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OLYMPIA —The Attorney General's Office (AGO) today announced that it filed a complaint in Thurston County Superior Court alleging campaign finance violations by the Clark County Republican Central Committee. Specifically, the AGO asserts the committee failed to timely report a total of \$586,268 in contributions, and \$463,079 in debts and expenditures since 2012.

In September, the AGO received a Citizen Action Notice alleging multiple violations of the state's public disclosure laws by the Clark County Republican Central Committee.

After receiving the notice, AGO staff determined the committee failed to timely file numerous reports of contributions received and expenditures made since 2012.

Washington law requires political committees to regularly report information to the state Public Disclosure Commission about sources of contributions, starting with those over \$25. Political committees must also regularly report information about their activities, including expenditures, debts and obligations.

Among the reporting deficiencies, the Clark County Republican Central Committee:

- Failed to timely disclose \$586,268.15 in contributions it received on 278 separate reports, up to 330 days late.
- Failed to timely disclose \$463,079.30 in expenditures (such as political donations) made on 72 separate reports, up to 130 days late. For example, the committee reported \$176,014 in expenses after primary or general elections each year from 2013 through 2017, which should have been disclosed before the relevant election. Of those, \$33,720 were contributions to state and local candidates.

By not timely reporting its contributions and expenditures, the committee inhibited the public's right to know the source of the committee's income and how it spent its funding.

The state seeks penalties and injunctive relief. The defendant will have 20 days from the date they are served to respond to the state's complaint.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Linda Dalton is handling the case.

When the Attorney General's Office receives a Citizen Action Notice, it has 45 days to investigate and respond to the citizen. If the Attorney General's Office or local prosecutor does not initiate litigation, the individual may sue in the name of the state. If litigation is successful, any penalties awarded go to the state, and the individual's attorney can recover attorney fees and costs. If the citizen's litigation is unsuccessful, the defendant may recover attorney fees from the state.

The Attorney General's Office enforces the state's campaign finance disclosure law to ensure free, open and fair elections in Washington state. A summary of campaign finance case resolutions is available [here](#).

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The Office of the Attorney General is the chief legal office for the state of Washington with attorneys and staff in 27 divisions across the state providing legal services to roughly 200 state agencies, boards and commissions. Visit www.atg.wa.gov to learn more.

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