



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against

John & Laurie Knutsen
Respondents.

PDC Case 24298

Notice of Administrative
Charges

I. JURISDICTION

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

PDC staff alleges that John and Laurie Knutsen violated RCW 42.17A.305 by failing to file a C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications within 24 hours of mailing a flyer on July 6, 2017 that opposed John Hopkins, a 2017 candidate for Puyallup City Council. Mr. Hopkins appeared on the primary and general election ballots. The C-6 report was filed seven weeks late, and cost \$2,100. Staff also alleges that John and Laurie Knutsen violated RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include their name and address, as sponsors, on the electioneering communication that was also political advertising.

III. FACTS

1. John Hopkins was a Puyallup City Council member and a candidate for re-election who appeared on the 2017 primary and general election ballots. He was defeated by Jim Kastama in the general election on November 7, 2017. John Knutsen served eight years on the Puyallup City Council from 2008 through 2015, serving two years as Mayor from 2014 through 2015.
2. On July 6, 2017, over three weeks before the August 1, 2017 primary election, John and Laurie Knutsen sponsored a flyer that opposed Mr. Hopkins by including several negative statements about his past business practices. The flyer cost \$2,100 and was distributed anonymously.
3. The flyer met the definition of an electioneering communication because it was received by the public within 60 days of the primary election, featured John Hopkins, a candidate in the primary election, and had a fair market value of \$1,000 or more. The flyer also met the definition of political advertising because it appealed, directly or indirectly, for opposition to Mr. Hopkins when he was a candidate for Puyallup City Council.
4. John and Laurie Knutsen were required to file a C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications within 24 hours of first presenting the flyer to the public, or no later than July 7, 2017. They filed the report 52 days late on August 28, 2017, and four weeks after the primary election.
5. The flyer also met the definition of political advertising that required sponsor identification. John and Laurie Knutsen failed to include sponsor identification on the flyer.

IV. LAW

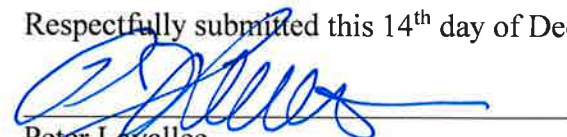
RCW 42.17A.005(19)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio transmission, United States postal service mailing, billboard, newspaper, or periodical that: (i) Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or judicial office either by specifically naming the candidate, or identifying the candidate without using the candidate's name; (ii) Is broadcast, transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or otherwise published within sixty days before any election for that office in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking election; and (iii) Either alone, or in combination with one or more communications identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during the sixty days before an election, has a fair market value of one thousand dollars or more.

RCW 42.17A.005(36) states, "Political advertising" includes any advertising displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign.

RCW 42.17A.305 requires the sponsor of an electioneering communication to report to the commission within twenty-four hours of, or on the first working day after, the date the electioneering communication is broadcast, transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or otherwise published, and include: (a) Name and address of the sponsor; (b) Source of funds for the communication, (c) Name and address of the person to whom an electioneering communication related expenditure was made; (d) A detailed description of each expenditure of more than one hundred dollars; and (e) The date the expenditure was made and the date the electioneering communication was first broadcast, transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or otherwise published.

RCW 42.17A.320 states, in part, (1) All written political advertising, whether relating to candidates or ballot propositions, shall include the sponsor's name and address. All radio and television political advertising, whether relating to candidates or ballot propositions, shall include the sponsor's name. The use of an assumed name for the sponsor of electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising shall be unlawful. For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a party or independent preference on the declaration of candidacy, that party or independent designation shall be clearly identified in electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of December 2017.


Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In RE COMPLIANCE WITH
RCW 42.17 and RCW 42.17A

John & Laurie Knutsen

Respondent.

PDC Case 24298

Report of Investigation

I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The August 1, 2017 primary election ballot for Puyallup City Council included incumbent John Hopkins and challengers Jim Kastama and Curtis Thiel. Jim Kastama was the top vote getter in the primary with John Hopkins second. In the general election Jim Kastama defeated John Hopkins, with Mr. Kastama receiving 1,346 votes (62%) and Hopkins receiving 823 votes (38%).
- 1.2 On July 10, 2017, three weeks before the primary election, William Noland contacted PDC staff expressing concern about an anonymous flyer he had received in the mail concerning Puyallup City Council member John Hopkins that he described as a political hit piece. He provided a copy of the flyer.
- 1.3 PDC staff explained that without the identity of the sponsor, there was little that could be done. Soon after receiving the inquiry from Mr. Noland, staff became aware of the bulk mail permit number, and contacted the Orting Post Office, who identified the owner of the bulk mail permit. Staff informed Mr. Noland that further inquiries could be made to determine the identity of the sponsor of the flyer, and on August 7, 2017, William Noland filed a complaint concerning the anonymous flyer. He asked PDC staff to make additional inquiries to identify the sponsor of the anonymous flyer.
- 1.4 PDC staff contacted the owner of the bulk mail permit number (L&L Printing of Puyallup, Washington) and learned that John and Laurie Knutsen had co-sponsored the flyer. Staff opened an investigation, naming John and Laurie Knutsen as the Respondent, and alleging that they failed to report the cost of the mailer as an independent expenditure or electioneering communication, and failed to include sponsor identification on the flyer. After receiving a copy of the complaint, John and Laurie Knutsen claimed they were not required to report the expenditure, but later agreed to file the missing report, and disclosed a \$2,100.00 expenditure.

- 1.5 On August 28, 2017, four weeks after the primary election, John and Laurie Knutsen filed a C-6 Report of Independent Expenditures and Electioneering Communications. They made no additional election related expenditures. John Hopkins, the candidate opposed in the flyer, finished second in the primary and lost in the general election.
- 1.6 John Knutsen was a successful candidate for Puyallup City Council in 2007 and 2011. During both elections, he selected the Mini Reporting option which did not require him to file contribution and expenditure reports. He served on the Puyallup City Council for eight years, from 2008 through 2015, and served as Mayor from 2012 through 2015.

II. ALLEGATIONS IN COMPLAINT

- 2.1 On August 7, 2017, William Noland filed a complaint alleging that on or around July 10, 2017, he received an anonymous flyer concerning Puyallup City Council member John Hopkins, a candidate for re-election, alleging unlawful or unethical acts. Mr. Noland alleged that the flyer was not signed and did not have any identifying information. He urged PDC staff to make additional inquiries, and said he hoped staff could identify the sponsor of the mailing. **(See Exhibit 1)**
- 2.2 PDC staff identified John and Laurie Knutsen as sponsors of the anonymous flyer, and named them as Respondents that may have violated RCW 42.17A.255 and RCW 42.17A.305 by failing to report independent expenditure political advertising and electioneering communications, and RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include sponsor identification on the communication.

