

# File a Formal Complaint - Conner Edwards

[Conner Edwards](#) (Tue, 10 Apr at 11:50 PM) via Portal Meta  
To Whom It May Concern --

It has come to my attention that there is reason to believe that some provision of RCW 42.17A is being or has been violated by Google Inc. and its Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai.

Specifically, it has come to my attention that Google has violated RCW 42.17A.345 by failing to maintain documents and books of account related to political advertising or electioneering communications. Additionally, they have failed to make them open for public inspection during normal business hours and maintain them for a period of no less than three years after the date of the applicable election the ad was purchased for.

In his role as CEO, Pichai is ultimately responsible for ensuring that his company complies with applicable Federal, State, and Local laws. Here, we can see that he has failed to do this.

This failure to provide accurate books of account has been professionally documented and exposed by Eli Sanders, a journalist for the Seattle publication The Stranger.

Please see the following articles:

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/04/05/26008165/two-months-later-facebooks-disclosures-to-the-city-of-seattle-still-dont-add-up>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/04/03/25988492/seattle-elections-watchdog-tells-facebook-to-make-its-political-ad-disclosures-more-accurate>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/03/27/25958287/the-mystery-of-mayor-durkans-winning-pandora-playlist>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/03/20/25924124/how-a-seattle-candidate-used-facebook-to-push-a-misleading-claim-about-property-crime>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/03/08/25893777/facebook-discloses-hundreds-of-ads-aimed-at-seattles-last-election>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/03/05/25873710/the-case-of-the-city-attorneys-google-ads>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/27/25859016/here-are-all-the-election-ads-google-just-disclosed-to-the-city-of-seattle>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/27/25856707/google-hands-notebook-full-of-political-ad-data-to-the-city-of-seattle>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/19/25834117/facebook-shared-political-ad-data-with-the-special-counsel-why-not-with-the-city-of-seattle>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/14/25817063/senator-says-transparency-bill-opposed-by-tech-lobby-is-now-dead>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/12/25808934/tech-lobby-mobilizes-against-transparency-bill-in-olympia>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/12/25800012/bill-would-make-it-extra-clear-that-facebook-has-to-disclose-political-ad-data>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/06/25787084/why-facebooks-disclosure-to-the-city-of-seattle-doesnt-add-up>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/05/25781471/seattle-says-facebook-has-failed-to-follow-law-on-election-ad-transparency>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/01/23/25740553/governor-jay-inslee-wants-facebook-and-google-to-disclose-data-on-political-ads-in-washington-state>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/01/02/25668569/facebook-and-google-say-they-need-more-time-to-comply-with-seattles-election-transparency-law>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/12/20/25638119/looks-like-theres-another-law-that-big-tech-is-ignoring-this-one-covers-all-of-washington-state>

<https://www.thestranger.com/features/2017/12/20/25632083/big-tech-is-failing-to-comply-with-seattles-law-on-election-advertising-transparency>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/12/18/25637760/bruce-harrell-says-tech-giants-must-follow-seattle-election-law-or-be-held-accountable>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/12/14/25627782/city-of-seattle-tells-facebook-and-google-to-hand-over-political-ad-data>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/12/07/25615047/unlike-big-tech-local-tv-does-comply-with-seattles-law-on-political-ad-transparency>

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/12/04/25606100/were-asking-the-tech-giants-to-comply-with-seattles-law-on-political-ad-transparency-will-they>

It is my request that neither the PDC nor the Attorney General's Office assert jurisdiction over this issue by commencing proceedings. These agencies have both been aware of this issue for months and have failed to take any meaningful action. I have no reason to believe that they would act any differently during litigation or pro-forma PDC proceedings.

If either the PDC or the Attorney General's Office takes action on this issue, it would only block my ability to effectively enforce this chapter via a Citizen Action. This would only benefit Google to the disadvantage of the citizens of Washington State.

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

Best,

Conner Edwards  
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