



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the Matter of Enforcement Action  
Against

Steven Drew

Respondent.

PDC Case No. 13-014

Notice of Administrative Charges  
(Brief Enforcement Hearing)

**I. JURISDICTION**

1. The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter 42.17A RCW, the state campaign finance and disclosure laws; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC. These charges incorporate the Report of Investigation and all related exhibits by reference.

**II. ALLEGATIONS**

2. PDC staff alleges that Steven Drew, Thurston County Assessor, violated RCW 42.17A.565 by knowingly soliciting a contribution to a candidate for public office from four subordinate employees of the Thurston County Assessor's Office; and RCW 42.17A.555 by using facilities of the Thurston County Assessor's Office to make the solicitation.

**III. FACTS**

3. Steven Drew is the elected Thurston County Assessor.
4. Following a management meeting held by Mr. Drew in the Thurston County Assessor's Office, a Thurston County Assessor employee became concerned about a statement made by Mr. Drew during the meeting and later expressed the concern to the Thurston County Human Resources Department.

**Witness 1:**

5. Witness 1 recalled the statement made by Mr. Drew at the February 9, 2012 management meeting as something to the effect of:

*"...at budget time, Ms. Romero might weigh in on our budget request if people from the office or the management team were to contribute to her campaign..."*

**Witness 2:**

6. Witness 2 stated that very near the end of the February 9, 2012 management meeting, Mr. Drew commented that he was on his way to a fundraiser. The witness thought Mr. Drew said the fundraiser was for Sandra Romero, and that he said something like, *"It would be nice if you contributed to her campaign."*

**Witness 3:**

7. Witness 3 was in attendance at the February 9, 2012 meeting when Mr. Drew stated something like *"...there are elections going on....county officials are involved in those elections...those county officials make our budget.... if you could consider making a contribution it could help us out..."*

**Witness 4:**

8. Witness 4 stated that at the end of the meeting at issue, Mr. Drew made a statement that he did not want anyone in attendance to feel any pressure, and went on to state something to the effect that *"...Sandra Romero allowed Mr. Drew to hire employees during a hiring freeze, and it would be good for managers to contribute to her campaign."* And *"...it would be nice to contribute to her campaign and that a small amount would be okay...maybe \$20 or more..."*

#### IV. LAW

**RCW 42.17A.565 states:**

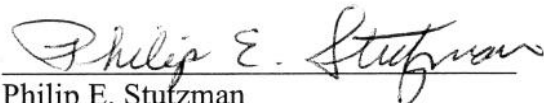
“(1) No state or local official or state or local official's agent may knowingly solicit, directly or indirectly, a contribution to a candidate for public office, political party, or political committee from an employee in the state or local official's agency.  
(2) No state or local official or public employee may provide an advantage or disadvantage to an employee or applicant for employment in the classified civil service concerning the applicant's or employee's:

- (a) Employment;
- (b) Conditions of employment; or
- (c) Application for employment,

based on the employee's or applicant's contribution or promise to contribute or failure to make a contribution or contribute to a political party or political committee.”

**RCW 42.17A.555** prohibits elected officials, their employees, and persons appointed to or employed by a public office or agency from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a candidate's campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any ballot proposition. This prohibition does not apply to activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.



Philip E. Stutzman  
Director of Compliance