III. FINDINGS

- 3.1 On July 6, 2017, John and Laurie Knutsen sponsored a flyer concerning John Hopkins, a candidate for Puyallup City Council. The flyer was titled "A DOCUMENTED HISTORY OF MAYOR JOHN HOPKINS DISREGARD FOR THE LAWS, ORDINANCES, AND REGULATIONS." It included several negative statements about Mr. Hopkins' past business practices. The flyer did not include sponsor identification. **(See Exhibit 1)**
- 3.2 PDC staff became aware of the bulk mail permit number under which the anonymous flyer was mailed, and contacted the Orting Post Office to obtain the name of the owner of the permit number. Staff learned that the permit number was owned by L&L Printing, 1430 E. Main Street, Suite E, Puyallup, Washington, 98372.
- 3.3 On August 9, 2017, staff contacted Brian Snell, President of L&L Printing, and asked him to identify the sponsor of the flyer and provide a copy of the invoice for the services provided. **(See Exhibit 2)** Staff provided Mr. Snell with a copy of the complaint and flyer, and the relevant statutes and rule.
- 3.4 On August 11, 2017, Mr. Snell responded by letter, stating his customer had assured him that they had received no money to pay for the flyer, and had not given any money to any

candidate in the Puyallup City Council election. **(See Exhibit 3)** Mr. Snell's letter included a statement from his customer that read:

Dear Public Disclosure Commission.

As a private citizen, I have merely shared information that is already in the public view (TV, Newspaper, Public Disclosure). Since I am not connected to any candidate, I feel the PDC does not cover my actions and that your complainant is using the PDC to determine who sent the letter. I request you forward any court decision or case law that requires a private citizen to identify themselves to the PDC for mailing information on a seated elected official if they are not part of any campaign.

- 3.5 Mr. Snell concluded his letter by stating that L&L Printing would comply with the PDC's response to the statement made by his company's customer.
- 3.6 On August 11, 2017, staff again contacted Mr. Snell, asking him to identify the sponsor of the flyer and send a copy of the invoice for services provided. Staff included a letter outlining the responsibilities of a Commercial Advertiser under RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050 to provide the information requested by the PDC, and explained why his customer's flyer required sponsor identification, and probably needed to be reported to the PDC as an electioneering communication. **(See Exhibit 4)**
- 3.7 On August 16, 2017, John Knutsen spoke with PDC staff member Kurt Young by telephone about the complaint. On August 17, 2017, Mr. Young confirmed their conversation by email, stating that the flyer complained about by William Noland lacked proper sponsor identification, met the definition of an electioneering communication, and was required to be reported on PDC form C-6. Mr. Young provided Mr. Knutsen with a copy of the complaint, a blank C-6 report, and instructions for filing the report. Mr. Young also asked Mr. Knutsen to submit a written response to the allegations. **(See Exhibit 5)**
- 3.8 On August 23, 2017, the PDC received a letter from John and Laurie Knutsen acknowledging that they had paid \$2,100 to print and mail the flyer concerning John Hopkins. The letter also stated that the Knutsens had reviewed the RCWs sent to them by the PDC, and had concluded that the requirements did not apply to their situation, but said they found no reason not to cooperate with the PDC, and told staff to feel free to contact them if additional information was needed. **(See Exhibit 6)**
- 3.9 On August 28, 2017, PDC staff informed John and Laurie Knutsen that the flyer met the definition of an electioneering communication because it was received by the public within 60 days of the August 1, 2017 Primary election, featured John Hopkins, a candidate in the Primary election, and had a fair market value of \$1,000 or more. Staff again provided the Knutsens with a copy of the complaint and a blank C-6, and requested that they file the missing report and submit a written response to the complaint by September 8, 2017. **(See Exhibit 7)**

- 3.10 On August 28, 2017, John and Laurie Knutsen filed a C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications and a written response to the complaint. Mr. Knutsen stated that being independent citizens communicating with other citizens, they did not feel the need to report their actions. He said they were not aware of the PDC's requirements at the time the flyer was created and mailed. Mr. Knutsen said that as a former elected official he always followed PDC requirements, but saw distribution of their mailer as an independent right to educate the public. He said he recalled past editorials, letters to the editor, and other media publications being distributed to the public right up to election day, and assumed they had the same right. **(See Exhibit 8)**
- 3.11 On August 31, 2017, staff thanked Brian Snell of L&L Printing for reaching out to his client, John and Laurie Knutsen, informed him that the Knutsens had filed the missing C-6 report, and again asked for a copy of the invoice issued to John and Laurie Knutsen. **(See Exhibit 9)**
- 3.12 On September 6, 2017, L&L Printing responded to staff's request and provided a copy of the invoice for the services provided to John & Laurie Knutsen. The invoice confirmed that the total cost for the work was \$2,100. **(See Exhibit 10)**
- 3.13 At staff's request, on October 11, 2017, John and Laurie Knutsen filed an amended C-6 report of Electioneering Communications to show that their mailer opposed John Hopkins for Puyallup City Council, and that the flyer was paid for from the personal funds of John and Laurie Knutsen. **(See Exhibit 11)**

Interview of John Knutsen and Confirmation with L&L Printing

- 3.14 On November 30, 2017, PDC staff interviewed John Knutsen. Mr. Knutsen confirmed that he believed he had a constitutional right to communicate with his fellow citizens. **(See Exhibit 12)**
- 3.15 Mr. Knutsen declined to explain what he hoped to accomplish by sending the flyer anonymously, but noted that it created more talk in the community. He said putting his name on the flyer would have hurt John Hopkins more than an anonymous flyer because he is a former Mayor of Puyallup.
- 3.16 Mr. Knutsen could not recall whether L&L Printing advised him to include his name on the flyer. Staff contacted Brian Snell of L&L Printing, and learned that Mr. Snell was not aware of the sponsor identification requirement, and did not instruct the Knutsens to include their names on the flyer. Mr. Snell said the post office did not remind him of the sponsor identification requirement. He said he intends to make sure future customers include sponsor identification on political advertising.
- 3.17 Mr. Knutsen said he was not aware of the need to file a C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications at the time he sent out the flyer. He said if he had been aware of the requirement he would have filed the report.

- 3.18 Mr. Knutsen declined to say why he included the words INFO.PUYALLUP at the bottom of the flyer, but denied it was done to mislead people or to make them think there was a website where they could learn more about John Hopkins.
- 3.19 Mr. Knutsen said he and his wife conducted the research and wrote the flyer. He said they paid for the flyer with their own funds, and confirmed that no one helped pay for the flyer or loaned them money so they could pay for the flyer.
- 3.20 Staff asked Mr. Knutsen why he did not include his name on the mailer if he saw it as being similar to a letter-to-the editor. He said he had many reasons for not including his name on the flyer, but emphasized that he did not withhold his name to avoid complying with PDC rules, or to hide behind an anonymous flyer. He said he spoke at several Puyallup City Council meetings before the election, and each time talked about one or two of the items that he included in the flyer. He said anyone following city business would have known that he was the author of the flyer.
- 3.21 Mr. Knutsen said he and his wife sent out the flyer to inform people in Puyallup about their Mayor, John Hopkins. He said they sent the flyer to registered voters in Mr. Hopkins' council district.

