



WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR FY2022



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Washington voters got it right 50 years ago, when they approved the law that opened the window on how money influences politics in our state. Initiative 276, approved by a 72% majority in 1972, gave all of us the right to know who gives to candidates and causes — and who receives. It required lobbyists to report what they spend trying to influence legislation. And it compelled public officials and candidates to disclose information about their personal finances so voters can decide if they constitute a potential conflict of interest.

I-276 designated the Public Disclosure Commission as the custodian of all this information. It gave us the task of making the information accessible to the public, as well as enforcing state campaign finance laws.

Those are tasks we've been perfecting for the past 50 years as we've moved campaign finance, lobbying and personal financial disclosures from paper to microfiche to electronic data.

We've made it easy for the public to get information by posting millions of records



on the state's Open Data portal and at our website, www.pdc.wa.gov. A sweeping redesign of that website this year provides better navigation for citizens looking to make informed voting decisions and for the candidates, committees, lobbyists and officials who need to know how to maintain compliance.

We've made major improvements to the systems used to submit reports, to both help filers get it right and the public get better data. This year we overhauled our Online Reporting of Campaign Activity (ORCA) software, creating a more user-friendly interface and incorporating suggestions gleaned from regular feedback sessions with campaign treasurers. We are close to reaching our ultimate goal, which is to transform ORCA into a fully web-based application that will allow users to log on from any device or location.

Since 1972, both the Legislature and voters have added to campaign finance laws. Initiative 134 — overwhelmingly approved by voters in 1992 — placed limits on campaign contributions. More recently, state lawmakers have added disclosure requirements for the rising class of politically active nonprofits and expanded sponsor identification laws to

reveal the big donors behind a PAC's political advertising.

We know there is more to do to ensure the health of our political system, which faces challenges that weren't anticipated in 1972.

Among those new challenges:

> The rise of digital political advertising.

Our role is to protect the public's right to know who is behind online campaign ads. With the help of the attorney general's office, we have pursued legal action when commercial advertisers fail to meet their obligations under the law.

But imposing penalties after the fact does not effect change. We are working to create regulations that ensure campaigns, small and large, have access to this vital means of communicating with voters, while at the same time preserving transparency.

> The advent of our vote-by-mail system.

Current reporting periods were developed before the advent of mail-in ballots, and are oriented around a single election day. But voters now have ballots in hand weeks before. We are working to ensure voters have access to more campaign spending information during the weeks-long voting period.

> Grassroots lobbying campaigns. Washington requires expenditures above a certain threshold aimed at influencing legislation — that are not otherwise reported by a registered lobbyist, candidate or committee — to be reported to the PDC. But the law has not been substantively updated since 1972.

We want to ensure that reporting by these types of efforts clearly identifies the sponsor of a lobbying campaign, and that reporting occurs during the legislative session when the influence is being sought.

No matter where these and other hot-button issues land, the Public Disclosure Commission will be watching. We are working hard to keep the window of transparency open — and perhaps widen it a crack or two. As campaign technology and processes evolve, we need to adjust to fulfill the public's right to know, and we remain committed for the next 50 years.

Fred Jarrett
Public Disclosure Commission Chair
December 2022

TIMELINE

SHINING A LIGHT ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE FOR 50 YEARS

Washingtonians voted to create the Public Disclosure Commission. Here's what led up to that historic vote:

> JUNE 1971

A group of Washington citizens concerned about the influence of money in politics forms the Coalition for Open Government (COG) and advocates with lawmakers for regulation of campaign finance and lobbying activities.

> MARCH 29, 1972

The COG files Initiative 276, a sweeping effort to regulate campaign financing, activities of lobbyists, access to public records, and to require the disclosure of information about the financial affairs of elective officers and candidates.

> JULY 7, 1972

The COG turns in more than 160,000 signatures to place I-276 on the ballot. In August, the Secretary of State announces that I-276 will be on the ballot.

> NOV. 7, 1972

Voters approve Initiative 276 with a 72% "Yes" vote.

> 1973-74

The PDC gets off the ground. The new law is challenged in court, but most provisions are upheld.

> 1974

Activist (and later congresswoman) Jolene Unsoeld, who helped lead the charge on I-276, publishes "Who Gave? Who Got? How Much?," a detailed study of campaign finances of state lawmakers. She did the research on her own as a private citizen, publishing editions over several years.



How the PDC got its start

In the 1970s, a group of Washington citizens concerned about the influence of money in politics determined to do something about it.

They formed the Coalition for Open Government (COG) in June 1971.

COG included representatives of the League of Women Voters of Washington, the American Association of University Women, the Young Lawyers section of the Seattle-King County Bar Association, the Municipal League of Seattle-King County, the Seattle Press Club, the Washington Environmental Council, the Washington Council of Churches, CHECC (a Seattle group formed to support municipal candidates) and Common Cause.

The Legislature passed the Open Public Meetings Act in 1971, but could not agree on a path forward to increase transparency in the areas of campaign finance or lobbying.

When lawmakers reconvened in January 1972, a bill to regulate both areas, drafted by COG, was waiting for them. Gov. Dan Evans favored reform, but legislators bypassed the COG bill in favor of bills of their own making along with a pair of referenda attached to them.

COG decided the only way forward was to file an initiative to the people on

March 29, 1972. Members worried that their proposal, Initiative 276, would be overshadowed by not only the legislative referenda but a slew of other ballot measures, including one to allow greyhound racing and another to privatize liquor sales.

