent, both on her podcasts and in other outlets. Dani Madrone offered zero evidence, other than repeating statements about others, which also cited no evidence. These statements can be heard in Eps. #26, #27 and #28 on olympiapoprocks.com. Dani Madrone also made statements on Reddit.com, claiming I am “retaliatory” and told me to “go f ___ myself.” I have never met Dani Madrone or had a conversation with her. <http://archive.is/Qk59T>

May 11, 2018, The Olympian outsources their candidate vetting to a non-profit called VerifyMore, run by Strategies 360 founder Ron Dotzauer (Strategies 360 is the lobbying firm for Puget Sound Energy, which contributed almost \$9,000 towards Linda Oosterman ads in 2012, and nearly \$14,000 in 2018, and which had another lobbyist, Paul Berendt, involved in a PAC for Linda Oosterman).

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/editorials/article210897749.html>

Between Dani Madrone at The Olympian and VerifyMore, neither responded to requests or inquiries about interviews or vetting for my campaign for county-wide office leading up to the November election in 2018.

These factors, while circumstantial, demonstrate a bias towards supporting my former opponent in the 2018 PUD election. This bias is not a valid excuse for refusing to furnish records and/or for publishing false statements to mislead the public and attack my campaign.

Gmail - Records request.pdf

93.38 KB

Gmail - Invoice _683.pdf

250.55 KB

Gmail - Have you seen this2.pdf

134.21 KB

Gmail - Have you seen this_.pdf

92.06 KB

Gmail - "civility".pdf

93.66 KB

Andrew Saturn replied February 18, 2019

to: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

Please amend my complaint: Brad Shannon can no longer be reached at his olympian.com address and should instead be reached at bradshannon360@gmail.com

Also, Rolf Boone (rboone@theolympian.com) may be a potential witness. Thanks.

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

Concealing political campaign advertisement details (funding, organization, etc) from the public; Running political campaign ads disguised as news articles without disclosing sponsorship

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

Emails (records requests, requests to correct articles, Joe Hyer admitting The Olympian designed campaign literature for Linda Oosterman)

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Dusti Demarest (ddemarest@theolympian.com)

Brad Shannon (bradshannon360@gmail.com)

Joe Hyer (joexhyer@gmail.com)

Rolf Boone (rboone@theolympian.com)

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.

**Andrew Saturn** <saturn@gmail.com>

Have you seen this?

Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>
To: Rolf Boone <rboone@theolympian.com>

Fri, Oct 19, 2018 at 3:14 PM

Quick question-

In the PDC reporting today, Linda reported her first expenditures in months. They include money paid to the consulting firm of Danielle Westbrook and Joe Hyer - so just as I said, Joe is working for Linda.

But there is over \$1000 spent on Olympian ads. Can you tell me if these are online or print ads? We may buy some to counter Linda's misinfo, if you're still selling ads.

Thanks

Andrew Saturn
[Quoted text hidden]



Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>

Have you seen this?

Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>
To: Rolf Boone <rboone@theolympian.com>

Fri, Oct 19, 2018 at 3:19 PM

PS Linda has a commitment of paying Joe and Danielle \$2000 per PDC records (attached)

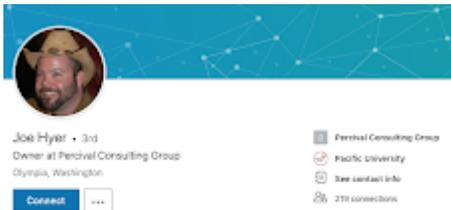
Please let me know about ads or forward my request to the most appropriate person. I can be reached via email any time.

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS, PLEDGES, ORDERS, DEBTS, OBLIGATIONS		SCHEDULE TO GO	B	4
<small>Transferable or Contingent Name (If not applicable, See 511(a)(2))</small> LINDA HENDERSON (See 511(a)(2), Schedule 511(a)(2)(B))		01/01/18	01/01/18	
3. ORDERS PLACED, DEBTS, OBLIGATIONS (Show whether PDC or amount not known, Exclude bank, Report copies on Schedule L)				
Transaction Date	Vendor/Supplier's Name and Address	Amount Paid	Code	Description of Obligation
08/04/2018	PERDVAL CONSULTING GROUP 230 Beach Ave NE #208 Olympia WA, 98503	2000.00		Contract Liab

Screen Shot 2018-10-19 at 3.17.32 PM.png
64K



Joe Hyer • 3rd
Owner at Perdval Consulting Group
Olympia, Washington

- Perdval Consulting Group
- Pacific University
- See contact info
- 279 connections

Screen Shot 2018-10-19 at 3.17.59 PM.png
198K

1995 - Foundd The Alpine Experience, an independent Outdoor Retailer in Olympia WA that grew to over 60 employees and \$5m annually. 2004 - Takes actiion to a higher level by accepting appointment to Olympia City Council. Elected Twice. Finance Committee Chair. General Gov't Cons...



Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>

Records request

Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 12, 2019 at 7:54 PM

To: Dusti Demarest <ddemarest@theolympian.com>

As you're aware, WA law allows for citizens to request records from media/print companies pertaining to elections and advertising, and those records must be furnished within 24 hours.

Your website does not list the individual responsible for handling these requests, so I'm contacting you. Please provide (or forward to the person responsible) the following request:

Details of the 10/9/18 expenditure of \$1,420.00 for Linda Oosterman's campaign, including related contracts, payments, campaign communications, final printed/displayed ad(s) as well as any revisions, variations, etc.

Thank you,

Andrew Saturn



Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>

Invoice #683

Joe Hyer <joexhyer@gmail.com>
To: Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 18, 2019 at 12:44 PM

Designed by the Olympian, but yes, I printed and billed.

J

Joe Hyer, Proprietor
Percival Consulting Group - Washington Political Service
JoeXHyer@gmail.com - 360-701-9384 mobile
120 State Ave NE #1045, Olympia WA 98501

On Sat, Feb 16, 2019 at 12:13 PM Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com> wrote:
But those did come from you?

On Sat, Feb 16, 2019, 11:30 AM joe Hyer <joexhyer@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Saturn-

I show 100 color copies of strips, total \$27.22- these weren't quite thick enough paper, though we used them, then printed larger, on card stock the next week, with \$47.91 invoice total. I also has \$13.38 in postage/envelope to mail them out to a PCO in West County. I don't remember any significant quantity of that letter being produced- I was given a copy to review, but the candidate didn't have much of a mailing list that would work with this letter.

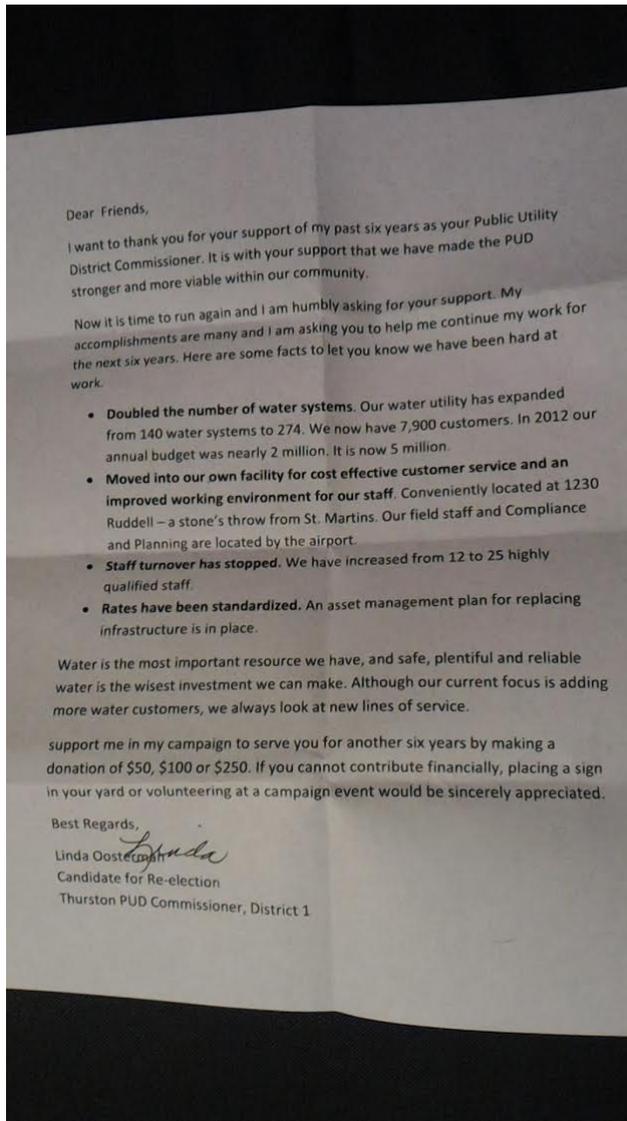
Joe Hyer, Proprietor
Percival Consulting Group - Washington Political Service
JoeXHyer@gmail.com