IV. SCOPE

- 4.1 PDC staff reviewed the following documents and interviewed the following people:
1. A complaint filed by William Noland against the sponsors of an anonymous flyer concerning John Hopkins, a candidate for Puyallup City Council;
 2. Responses to the complaint by John and Laurie Knutsen, the sponsors of the anonymous flyer;
 3. Responses from Brian Snell, President, L&L Printing, the company that printed and mailed the flyer;
 4. The C-6 Report filed by John and Laurie Knutsen.
 5. Interviewed John Knutsen.
 6. Spoke with Brian Snell, President, L&L Printing

V. LAW

RCW 42.17A.005(19)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio transmission, United States postal service mailing, billboard, newspaper, or periodical that:

- (i) Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or judicial office either by specifically naming the candidate, or identifying the candidate without using the candidate's name;

(ii) Is broadcast, transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or otherwise published within sixty days before any election for that office in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking election; and

(iii) Either alone, or in combination with one or more communications identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during the sixty days before an election, has a fair market value of one thousand dollars or more.

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Respectfully submitted this 14th day of December 2017.



Philip E. Stutzman
Sr. Compliance Officer

EXHIBIT LIST

- Exhibit 1** Complaint Filed by William Noland concerning anonymous flyer (8/7/17)
- Exhibit 2** Staff Email to L&L Printing (8/9/17)
- Exhibit 3** Initial Response from L&L Printing (8/11/17)
- Exhibit 4** Staff Email to L&L Printing (8/11/17)
- Exhibit 5** Staff Request to File C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications (8/17/17)
- Exhibit 6** Response from John & Laurie Knutsen (8/23/17)
- Exhibit 7** Staff Request to File C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications (8/28/17)
- Exhibit 8** Initial C-6 Report and Response to Complaint (8/28/17)
- Exhibit 9** Request for Invoice to L&L Printing (8/31/17)
- Exhibit 10** Response from L&L Printing (9/6/17)
- Exhibit 11** Amended C-6 Report (10/11/17)
- Exhibit 12** Interview Summary – John Knutsen

File a Formal Complaint - William Noland

Williamnoland reported 2 days ago (Mon, 7 Aug at 5:30 PM) via Portal

On 7/10/17 I received an anonymous flyer in the US Mail concerning Puyallup City Council member John Hopkins, alleging unlawful or unethical acts. The flyer was not signed nor did it have any identifying information. In my original correspondence with the PDC, I attached a copy of the flyer. I cannot attach a file at this time because I did not keep the flyer. I am filing this complaint not because I am a supporter of John Hopkins; rather, I think it is cowardly, unethical and unlawful to smear a candidate for political office without identifying the sponsor of the mailing. I have been advised by the PDC staff that they are now aware of the bulk permit holder. As a consequence, it is my understanding that the PDC can make additional inquiries in trying to determine the sponsor of the mailing. It is my hope that the sponsor of the mailing can be identified as a result of this complaint. Thank you for your efforts to resolve this matter.

A DOCUMENTED HISTORY OF MAYOR JOHN HOPKINS DISREGARD FOR THE LAWS, ORDINANCES, AND REGULATIONS.

- 10/04/73 Anchorage Alaska, arrested for removing and concealing, FBI #14359N7.
- 01/99 Charged in Pierce County for failure to obtain building and fire permits. If convicted could be fined \$1000.00 and or 3 months in jail. Flooded neighboring yards with unpermitted fill. Charges dropped. The City of Puyallup annexed the property 3 days before trial.

SINCE HOPKINS HAS BEEN ON THE CITY COUNCIL

- 03/18/14 stated he had voted for a marijuana moratorium in the past, but was now voting against it because he had a renter who wanted to use his property for a marijuana business. Puyallup C.C Meeting.
- 10/14 Property owned by Hopkins raided by State, Local, and Federal Law Agencies. An unlawful hash oil lab was in full production. Hopkins claimed he had no relationship with the renter and was unaware of what was occurring in his building. Emails between Hopkins and his tenant tell a different story. Hopkins said he collected rent in cash on the sidewalk. KOMO News, Tacoma News Tribune
- 02/15 Hopkins pays a fine of \$3337.82 plus for violating State Labor Laws. Hopkins housed one of his employees in a storage shed, no plumbing, no heat and no windows. Other employees were not paid what is required by the Department of Labor and Industries. Hopkins has proudly stated that he was a business agent for an electricians union. Several days after leaving the storage shed, Hopkins employee was contacted by police in a semi-trailer on Hopkins property. See Puyallup Police Report.
- Date uncertain. Hopkins filed a code compliance complaint on property, next to his property on East Main. 08/03/15 email verifies complaint. After the owner sold the property, the new owner became entangled in City building codes and compliance issues. Hopkins offered to buy the property. Hopkins offer was far less than the tax value or real value of the property. This issue is ongoing at this time.

SUMMARY

- It is apparent that John Hopkins is willing to pass laws that require the public to follow what he legislates, but is not willing to follow the same laws. Why should any of us have to follow the rules and laws if our elected officials don't have to? It becomes apparent as to why the Puyallup Police Association has never endorsed John Hopkins.

INFO. PUYALLUP.

From: Phil Stutzman
To: ["sales@landlprinting.net"](mailto:sales@landlprinting.net)
Cc: [BG \(Barbara Sandahl\)](#); [Peter Lavalley](#); [Kim Bradford](#)
Subject: Anonymous Flier - Sponsor
Date: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 2:58:00 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Letter to Sen. Angus King 8-17.pdf](#)
[Complaint to Sen. Angus King 8-17.pdf](#)
[Anonymous Flier.pdf](#)
[RCWs and WACs related to 2020.pdf](#)

Brian Snell,

I understand you are out of the office this week. I am attaching a letter asking you to identify the purchaser of services from L & L Printing for an election related flyer. I am attaching copies of the following documents: (I am also including links to the statutes and rule citations.)

- Complaint
- Anonymous Flyer
- [RCW 42.17A.345](#)
- [RCW 42.17A.005\(9\)](#)
- [WAC 390-18-050](#)

As this is a current election issue, I would appreciate a timely response. If you have questions, please call or reply by email. Thank you.

Phil Stutzman



Philip E. Stutzman
Sr. Compliance Officer
Direct Line: 360-664-8853
Email: phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov
PDC Main No. 360-753-1111
Toll-Free in Washington State
1-877-601-2828
Website: www.pdc.wa.gov
Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

From: sales@landlprinting.net
To: [Phil Stutzman](#)
Subject: RE: Anonymous Flier - Sponsor
Date: Friday, August 11, 2017 12:15:02 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Screenshot1](#)
[PDC-Response-Letter.pdf](#)

Phil Stutzman, Please see attached response letter.