By May 1972, COG had gathered only about 30,000 of the more than 100,000 signatures needed by July 7 to place I-276 on the November 7 ballot.

An intense campaign by I-276 supporters, fueled by endorsements, constant media coverage and hard work, put the campaign over the top in time, with more than 160,000 signatures.

The total cost of the campaign: just \$13,000 — more than \$90,000 in today's (2022) dollars. Compare that to the more than \$16 million spent in 2018 on I-1631, a measure to impose carbon emissions fees.

COG's efforts were a success. On election day, Nov. 7, more than 900,000 Washingtonians — 72% of those who voted — agreed to establish one of the most comprehensive campaign finance regulation systems in the country.

It required disclosure of the sources of campaign contributions along with disclosure of how the money was spent, mandated reporting of personal financial affairs by candidates as well as elected and certain appointed officials, and regulated lobbying activities. It established the five-member Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) to oversee this activity.

The initiative laid out a series of 11 statements of policy, which were codified into law. (RCW 42.17A). One of those statements summed up the thinking behind the initiative: "Our representative form of government is founded on a belief that those entrusted with the offices of government have nothing to fear from full public disclosure of their financial and business holdings, provided those officials deal honestly and fairly with the people."

From the outset, the PDC embraced that philosophy. It continues to do so a half-century after voters approved I-276 and will continue empowering the public to follow the money in politics.

(Much of the material for this article comes from "The People's Right to Know," by Hugh A. Bone and Cindy M. Fey; 1978)

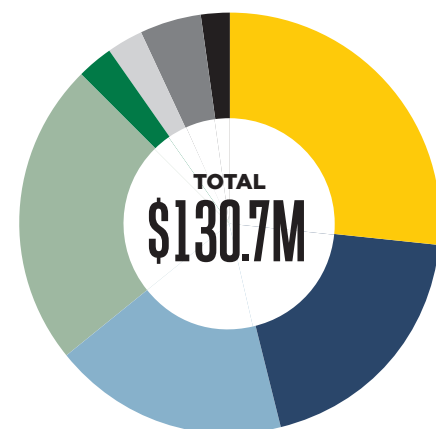
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TRACKING THE MONEY

WHO GAVE, HOW MUCH?

Total contributions to candidates and political committees in 2022 elections



- **\$35,055,933** Individual
- **\$3,668,014** Union
- **\$25,508,498** Business
- **\$3,758,000** Self-financing
- **\$23,439,296** Other
- **\$6,104,944** Party
- **\$30,466,323** Political Action Committee
- **\$2,708,831** Caucus

Note: Totals rounded to nearest dollar

Legislative race spending hits record levels

Contributions to candidates and political committees topped \$130 million for 2022 elections, while spending from all sources also surpassed \$130 million.

Spending in state legislative races approached and in some cases exceeded record levels.

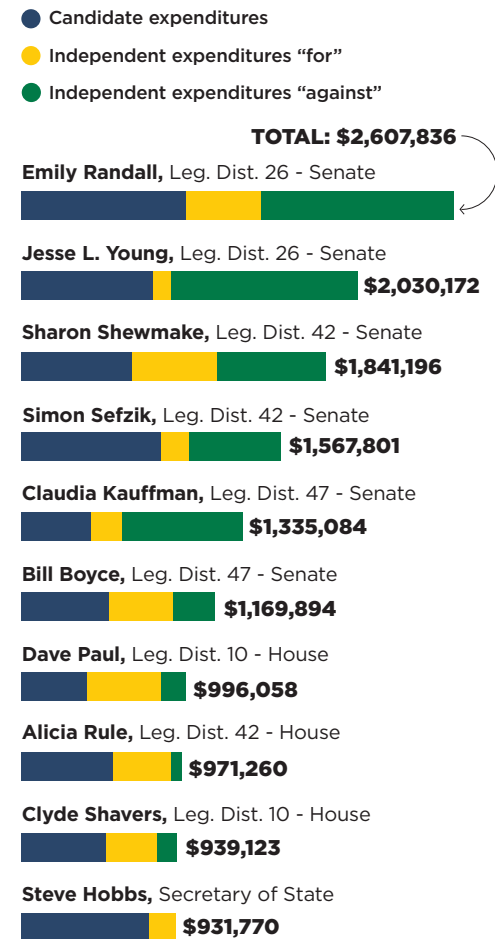
Candidates vying for the 26th District Senate seat reported spending nearly \$1.8 million combined, placing it in line to become at least the third costliest legislative race in state history – just behind the T'wina Nobles-Steve O'Ban contest in the 28th District in 2020, which saw a combined spending of just over \$1.8 million between the two.

Both candidates attracted substantial independent expenditures – money from groups operating independently of candidates. Independent groups spent more than \$559,000 supporting Randall and Young. But the big money in the race came from independent expenditures against Randall or Young. Each candidate drew more than \$1 million in expenditures arguing against their candidacy, for more than \$2.2 million in combined opposition spending.

Another Senate race in the 42nd District was close behind in total candidate spending. In that race, Simon Sefzik and Sharon Shewmake reported expenditures of more

TOP CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN SPENDING

For election year 2022



Note: Totals rounded to nearest dollar

than \$1.5 million.

In the House, the race for Position 1 in the 42nd District between incumbent Alicia Rule and challenger Tawsha Dykstra Thompson was the costliest House race in Washington state, with combined spending reported by the candidates over \$927,706. That's more than the current record in that category: the race between Teri Hickel and Carol Gregory in 2015 in the 30th District, which saw combined spending by the candidates of \$821,735.