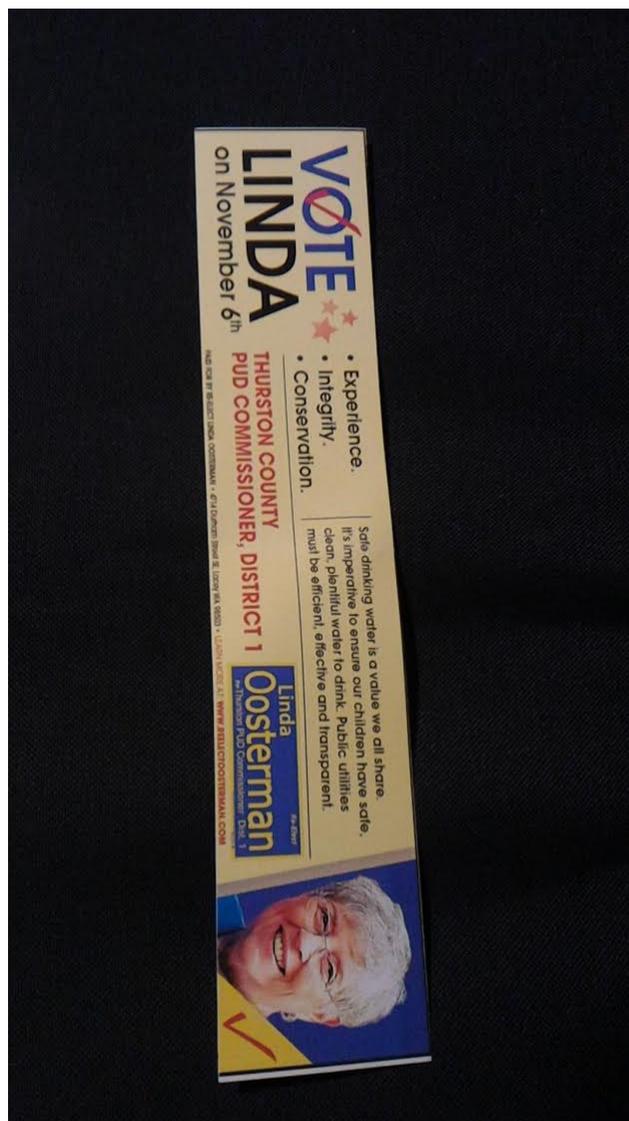
On Fri, Feb 15, 2019 at 4:36 PM Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com> wrote:

Joe-

Thanks for volunteering this information.

Within invoice #683 you list printed materials (campaign lit and cardstock "strips") delivered to PCOs (I assume Democratic). Was that referring to the following pieces?





On Sat, Feb 9, 2019 at 5:16 PM joe Hyer <joexhyer@gmail.com> wrote:

Invoice #683 was originally transmitted on 10/28/18, listing all ads BOOKED with approved budgets. This was to comply with 10/29 PDC C4 filing- candidate approved and I booked Facebook and The Olympian Digital in these amounts.

This invoice also has \$88.51 for copying and mailing expenses for PCOs asking for something to doorbell with. The Mailbox bills my account, and I bill the campaign.

I revised the invoice and re-sent to the treasurer with final amounts on 11/7/18 - on 11/1, I cancelled the remaining days on all ads, and the campaign went digitally dark on Facebook. That cut the final cost of several ads, and the revised invoice reflects this.

Debby Pattin Votes for Linda Ad -

<https://fb.me/1WOjIQdR5LNCwcZ>

The first run of this at \$200 did so well 10/19-10/26, we ran it again. Stopping it 11/1 cut \$25.21 from original budget.

Go with Oosterman -

<https://fb.me/1KStlNjM3tLFxuu>

Version A&B is the same ad - different targets. These also were ended early on 11/1, and final cost came in lower than approved budget.

The last item on this invoice was an additional 50,000 impressions on the olympian.com - exact same rotating ads as run previous, I just had them turn on the campaign again, at a lower level.

Joe Hyer, Proprietor

Percival Consulting Group - Washington Political Service

JoeXHyer@gmail.com - **360-701-9384 mobile**

120 State Ave NE #1045, Olympia WA 98501



Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>

"civility"

1 message

Andrew Saturn <saturn@gmail.com>

Sun, Nov 11, 2018 at 6:52 PM

To: Dusti Demarest <ddemarest@theolympian.com>

I'm writing regarding this article:

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/editorials/article221400880.html>

I provided The Olympian with a Tumwater Police report (#182040794) from when my opponent's staffers assaulted me, in addition to the video and witness statements. I would be happy to forward all of this again. One of the witnesses was Victor Minjares, a former candidate himself, and a respected lawyer.

The PDC is also currently investigating the PUD and its General Manager, John Weidenfeller, for violating campaign finance law RCW 42.17A.555, which prohibits use of public facilities for campaigns. I would love to hear how The Olympian came into possession of the "internal memo" which was written specifically to attack my campaign.

While the Pro Truth Pledge team has verified that I stuck to the truth, my opponent has been contacted by the managers of the pledge due to her attacks upon me and the lies she told throughout the campaign. They will be issuing a statement. You can verify this yourself by contacting Dr. Gleb Tspursky, gleb@intentionalinsights.org, the founder of the Pro Truth Pledge.

The Thurston County Democrats e-board did not issue the statement sent out by a single individual, and my endorsement was never rescinded. There is pending litigation in this matter.

Additionally, by perpetuating the rumors spread by area grifters such as Dani Madrone, The Olympian is taking part in defamation.