Thank you

Brian Snell



L & L Printing, Inc
1430 East Main Ste E
Puyallup WA 98372
(253) 848-5546
(253) 848-5547 fax
sales@landlprinting.net
www.landlprinting.net

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Anonymous Flier - Sponsor
From: Phil Stutzman <phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov>
Date: Wed, August 09, 2017 2:58 pm
To: "sales@landlprinting.net" <sales@landlprinting.net>
Cc: "BG (Barbara Sandahl)" <barbara.sandahl@pdc.wa.gov>, Peter Lavallee
<peter.lavallee@pdc.wa.gov>, Kim Bradford <kim.bradford@pdc.wa.gov>

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Philip E. Stutzman

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Email: phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov

PDC Main No. 360-753-1111

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Follow us on [Facebook!](#)



L&L PRINTING, INC.

1430 E. Main, Suite E • Puyallup, WA 98372

Bus: 253.848.5546 • Fax: 253.848.5547

sales@landlprinting.net

www.landlprinting.net

August 11, 2017

Dear Mr. Stutzman,

My customer has assured me that they have received no money nor given any money to any candidate in this election and has provided the below statement.

Dear Public Disclosure Commission,

As a private citizen, I have merely shared information that is already in the public view (TV, Newspaper, Public Disclosure). Since I am not connected to any candidate, I feel the PDC does not cover my actions and that your complainant is using the PDC to determine who sent the letter. I request you forward any court decision or case law that requires a private citizen to identify themselves to the PDC for mailing information on a seated elected official if they are not part of any campaign.

L&L Printing will comply with your response to the above statement.

Thank you

Brian Snell
President

From: Phil Stutzman
To: ["sales@landlprinting.net"](mailto:sales@landlprinting.net)
Cc: [Peter Lavallee](#)
Subject: RE: Anonymous Flier - Sponsor
Date: Friday, August 11, 2017 5:20:00 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Letter to \[REDACTED\] 8-11-17.pdf](#)
[Letter to \[REDACTED\] 8-11-17.docx](#)

Brian Snell
L&L Printing

Thank you for your quick reply. I am attaching a letter responding to your letter and the concerns of your client. I will be out of the office until Wednesday, 8/23/17. Please "Reply All" to this email with your response so in my absence Peter Lavallee, PDC's Executive Director, can evaluate the information you send. Thank you.

I am also attaching the Word version of my signed letter so you can access the links to the various statutes and rules highlighted in the letter.

Phil Stutzman



Philip E. Stutzman
Sr. Compliance Officer
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- [RCW 42.17A.005\(9\)](#)
- [WAC 390-18-050](#)

As this is a current election issue, I would appreciate a timely response. If you have questions, please call or reply by email. Thank you.

Phil Stutzman



Public Disclosure Commission
Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972

Philip E. Stutzman

Sr. Compliance Officer

Direct Line: 360-664-8853
Email: phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov
PDC Main No. 360-753-1111
Toll-Free in Washington State
1-877-601-2828
Website: www.pdc.wa.gov
Follow us on [Facebook!](#)



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

August 11, 2017

Email: sales@landlprinting.net

Brian Snell
L&L Printing
1430 E. Main Street, Suite E
Puyallup, WA 98372

Subject: Complaint filed Against Sponsor of Anonymous Flier

Dear Mr. Snell:

Thank you for your August 11 letter replying to my request for information about services L&L Printing provided to the sponsor of a flyer concerning John Hopkins, a 2016 candidate for Puyallup City Council. I outlined your responsibilities under RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050 to provide the requested information, and you indicated L&L Printing will comply with the PDC's response to the statement from your client.

Your client states that as a private citizen he merely shared information that is already in the public view. He stated he does not feel the PDC covers his actions, and he asked the Commission to forward any court decision or case law that requires a private citizen to identify themselves to the PDC for mailing information on a seated elected official if they are not part of any campaign.

RCW 42.17A includes various requirements for candidates and political committees. The law also imposes requirements on other persons, including individuals using their own funds, who make expenditures of \$100 or more in support of or in opposition to any candidate or ballot proposition that is not otherwise required to be reported under RCW 42.17A.205 to RCW 42.17A.240. It appears that the expenditure for the flyer was made in opposition to candidate John Hopkins, and if the sponsor spent \$100 or more, the expenditure would need to be reported as an independent expenditure on a C-6 Form within five days of making the expenditure. The reporting requirement for individuals making independent expenditures not otherwise required to be reported, is found in RCW 42.17A.255.

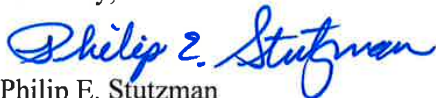
In addition, it appears that the flyer constituted political advertising, defined in RCW 42.17A.005(36), and that the sponsor was required to include sponsor identification on the flyer (i.e. "Paid for by" or "Sponsored by" followed by the sponsor's name and address). This requirement is found in RCW 42.17A.320.

Brian Snell
Page 2 of 2

While the PDC has subpoena authority under RCW 42.17A.110 and Washington Administrative Code 390-37-063, we are asking that you voluntarily provide the information requested in my August 9, 2017 letter. Once that information is received, PDC staff will work with the sponsor of the flyer to understand what occurred and determine an appropriate resolution to the complaint.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have questions, please contact Phil Stutzman at (360) 664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov. Please copy Peter Lavalley on your reply. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Philip E. Stutzman
Sr. Compliance Officer

cc: Peter Lavalley, Executive Director, PDC

From: [Kurt Young](#)
To: [Phil Stutzman](#)
Subject: FW: Mailer in Puyallup featuring John Hopkins
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2017 4:52:19 PM
Attachments: [Blank e-report.pdf](#)

FYI

From: Kurt Young
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:54 AM
To: 'jlknutsen@comcast.net' <jlknutsen@comcast.net>
Subject: Mailer in Puyallup featuring John Hopkins

Mr. Knutsen,

This email is a follow-up to our telephone conversation yesterday afternoon concerning a mailing you sent out that featured John Hopkins, incumbent Mayor of Puyallup and a candidate seeking re—election to that office in 2017.

As we discussed , the PDC has received a complaint from William Noland concerning the mailer described above, alleging that the mailer did not identify the sponsor as required by RCW 42.17A.320, and that the costs of the mailer were not disclosed to the PDC (see copied and pasted copy of complaint below). PDC staff identified L & L Printing as the vendor who was involved in the production and distribution of the mailer based on the bulk mail permit number, and contacted L & L in order to determine the sponsor of the anonymous mailer, in accordance with WAC 390-18-050 and pursuant to RCW 42.17A.345.

Thank you for reaching out to the PDC staff after being contacted by a representative from L and L Printing. I have included the statutory definition of an “electioneering communication” below, and bolded the relevant areas of the statute that pertained to the mailer you sponsored.