Rule's reported expenditures of \$553,049 also made hers the single highest spending House campaign in state history, surpassing the \$433,514 spent by 10th District candidate Dave Paul in 2020.

Independent expenditures

Independent expenditures in 2022 came from partisan political action committees hoping to make inroads in legislative races throughout the state.

Total independent expenditures – money spent independently of the candidates themselves for things such as mailers, TV ads and other forms of assistance – topped \$16 million in the 2022 election cycle. That's roughly equivalent to the amount spent in 2020, a year that included the race for governor and other statewide offices.

As in 2020, the biggest spender in 2022 – accounting for just over 30 percent of the total – was the New Direction PAC, a committee funded by labor and education groups as well as Democratic party funds. New Direction spent money to support Democrats and oppose Republican legislative candidates.

In the high-stakes race for the 26th District Senate seat, for example, New Direction spent more than \$288,000 supporting Democrat Emily Randall and more than \$1 million opposing Republican Jesse Young.

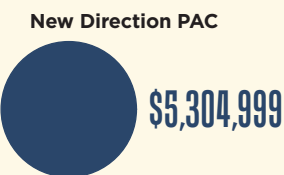
Next on the independent expenditures top 10 list was WA Wins Sponsored by the Leadership Council, a PAC affiliated with the state Senate Republican Caucus. WA Wins spent cash opposing Democrats like Randall and 42nd District Senate candidate Sharon Shewmake, and in support of Republicans including Young and Shewmake's opponent Simon Sefzik.

Other big spenders include Evergreen Progress, funded by the state Republican Party, and the Jackson Legacy Fund, named for former U.S. Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson, supports Democrats.

Also high on the list of independent spending were groups representing business, such as the Washington Realtors Political Action Committee, and the state teachers union, the Washington Education Association PAC.

Top independent expenditure sponsors

For election year 2022



WA Wins Sponsored By The Leadership Council



Evergreen Progress (Washington State Republican Party)



Washington Realtors Political Action Committee



Concerned Taxpayers of Washington State



Citizens For Progress



WA Education Assn. PAC



Families For a Safer King County



Jackson Legacy Fund



North Cascade Jobs



Lobbying expenses

Spending by lobbyist employers in Fiscal Year 2022 totaled nearly \$85 million, up from \$78 million in 2021. Entering the list of top lobbying expenditures this year was Lyft Inc., the ride sharing company.

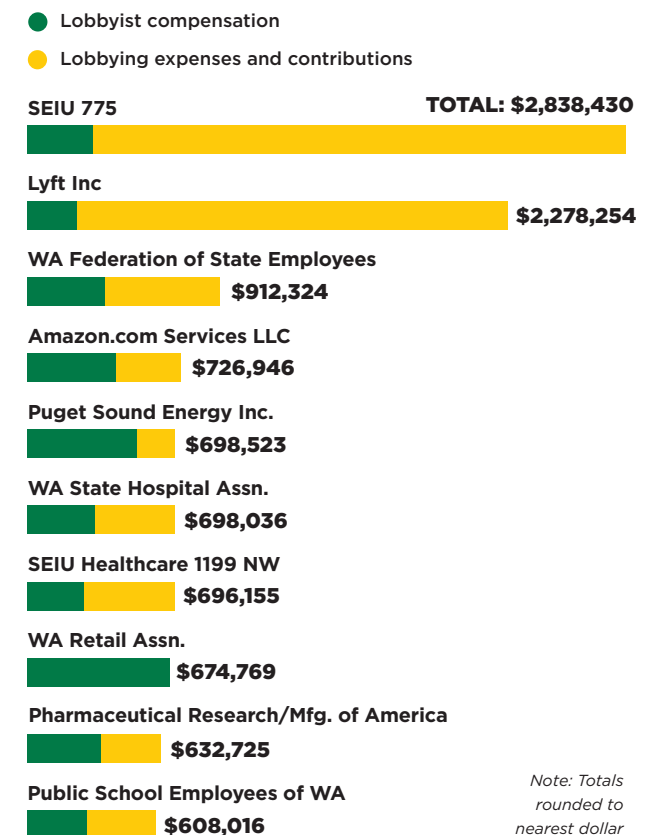
Others in the top 10 list for 2022 include the union representing state workers, Washington Federation of State Employees, and the Public School Employees of Washington union, which represents educational support workers around the state.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 775, which represents workers in the long-term care industry, topped the list of lobbyist employer spending for the second year in a row. Another SEIU affiliate, SEIU Healthcare 1199 NW, which represents nurses and other health care employees, also made the list of top 10 spenders.

The Washington Retail Association and Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturing of America made the top 10 spending list in 2022, joining Amazon.com Services LLC and Puget Sound Energy Inc. – both business groups that made the top 10 list in the previous two years.

TOP LOBBYIST EMPLOYERS

For fiscal year 2022



Note: Totals rounded to nearest dollar

EXPERT-LEVEL GUIDANCE

1.7M *Number of page views on the PDC website.*



OUTREACH

HELPING FILERS GET IT RIGHT

The first edition of our new monthly “Disclosures” newsletter reached email inboxes in August 2021.

The monthly newsletter contains helpful tips and reminders for filers, lists upcoming reporting deadlines and promotes our monthly training classes. We also use the newsletter to recruit participants in stakeholder meetings, such as the periodic meetings with campaign treasurers.



