

# Initial Review of Complaint

**Name of Respondent(s):** Tacoma School District 10 Officials

**Name of Complainant:** Robert Hill

**Date Complaint Received:** 1/7/14      **10 Business Days:** 1/22/14

**Staff Reviewing Complaint:** T Perkins      **Date Reviewed:** 1/13/14

<b>Laws &amp; Rules</b>	A.555								
-------------------------	-------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Brief Summary of Allegations:** The complaint alleges that Tacoma School District 10 officials have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by authorizing the use of district facilities for the promotion of Propositions 1 and 2, levy measures on the February 11, 2014 ballot.

**Analysis and Recommended Action:** The evidence enclosed with the complaint consists of a contract for services between Northwest Public Affairs and the Tacoma School District, with a Scope of Work (“Attachment B”) detailing the contractor’s expected work related to the levy measures. The language in the attachment clearly contemplates informational, rather than promotional, activities. However, it does discuss *“Incorporation of research findings and community priorities into communications materials and outreach activities,”* indicating that the school district may have conducted public opinion research intended to shore up support for a ballot proposition.

Recommend that “more information” letter be sent, asking about 1) the purpose of the district’s contract with Northwest Public Affairs, as it relates to the levy measure, and whether the contractor is being compensated for promotional activities, and 2) the purpose and content of community surveys or public opinion research referred to in “Attachment B.”

**Action taken:**

WEDNESDAY,  
January First,  
A.D. 2014

FROM →

Mr. Robert Hill  
% "The Smart Investment of Education  
Dollars Working Group"  
910 Tacoma Ave S  
Tacoma 98407-2007

RECEIVED

JAN -7 2014

Public Disclosure Commission

TO →

Kurt Young

RE:

violation by Tacoma School District  
regarding Feb 2014 special election  
with Northwest Public Affairs (four page  
contract)

I believe the \$40,000 is effort  
to PASS Propositions #1 and #2!

Erin Wilson is the former campaign  
manager for the "FOR" committee, Tacoma Citizens  
for Schools, which helped T.S.D. with the  
\$500,000 bond measure last year.

Please note the language on page 17, of  
Attachment 'B'.

Santorno liked his performance so much  
she is rewarding him with this money.

★

Who is their campaign manager this year?

P.S. I would like a Date-Received stamped  
copy of this letter.