RCW 42.17A.005(19)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio transmission, United States postal service mailing, billboard, newspaper, or periodical that:

- (i) **Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or judicial office either by specifically naming the candidate**, or identifying the candidate without using the candidate's name;
- (ii) Is broadcast, transmitted, **mailed**, erected, distributed, or otherwise published **within sixty days before any election for that office in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking election**; and
- (iii) Either alone, or in combination with one or more **communications identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during the sixty days before an election, has a fair market value of one thousand dollars or more.**

Staff believes the mailer constitutes an electioneering communication that is required to be disclosed on the Independent Expenditure/Electioneering Communications report (C-6 report) as an Electioneering Communications (RCW 42.17A.305), for the following reasons:

1. The mailer featured John Hopkins, a candidate on the August 1, 2017 primary ballot.
2. The mailer was distributed within 60 days of the primary election.
3. The mailer costs more than \$1,000.

I have attached a copy of the C-6 report for you to review, complete and mail in to the PDC (FYI- you would need to check box 3 on the C-6 report for an electioneering communication). PDC staff is requesting that you file the C-6 report as soon as possible, and we would further request you provide a written response to the allegations in Mr. Noland's complaint by August 25, 2017. Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kurt Young
PDC Compliance Officer

File a Formal Complaint - William Noland

[Williamnoland](#) reported 10 days ago (Mon, 7 Aug at 5:30 PM) via Portal [Meta](#)

On 7/10/17 I received an anonymous flyer in the US Mail concerning Puyallup City Council member John Hopkins, alleging unlawful or unethical acts. The flyer was not signed nor did it have any identifying information. In my original correspondence with the PDC, I attached a copy of the flyer. I cannot attach a file at this time because I did not keep the flyer. I am filing this complaint not because I am a supporter of John Hopkins; rather, I think it is cowardly, unethical and unlawful to smear a candidate for political office without identifying the sponsor of the mailing. I have been advised by the PDC staff that they are now aware of the bulk permit holder. As a consequence, it is my understanding that the PDC can make additional inquiries in trying to determine the sponsor of the mailing. It is my hope that the sponsor of the mailing can be identified as a result of this complaint. Thank you for your efforts to resolve this matter.

PDC staff is requesting that you file the C-6 report as soon as possible, and we would further request you provide a written response to the allegations in Mr. Noland's complaint by August 25, 2017. Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kurt Young
PDC Compliance Officer

Public Disclosure Commission

Attn: Kurt Young

We received a copy of a request filed by William Noland. He asked for the name of the person mailing information on Puyallup Mayor John Hopkins. My name is John Knutsen, my wife, Laurie and I sent out the mailers as independent private citizens. Since we are not involved in any campaign, we do not feel we are under the scope of the PDC. We are however willing to share the following information at your request. We paid exactly \$2100.00 for the mailing. We have received no money from any candidate or campaign. We have given no money to any candidate or campaign. We have endorsed no one. All of the information mailed, we took from TV news, newspapers, and public disclosures. In addition to the mailer, I (John) have appeared at televised Puyallup City Council Meetings and presented the information during the citizen comments. We have no intention of spending any more of our money on future mailers.

We have reviewed the RCWs that you sent us. They all are directed to campaigns or candidates, or independent contributors to campaigns or candidates. We do not feel they apply to us but find no reason not to cooperate with you. Feel free to contact us if you would like any further information.

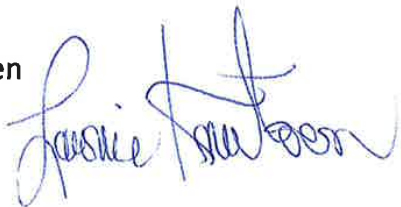
We have always found your office to be fair and easy to deal with. Even though we feel Mr. Noland is not entitled to any information concerning what we do, we will not be unhappy if you feel it's necessary to give him our name.

Thank you,

John Knutsen



Laurie Knutsen



RECEIVED

AUG 23 2017

Public Disclosure Commission

[Phil Stutzman](#) replied 3 months ago (Mon, 28 Aug at 10:26 AM)
Replied to : jlknutsen@comcast.net , cc : kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov,
barbara.sandahl@pdc.wa.gov, kim....
John and Laurie Knutsen,

PDC staff has opened a case file for the complaint filed by William Noland on August 7, 2017. The complaint alleges that William Noland received an anonymous mailer concerning John Hopkins, a candidate for Puyallup City Council, on July 10, 2017. The PDC has determined that the flyer was sponsored by John and Laurie Knutsen, that it was received by the public within 60 days of the August 1, 2017 Primary election, that it featured John Hopkins, a candidate in the Primary election, and that it had a fair market value of \$1,000 or more. Thus, the complaint is alleging that you may have violated [RCW 42.17A.305](#) by not filing a C-6 report of electioneering communications ([see definition of electioneering communications](#)) within 24 hours of mailing the flyer, and that you may have violated [RCW 42.17A.320](#) by not including sponsor identification on the flyer.

Kurt Young of PDC staff sent you an email on 8/24/17 with a copy of the complaint and a blank C-6 report. He asked you to file the missing C-6 report as soon as possible, and to provide a written response to the complaint by 8/25/17. I am also attaching a copy of the complaint and a copy of a blank C-6 form for reporting electioneering communications. Please provide a written response to the complaint and file the missing C-6 report **by September 8, 2017**.

PDC staff received a letter from you on 8/23/17, stating you have reviewed the RCWs and do not feel they apply to you. Your letter was sent before Mr. Young's 8/24/17 email was sent. If your letter, received 8/23/17, is your written response to the complaint, please confirm that fact by replying to this email. If you would like to provide a separate written response, now that the PDC has opened a case file, please provide your written response by September 8, 2017, as noted above. Thank you. If you have questions, let me know.

Phil Stutzman
Sr. Compliance Officer
(360) 664-8853



Form C6 1/12	DATE FILED PDC AUG 28 2017
---------------------------	-------------------------------

Reporting Form for: (check one)

Instructions on Page 3

- ☐ **INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES** (Occurring at any time) — \$100 or more
- ☐ **INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE ADS** (Appearing within 21 days of an election) — \$1,000 or more
- ☒ **ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS, Except Contributions** (Appearing within 60 days of an election) — \$1,000 or more

1. Name and complete postal mailing address of sponsor:

E-mail

Telephone

John D. Laurie A. Nutsen
 3021 7th St NW
 Puyallup, WA 98371-5226

JLNutsen@compst
 253.845.2159

2. Itemize expenditures of more than \$100 associated with the independent expenditure or electioneering communication.

Date Made	Date First Presented/ Mailed	Name and Address of Vendor or Recipient	Description of Expenditure (e.g., direct mail or newspaper, TV or radio ad)	Amount or Value (*See Below)
6/22/17	7/6/17	Lth Printing 1430 E Main Suite E Puyallup WA 98372	Mailers	\$2100.00

Expenditures \$100 or less not itemized above

\$

Total this report

\$ 2100.00

Amount or Value

*If no reasonable estimate can be made of value, describe activity, services, property or right furnished precisely and attach copy of item produced or distributed.