Customer service help desk

for FY 22

Type/no. of request	Average first response time
3,862 Simple	1 hour and 36 minutes
2,609 Complex	8 hours and 20 minutes

6,471 TOTAL REQUESTS

New website launched

One of our biggest undertakings during Fiscal Year 2022 was the launch of our new and improved website in April 2022.

The update began more than a year prior, with surveys and usability studies conducted with a broad spectrum of likely website users including voters, members of the news media, campaign treasurers, lobbyists and PDC staff members.

Using information gained from these sessions, we fashioned a website designed to take users where they need to go, and to get them there more quickly. We consolidated and streamlined content from our 6-year-

old website, and removed duplicated and unnecessary information.

The home page features up-to-date news items and reminders for filers, as well as sections tailored for each of six audiences:

- Voters & the Public
- Candidates
- Political Committees
- Incidental Committees
- Lobbyists
- Elected Officials

There are also direct links from the home page to registration and reporting instructions, guidelines for filers, searchable tables of financial data and reports filed with the PDC, and enforcement cases.

We continue to make improvements as we hear from users of the website.

Website by the numbers
For FY 22

13,529

Peak daily users (on Nov. 2, 2021)

524,563

Number of sessions

3.18

Number of pages viewed per session

307,630

Number of new visitors

EMPOWERING THE PUBLIC

Improving ORCA usability and functionality

Our continuous improvement strategy for our ORCA (Online Reporting of Campaign Activity) reporting system resulted in a series of changes designed to make ORCA easier to use for candidates and political committees that file detailed reports with the PDC, while providing speedier public access to those reports.

A dashboard-style opening screen lets users choose needed functions, such as setting up a new campaign or opening one previously created.

Once a campaign opens, filers can choose

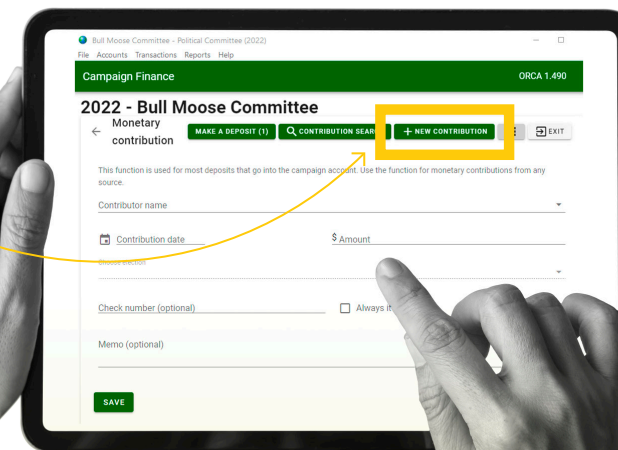
needed functions to enter contributions, report expenditures, file reports and more.

We invite campaign treasurers and other ORCA users to meet periodically with our IT project leader as improvements are ready to deploy. A total of six feedback sessions during the fiscal year helped us fine tune previous function changes and make course corrections to upcoming improvements based on user suggestions.

All these changes are part of our ongoing, multi-year redevelopment of the campaign finance reporting system. When the new ORCA system is complete — projected for 2023 — ORCA will function as a total web-based system, with data stored safely and rapidly updated online.

Multiple users, for example a treasurer and candidate, will be able to work on reports from multiple devices, and the public will gain faster access to campaign finance information.

ORCA has a simple-to-use interface for filling out monetary details.



84

Number of public records requests

ONLINE

OPEN DATA OPENS ACCESS

Data reported to the PDC by campaigns, lobbyists and others is maintained in our data sets, allowing anyone to perform complex analysis of that data or download it for future use.

There were 8.3 million records in the PDC’s Open Data catalog during Fiscal Year 2022, up from 7.6 million in 2021.

www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/open-data

8.3M

Number of records in PDC Open Data database in Fiscal Year 2022, up from 7.6 million in FY 2021.

Training and outreach by the numbers

For FY 22

35 Number of trainings

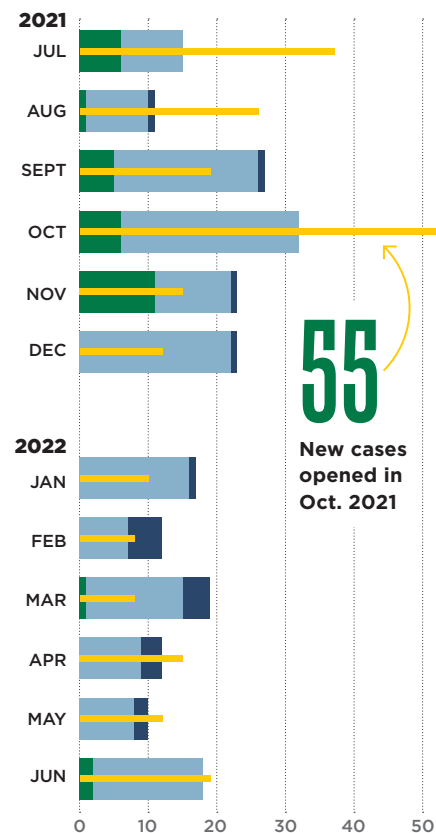
423 Number of participants

ENSURING COMPLIANCE

COMPLAINT-BASED CASE RESOLUTION

By month

- Resolved in less than 30 days
- Resolved in 30 to 90 days
- Resolved in more than 90 days
- New cases opened



Expanded emphasis on routine enforcement

Each year, the PDC launches a group enforcement process, in which staff research which filers are missing disclosure reports. This year, the PDC placed a broader emphasis on enforcement, while at the same time redoubling its efforts to help filers meet their obligations and avoid enforcement action.

Just a few weeks after the April 15, 2022 deadline for the filing of Personal Financial

Affairs (F-1) statements, the PDC found 544 filers had missed the deadline. That's an improvement over the same period from the year before, when there were 839 filers with outstanding reports.

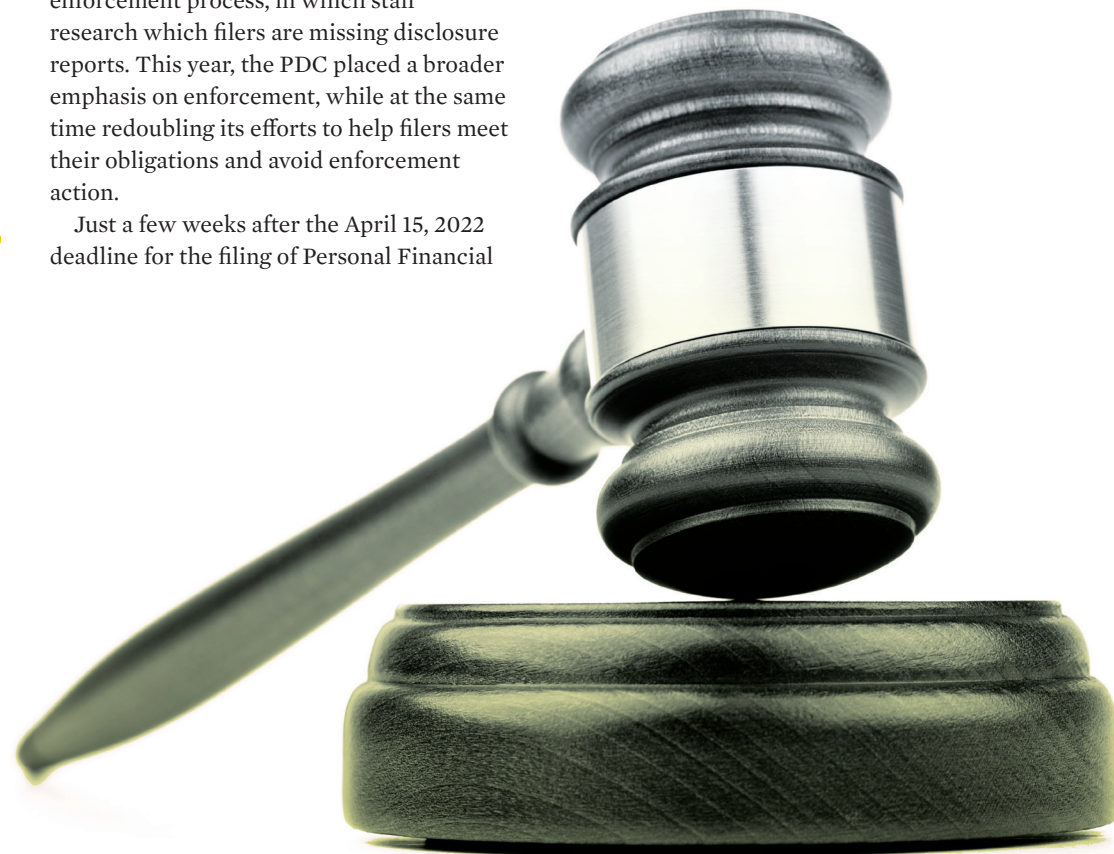
What made the difference? It started in 2021, when the PDC's Compliance Team mounted the largest group enforcement effort in recent memory. They kept the momentum going into 2022.

Compliance staff received an assist from our IT Team, who reworked data and reporting systems that improved our outreach to government jurisdictions and filers.

And PDC Customer Service representatives and Filer Assistance staff researched contact information for filers who had left office and assisted those filers with information on how to submit their final reports.

The result: more timely information in the hands of the public, and fewer enforcement cases for F-1 violations. That's just one example of how we're helping filers get it right.

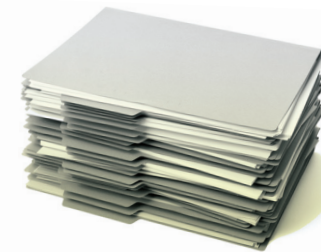
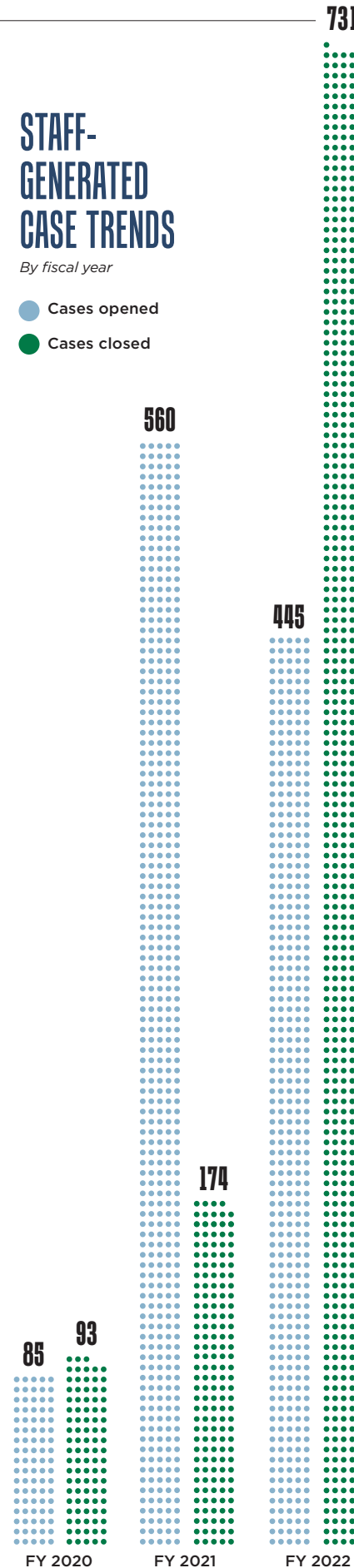
Altogether, there were 445 staff-generated cases opened in Fiscal Year 2022, down from 560 in Fiscal Year 2021.