Total independent expenditures and electioneering communications made during this election campaign. Include amounts shown in this report and previously submitted C-6 reports.

\$

3. List of candidate(s) or ballot proposition(s) identified in the advertising.

Candidate/Proposition	Office/District/ Proposition No.	Party	Check Support or Oppose	Show portion of current expense attributable to each candidate or proposition	Show total C-6 expenses related to each candidate/ proposition during election campaign
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
Continued on attached sheet <input type="checkbox"/>				\$	\$

Filer Name:**4. If reporting an Electioneering Communication, it is necessary to disclose information concerning the source of funding for the communication. Select the description that applies:**

- a) ___ An individual using only personal funds.
 b) ___ An individual using personal funds and/or funds received from others.
 c) ___ A business, union, group, association, organization, or other person using only general treasury funds.
 d) ___ A business, union, group, association, organization, or other person using general treasury funds and/or funds received from others.
 e) ___ A political committee filing C-3 and C-4 reports. (RCW 42.17A.205 - .240)
 f) ___ A political committee filing C-5 reports. (RCW 42.17A.250)
 g) ___ Other

If (b), (d), (f), or (g) applies, complete section 5 below. If (e) applies, also complete section 5 if the committee received funds that were requested or designated for the communication.

5. Sources giving in excess of \$250 for the electioneering communication:

Date Received	Source's Name, Address, City, State, Zip	For Individuals, Employer's Name, City and State	Amount
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
		Sub-Total	\$
	Continued on attached sheet <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount from attached pages	\$
		TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED	\$

Sponsor of Independent Expenditure or Electioneering Communication

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that this expenditure was not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or an agent of a candidate nor does it otherwise constitute a contribution under RCW 42.17A.005. I further certify that the above information is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature *John D. Knutson* Printed Name *John D. Knutson*
 Street Address *322 17th St NW*
 City/State/Zip *Puyallup WA, 98371 - 5226*
 Date Signed *8-29-17* Place Signed (city and county) *Puyallup Pierce*

*RCW9A.72.040 provides that "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement, which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."

Re: PDC - Knutsen, John and Laurie, Alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.305 and .320, failure to report an electioneering communication and failure to include sponsor identification on political advertising

From : jlknutsen@comcast.net

Mon, Aug 28, 2017 05:11 PM

Subject : Re: PDC - Knutsen, John and Laurie, Alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.305 and .320, failure to report an electioneering communication and failure to include sponsor identification on political advertising

To : PDC <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>

Phil Stutzman,

In response to your request for information on a mailer, my wife, Laurie, and I sent on the Mayor of Puyallup, we offer the following. My wife Laurie and I are life long Puyallup residents. After watching Mayor John Hopkins continual disregard for laws and ethical behavior, we decided to compile a list of his misdeeds. We decided to compile a list and send it to the citizens in his district. All information has been on, TV, radio, newspapers, or through public disclosure. We applied to the City of Puyallup many months ago, for public disclosure on John Hopkins, and are still waiting for the final installment. In July we decided to send what we had acquired and move on.

We paid exactly \$2100.00 for the mailers and do not intend to spend anymore. We are not part of any candidates campaign. We have not given or taken any money from any candidate or campaign, nor have we endorsed any candidate. Being independent citizens communicating with other citizens we did not feel the need to report our actions. We were not aware of your requirements at the time. As a former elected official I always followed the PDC requirements but saw our mailer as an independent right to educate the public. We recall, editorials, letters to the editor and other media publications distributed to the mass public right up to election day so we assumed we had the same right.

Sincerely,
John and Laurie Knutsen

The C-6 Form will be mailed tomorrow.

From: "PDC" <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>

To: "jlknutsen" <jlknutsen@comcast.net>

Cc: "Kurt Young" <kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov>, "Barbara Sandahl" <barbara.sandahl@pdc.wa.gov>, "Kim Bradford" <kim.bradford@pdc.wa.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 10:26:12 AM

Subject: Re: PDC - Knutsen, John and Laurie, Alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.305 and .320, failure to report an electioneering communication and failure to include sponsor identification on political advertising

John and Laurie Knutsen,

PDC staff has opened a case file for the complaint filed by William Noland on August 7, 2017. The complaint alleges that William Noland received an anonymous mailer concerning John Hopkins, a candidate for Puyallup City Council, on July 10, 2017. The PDC has determined that the flyer was sponsored by John and Laurie Knutsen, that it was received by the public within 60 days of the August 1, 2017 Primary election, that it featured John Hopkins, a candidate in the Primary election, and that it had a fair market value of \$1,000 or more. Thus, the complaint is alleging that you may have violated RCW 42.17A.305 by not filing a C-6 report of electioneering communications (see definition of electioneering communications) within 24 hours of mailing the flyer, and that you may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 by not including sponsor identification on the flyer.

Kurt Young of PDC staff sent you an email on 8/24/17 with a copy of the complaint and a blank C-6 report. He asked you to file the missing C-6 report as soon as possible, and to provide a written response to the complaint by 8/25/17. I am also attaching a

From: Phil Stutzman
To: ["sales@landlprinting.net"](mailto:sales@landlprinting.net)
Cc: [BG \(Barbara Sandahl\)](#); [Peter Lavallee](#); [Kim Bradford](#)
Subject: Flyer Produced and Mailed for John & Laurie Knutsen
Date: Thursday, August 31, 2017 4:52:00 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Letter to Phil Stutzman Aug 9-17.pdf](#)
[Letter to Ed Leung Aug 11-17.pdf](#)

Brian Snell
L&L Printing

Thank you for reaching out to your client, John and Laurie Knutsen, and for informing us that they would be contacting the Public Disclosure Commission. We have been in contact with Mr. Knutsen and are in the progress of resolving this matter. Mr. Knutsen has filed a C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications, as requested, disclosing his expenditures for the flyer and mailing. As noted in my August 9 and August 11, 2017 letters (copies enclosed) please submit a copy of the invoice for the services you provided, and the date the fliers were mailed. You may scan a copy of the invoice and attach it to a reply to this email. Please supply the requested document and information by September 8, 2017. Thank you.

Phil Stutzman



Philip E. Stutzman
Sr. Compliance Officer
Direct Line: 360-664-8853
Email: phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov
PDC Main No. 360-753-1111
Toll-Free in Washington State
1-877-601-2828
Website: www.pdc.wa.gov
Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

From: sales@landlprinting.net
To: [Phil Stutzman](#)
Subject: RE: Flyer Produced and Mailed for John & Laurie Knutsen
Date: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 2:49:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[20170906-20170906.pdf](#)

Phil, Attached is the copy of the invoice requested. We delivered the mailing in 2 sections. The first portion/section was delivered to the post office on July 5th. The second portion was delivered on the 7th.