STAFF-GENERATED CASE TRENDS

By fiscal year

- Cases opened
- Cases closed



731

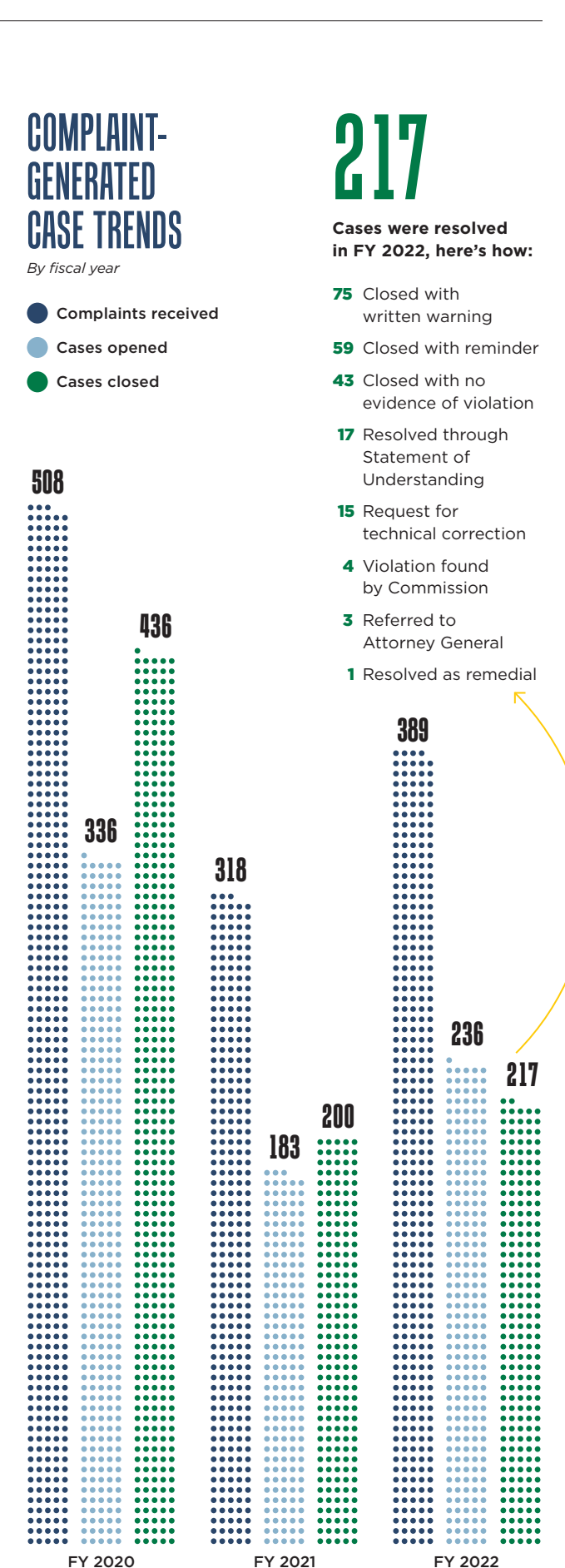
Cases were resolved in FY 2022, here's how:

- 451 Violation found by Commission
- 260 Resolved through Statement of Understanding
- 17 Dismissed by Commission
- 2 Closed with written warning
- 1 Closed with no evidence of violation

COMPLAINT-GENERATED CASE TRENDS

By fiscal year

- Complaints received
- Cases opened
- Cases closed



217

Cases were resolved in FY 2022, here's how:

- 75 Closed with written warning
- 59 Closed with reminder
- 43 Closed with no evidence of violation
- 17 Resolved through Statement of Understanding
- 15 Request for technical correction
- 4 Violation found by Commission
- 3 Referred to Attorney General
- 1 Resolved as remedial

ENSURING COMPLIANCE

Enforcement actions

PDC Commissioners conducted 20 enforcement hearings during Fiscal Year 2022. These cases were among the most significant.

PDC Case 77415

The publisher of the Tacoma Weekly newspaper acknowledged in a stipulated agreement that his publication violated state law by soliciting payments from candidates in exchange for promoting the candidates in the paper's editorial content.

The Commission issued a \$15,000 fine — with half suspended — for violations of RCW 42.17A.480, which prohibits a news organization from soliciting money for endorsement articles or other news stories. The suspension of half the fine was conditioned on Tacoma Weekly not committing further violations within four years and paying the non-suspended portion within 30 days of the Commission's final order.

In August 2020, the newspaper sent e-mails to candidates offering a \$2,500 advertising package that would include an editorial, a cover story and an endorsement

by the paper, as well as traditional advertising.

The newspaper claimed an uncorrected version of the sales promotion flyer had been sent to select candidates and that it was corrected and re-sent. The corrected version contained an offer for a package that would include an "advertorial" ad and a meeting with Tacoma Weekly editorial staff, as well as traditional advertising.

Two Pierce County Council candidates who paid for the Tacoma Weekly promotion — Javier Figueroa and Jason Whalen — paid fines of \$150 each for failing to disclose sponsor identification on the front-page stories that they purchased.

Commissioner Bill Downing said that while the penalty might seem severe to the newspaper, there are larger issues of public trust involved.

"Two of the major ills in our society today are public cynicism towards politicians and towards the news media," he told Tacoma Weekly Publisher John Weymer. "I think you've contributed to both of those societal ills."

PDC Case 60811

The Commission fined FedEx \$4,500 for three failures to promptly respond to a citizen request for records that commercial advertisers are required to disclose. A total of \$2,000 of the fine was suspended, subject to future compliance with disclosure rules.

The Commission issued a summary

judgment against the company in January 2022, and assessed the penalty at its February 2022 meeting.

Washington commercial advertisers who provide campaign materials or services must maintain current books of account that include who paid for the materials or services, how much they cost, and the date services were provided. That information must be made available to the public upon request.

The citizen request to FedEx was initially made in October 2019, but responses came 34, 26 and 155 days later after significant intervention by PDC staff — and too late for the information to inform the public about the November election.

Attorneys for FedEx argued that its Bellevue store manager was unaware of the political nature of the materials copied at its store. They also said FedEx was concerned about customer privacy and sought guidance from PDC staff about its status as a commercial advertiser, contributing to some of the delay.

Commissioners said FedEx — a large company with significant resources — should have known about its responsibilities under the law.

PDC Case 100925

The Commission fined Milton City Council Member David Strader \$1,500, with half suspended, for failure to timely file required reports after declaring his candidacy in 2021.

He initially attempted to withdraw his candidacy, but it was too late to remove his name from the ballot. He wrote to the PDC, saying he was discontinuing his campaign and promising that he wouldn't accept office if elected.

He later changed his mind and filed the required candidate registration (C-1) and Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) approximately 149 days late — one day before the November election. He was elected and took office in January.

Strader acknowledged his actions, but asked the commission to take into consideration that he was a first-time candidate with little knowledge of campaign rules.

REPEAT VIOLATION CASES

PDC staff increased efforts to identify repeat violators and have those cases heard by the full Commission, which can consider higher penalties than those that might be imposed during a brief enforcement hearing. (That's the type of hearing customarily used for staff-initiated group enforcement cases focused on candidates, officials and lobbyists.)

These cases are examples of group enforcement cases brought before the full Commission during the fiscal year because of repeat violations.

> **In Case 108252**, heard in May 2022, Commissioners levied the maximum fine of \$10,000 on William (Beau) Burkett, mayor of Buckley, for failure to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) report for calendar year 2021 on time. The F-1 is required to be filed annually by sitting officials by April 15.

The Commission agreed to suspend \$4,000 of that penalty if Burkett filed that report and other past due reports within 30 days of the Commission order, and if he made arrangements to pay outstanding fines.

Burkett had six prior fines totaling \$3,850 for previous violations, with no payment as of the date of the May hearing. Nearly half of those fines, \$1,500, had been imposed in October 2021 in Case 95222 for failing to file a Campaign Registration (C-1) report for his 2021 mayoral campaign and failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) disclosing financial information for the prior twelve months that is required of candidates.

> **In Case 108754**, heard in June 2022, the Commission imposed a maximum fine of \$10,000 against Ronnie Little, former commissioner for King County Fire Protection District No. 40, for failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) report for calendar year 2021.

Little's term ended in December 2021. Outgoing officials must file a final F-1 covering whatever portion of a calendar year they serve.

At the time of the June hearing, Little already owed fines totaling \$6,800 from prior violations that included missing reports for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2020.

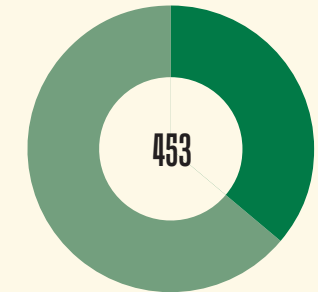
A total of \$4,000 of that amount came from Case 95396, heard in October 2021. In that case, Little was fined for failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) for 2020 and failing to file a Campaign Registration (C-1) report within two weeks of becoming a candidate for re-election in 2021.



FISCAL PENALTIES

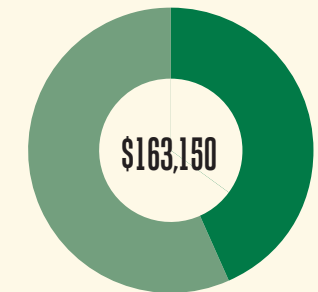
for FY 22

Number of cases with assessed penalties:



164
Number of cases sent to collections for unpaid penalties

Penalties assessed:



\$70,925
Total outstanding penalties as of June 30, 2022

Fines in focus

The PDC enforces requirements governing the disclosure of campaign finance activities, political advertising, lobbying, personal financial affairs statements, and alleged use of public facilities to support or oppose a candidate or ballot proposition.