Thank you

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Flyer Produced and Mailed for John & Laurie Knutsen
From: "Phil Stutzman" <phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov>
Date: 8/31/17 4:52 pm
To: "sales@landlprinting.net" <sales@landlprinting.net>
Cc: "BG (Barbara Sandahl)" <barbara.sandahl@pdc.wa.gov>, "Peter Lavallee" <peter.lavallee@pdc.wa.gov>, "Kim Bradford" <kim.bradford@pdc.wa.gov>

Brian Snell

L&L Printing

Thank you for reaching out to your client, John and Laurie Knutsen, and for informing us that they would be contacting the Public Disclosure Commission. We have been in contact with Mr. Knutsen and are in the progress of resolving this matter. Mr. Knutsen has filed a C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications, as requested, disclosing his expenditures for the flyer and mailing. As noted in my August 9 and August 11, 2017 letters (copies enclosed) please submit a copy of the invoice for the services you provided, and the date the fliers were mailed. You may scan a copy of the invoice and attach it to a reply to this email. Please supply the requested document and information by September 8, 2017. Thank you.

Phil Stutzman



Philip E. Stutzman

Sr. Compliance Officer

Direct Line: 360-664-8853

Email: phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov

PDC Main No. 360-753-1111

Toll-Free in Washington State

1-877-601-2828

Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

Follow us on [Facebook!](#)



L&L PRINTING

1430 E. Main Ave, Suite E. ♦ Puyallup, WA 98372
Bus: 253.848.5546 ♦ Fax: 253.848.5547
sales@landlprinting.net ♦ www.landlprinting.net

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
6/22/2017	121456

Bill To

KNUTSON

Lori

DELIVER

PICK-UP

CWR

SHIP UPS

Customer Phone		Terms		P.O. No.	ORDER DUE	TAKEN BY
					6/22/2017	MINDY
#	QTY	ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION		Amount
		MAILING P...		PRINTING 2 SIDED 8.5 X 11 - VOTER INFORMATION PROCESS CUSTOMER SUPPLIED MAILING LIST FILTER OUT VOTERS CASS & NCOA CERTIFY FOLD LETTER, TAB X2, LABEL WITH VOTER NAMES DELIVER TO POST OFFICE BY JULY 14TH <i>July 5th or 6th</i>		1,910.83T
PAID						
Subtotal					\$1,910.83	
Sales Tax (9.9%)					\$189.17	
Total					\$2,100.00	

X: _____

Reporting Form for: (check one)

Instructions on Page 3

- ☐ **INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES** (Occurring at any time) — **\$100 or more**
☐ **INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE ADS** (Appearing within 21 days of an election) — **\$1,000 or more**
☒ **ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS, Except Contributions** (Appearing within 60 days of an election) — **\$1,000 or more**

1. Name and complete postal mailing address of sponsor:
 John & Laurie Thutson
 1300 17th St NW
 Puyallup WA 98371-5226

E-mail: thutson@comcast.net
 Telephone: 253.845.2159

2. Itemize expenditures of more than \$100 associated with the independent expenditure or electioneering communication.

Date Made	Date First Presented/Mailed	Name and Address of Vendor or Recipient	Description of Expenditure (e.g., direct mail or newspaper, TV or radio ad)	Amount or Value (*See Below)
6/22/17	7/6/17	L&H Printing 1430 E Main Suite E Puyallup, WA 98372	Mailers	\$2100.00

Expenditures \$100 or less not itemized above

\$

Amount or Value	Total this report
*If no reasonable estimate can be made of value, describe activity, services, property or right furnished precisely and attach copy of item produced or distributed.	\$2100.00
Total independent expenditures and electioneering communications made during this election campaign. Include amounts shown in this report and previously submitted C-6 reports.	\$2100.00

3. List of candidate(s) or ballot proposition(s) identified in the advertising.				Show portion of current expense attributable to each candidate or proposition	Show total C-6 expenses related to each candidate/ proposition during election campaign
Candidate/Proposition	Office/District/ Proposition No.	Party	Check Support or Oppose		
John Hopkins-Council/District 1	Pos 2	Republican	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$ 2100.00	\$ 2100.00
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
Continued on attached sheet <input type="checkbox"/>				\$	\$

Filer Name:**4. If reporting an Electioneering Communication, it is necessary to disclose information concerning the source of funding for the communication. Select the description that applies:**

- a) ☒ An individual using only personal funds.
 b) ☐ An individual using personal funds and/or funds received from others.
 c) ☐ A business, union, group, association, organization, or other person using only general treasury funds.
 d) ☐ A business, union, group, association, organization, or other person using general treasury funds and/or funds received from others.
 e) ☐ A political committee filing C-3 and C-4 reports. (RCW 42.17A.205 - .240)
 f) ☐ A political committee filing C-5 reports. (RCW 42.17A.250)
 g) ☐ Other

If (b), (d), (f), or (g) applies, complete section 5 below. If (e) applies, also complete section 5 if the committee received funds that were requested or designated for the communication.

5. Sources giving in excess of \$250 for the electioneering communication:

Date Received	Source's Name, Address, City, State, Zip	For Individuals, Employer's Name, City and State	Amount
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
			\$
		Occupation	
		Sub-Total	\$
	Continued on attached sheet <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount from attached pages	\$
		TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED	\$

Sponsor of Independent Expenditure or Electioneering Communication	
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that this expenditure was not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or an agent of a candidate nor does it otherwise constitute a contribution under RCW 42.17A.005. I further certify that the above information is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.	Signature <i>John D. Knutson</i>
	Printed Name JOHN D. KNUTSON
	Street address 302 17th St NW
	City/State/Zip Pullman WA 99137-5226
	Date Signed 10/11/17
*RCW 9A.172.040 provides that "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement, which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."	

Reporting Form for: (check one)

Instructions on Page 3

- ☐ INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES (Occurring at any time) — \$100 or more
☐ INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE ADS (Appearing within 21 days of an election) — \$1,000 or more
☒ ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS, Except Contributions (Appearing within 60 days of an election) — \$1,000 or more

1. Name and complete postal mailing address of sponsor:
 John D. Staurie, Jr.
 3001 1st St NW
 Puyallup, WA, 98371-5206
 E-mail: JStaurie@compstn
 Telephone: 253.845.2159

2. Itemize expenditures of more than \$100 associated with the independent expenditure or electioneering communication.

Date Made	Date First Presented/Mailed	Name and Address of Vendor or Recipient	Description of Expenditure (e.g., direct mail or newspaper, TV or radio ad)	Amount or Value ("See Below")
6/22/17	7/6/17	L+L Printing 1430 E Main Suite E Puyallup WA 98372	Mailbox	\$2100.00

Expenditures \$100 or less not itemized above

\$

Amount or Value	Total this report
*If no reasonable estimate can be made of value, describe activity, services, property or right furnished precisely and attach copy of item produced or distributed.	\$ 2100.00
	Total independent expenditures and electioneering communications made during this election campaign. Include amounts shown in this report and previously submitted C-6 reports.
	\$

3. List of candidate(s) or ballot proposition(s) identified in the advertising.				Show portion of current expense attributable to each candidate or proposition	Show total C-6 expenses related to each candidate/proposition during election campaign
Candidate/Proposition	Office/District/Proposition No.	Party	Check Support or Oppose		
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$	\$
Continued on attached sheet <input type="checkbox"/>				\$	\$

a) ☐ An Individual using only personal funds.

b) ☐ An Individual using personal funds and/or funds received from others.

c) ☐ A business, union, group, association, organization, or other person using only general treasury funds.

d) ☐ A business, union, group, association, organization, or other person using general treasury funds and/or funds received from others.

e) ☐ A political committee filing C-3 and C-4 reports. (RCW 42.17A.205 - .240)

f) ☐ A political committee filing C-5 reports. (RCW 42.17A.250)

g) ☐ Other

5. Sources giving in excess of \$250 for the electioneering communication:

<p>I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that this expenditure was not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or an agent of a candidate nor does it otherwise constitute a contribution under RCW 42.17A.005. I further certify that the above information is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.</p>	<p>Sponsor of Independent Expenditure or Electioneering Communication</p> <p>Signature <u>Laure A. Knutson</u></p> <p>Printed Name <u>Laure A. Knutson</u></p> <p>Street Address <u>322 17th St NW</u></p> <p>City/State/Zip <u>Puyallup WA 98371-5226</u></p> <p>Date Signed <u>8-29-17</u></p> <p>Place Signed (city and county) <u>Puyallup Pierce</u></p>	<p>*RCW 9A.72.040 provides that "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement, which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."</p>
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Interview Summary
John Knutsen, Case 24298
11/30/17
(31 min. 23 seconds)

- (Background) John Knutsen was interviewed under oath by Phil Stutzman, PDC Sr. Compliance Officer, on November 30, 2017. Mr. Stutzman was alone in his office at the Public Disclosure Commission in Olympia, Washington, and Mr. Knutsen was alone and participated by telephone. John and Laurie Knutsen jointly sponsored a one-page mailer on July 6, 2017 concerning John Hopkins, a candidate for Puyallup City Council. The flyer was titled "A DOCUMENTED HISTORY OF MAYOR JOHN HOPKINS DISREGARD FOR THE LAWS, ORDINANCES, AND REGULATIONS" and attributed several negative actions to Mr. Hopkins. The flyer cost \$2,100.00, and did not identify its sponsor. Mr. Knutsen did not file the missing C-6 report until required to do so by PDC staff.
- The interview was recorded to an audio file, but was not transcribed. This document is a summary of the interview, but is not intended to be a word-for-word transcript. Mr. Knutsen was provided a copy of the one-page mailer concerning John Hopkins prior to the interview.
- Staff asked Mr. Knutsen how he came to the conclusion that he was not required to identify himself and his spouse as the sponsors of the flyer. He stated that he believed he had a constitutional right to communicate with his fellow citizens.
- Mr. Knutsen stated that he did not consult with anyone about whether he should put his name on the flyer. When asked whether he and his spouse discussed putting their names on the flyer, he replied that he did not see how putting his name on the flyer had anything to do with anything. He declined to explain the strategy of the flyer or why he did not include his name on the flyer. He said that not putting his name on the flyer created more talk in the community. He also stated that Mr. Hopkins is an extremely vindictive man.
- Mr. Knutsen expressed frustration that what started out as a simple question about who paid for the flyer has turned into to a formal investigation with questions about his motives for sending out the flyer. He asked whether there is a "push" from someone to continue the investigation beyond identifying who wrote the flyer. He reminded Mr. Stutzman that he was participating in the interview voluntarily, and said he was spending more time responding to the complaint than was merited. Mr. Stutzman thanked Mr. Knutsen for his input, and said PDC staff wanted to know the basic facts about the alleged violation to facilitate an appropriate resolution of the complaint.
- Staff asked if the Printer (L&L Printing) suggested or reminded him of the need to include sponsor identification on the flyer. Mr. Knutsen said he could not remember his conversation with the Printer, and suggested that staff contact the Printer directly for an answer to that question.

- Mr. Knutsen confirmed that he served on the Puyallup City Council for eight years, which included serving the last two years as Mayor. Staff asked why he did not call the PDC to ask whether he was required to include his name on the mailer. He said his flyer was simply restating what had already been reported by the media on television and in newspapers about the seated Mayor. He said he disagreed that there should be a time limit on speaking out or producing material about a sitting elected official.
- Staff asked Mr. Knutsen if he was attempting to influence the election. He declined to comment about what he hoped to accomplish by sending out the flyer.
- Mr. Knutsen said he was not aware of the need to file a C-6 Report of Electioneering Communications at the time he sent out the flyer. He said if he had been aware of the C-6 requirement he would have filed the report.
- Staff asked why he included the words, "INFO.PUYALLUP" at the bottom of the flyer. He said there was no meaning to the words, and said they were something he "pulled out of the air" to make people think about the information in the flyer. He said he believed that putting his name on the flyer would have hurt John Hopkins more than not putting his name on the flyer because he is a former Mayor of Puyallup.
- Mr. Knutsen said he supported John Hopkins the first time he was elected, and said they worked well together for about four years. He said eventually he could no longer work with Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Knutsen said he never ran against Mr. Hopkins.
- Mr. Knutsen said he and his wife conducted the research and wrote the flyer. He said they paid for the flyer with their own funds. He said no one helped pay for the flyer, and no one loaned him money so he could pay for the flyer.
- Mr. Knutsen said he believes people have a right to send out information about elected officials at any time, without regard to whether the official is on the ballot. He said he was not aware that the sponsor identification requirements applied to his flyer. He noted that he did not identify a favorite candidate in the flyer.
- Mr. Knutsen said Jim Kastama was going to easily win the election with or without the flyer. He said he did not campaign for any candidate.
- Staff asked Mr. Knutsen why he did not include his name on the flyer if he saw it as being similar to a letter-to-the editor. He said he had many reasons for not including his name on the flyer, but emphasized that he did not withhold his name to avoid complying with PDC rules, or to hide behind an anonymous flyer. He said he spoke at several recent Puyallup City Council meetings, and each time talked about one or two of the items in the flyer. He said anyone following city business would have concluded that he was the author of the flyer.

- Mr. Knutsen said he and his wife sent out the flyer to inform people in Puyallup about their Mayor, John Hopkins. He said they sent the flyer to registered voters in Mr. Hopkins' council district.
- Mr. Knutsen had no final comments and the interview was concluded.