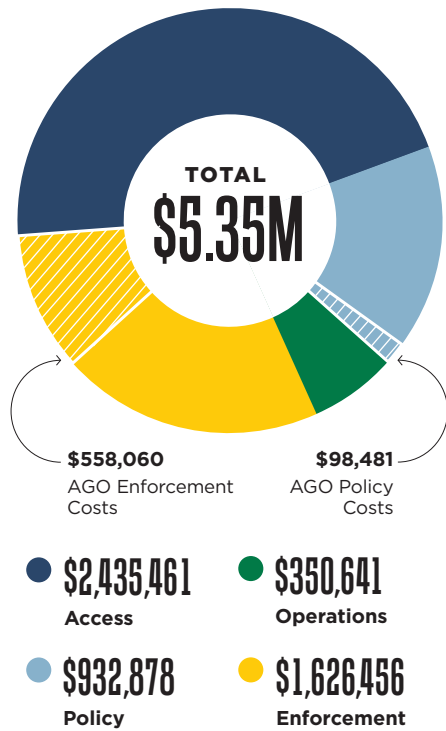
When violations are found, the Commission can assess penalties, either through a brief enforcement hearing conducted by the Commission chair or designee, or a hearing before the full Commission. Repeat violations result in progressively higher fines, which follow an established penalty schedule. The maximum penalty is \$10,000 per violation unless parties stipulate otherwise.

Unpaid penalties can be sent to a collection agency.

A RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION

EXPENDITURES

For FY 2022



Note: Totals rounded to nearest dollar

Managing resources wisely

Staff vacancies were a prime factor that led to a slight decrease in expenditures in Fiscal Year 2022, compared to the previous year. Over the course of Fiscal Year 2022, the PDC averaged 30 employees.

Total expenditures for the year were \$5.35 million, compared to \$5.79 million the year before. Lower expenditures for legal services from the state Attorney General's office (AGO) — down to \$656,541 from \$861,515 — were also a factor in lower PDC total spending during the fiscal year. But future expenses in this category could increase going forward, due to ongoing court proceedings.

Total agency spending can be divided into four core service areas: Access, Enforcement, Policy and Operations.

A total of 46% of agency expenditures — the largest percentage among the four categories — was devoted to providing access to campaign finance information for the public and assistance for the regulated community.

Enforcement activity was the next largest category, accounting for 30% of agency spending. This category includes \$558,059 in reimbursements to the AGO for legal assistance in enforcement cases.

The cost for policy development and oversight amounted to 17% percent of PDC spending during the fiscal year, including

\$6M PENALTY

PDC investigation, AG litigation net major fine in GMA case

The former Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), now known as Consumer Brands Association, agreed in March 2022 to pay a \$6 million penalty to the state for its intentional violations of Washington's campaign finance law.

That money was destined for the PDC Transparency Account, a special fund established by the Legislature in 2018 to help further the work of the PDC. Use of the fund requires legislative appropriation.

In addition to the penalty paid to the state, the association agreed to pay \$3 million to nonprofits that address food insecurity in Washington state. It also issued an apology to Washington voters, accepting responsibility for failing to disclose donors in a timely manner and failing to register as a political committee.

The agreement followed a PDC investigation into the association's campaign that opposed a 2013 ballot measure regarding the labeling of genetically-engineered foods. Following the PDC's findings, the state attorney general sued and won the stipulated agreement, which ended eight years of litigation.

just under \$100,000 for reimbursements to the AGO for legal advice in policy-related activities, and operational costs made up 7% of the fiscal year spending.

Each of the four categories includes expenditures for agency staff.



Agency leadership

The PDC is governed by a five-member Commission appointed by the governor, with no more than three commissioners from the same political party.

The Commission hires the executive director and sets budget and policy guidance for the agency, interprets campaign finance law and adopts administrative rules.

For enforcement matters, commissioners act as a quasi-judicial body, presiding over hearings, determining whether violations have occurred and, if warranted, setting appropriate penalties.



Fred Jarrett
Commission Chair



Nancy Isserlis
Commission Vice Chair



William Downing
Commission Member



Allen Hayward
Commission Member



Jocelyn Cooney
Commission Member



Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

STRATEGIC PLAN

Promoting confidence in the political process

Empower the public to "follow the money" in politics:

- > Provide real-time access to meaningful data
- > Ensure compliance with campaign finance laws and regulations
- > Pursue proactive and equitable enforcement
- > Enhance outreach

Help regulated community achieve and maintain compliance:

- > Provide expert guidance
- > Facilitate e-filing for all disclosures with accessible, technologically up-to-date options
- > Understand and anticipate filer needs
- > Provide additional training opportunities and methods

Continue to build a better, more agile, and more responsive organization:

- > Exercise flexible and nimble resource allocation
- > Seek enhanced funding/staffing
- > Identify and respond to emerging trends and issues
- > Implement timely process improvements
- > Plan for succession needs

Attract and retain a talented and dedicated workforce:

- > Sustain a culture of clean and open government, as embodied in the agency's grassroots heritage
- > Provide and encourage opportunities for growth
- > Accommodate work/life integration

VISION > The PDC will lead the nation in fostering full disclosure of money in politics.



CONTACT US

**Public
Disclosure
Commission**

711 Capitol Way Suite 206
Olympia, WA 98504

360.753.1111

www.pdc.wa.gov

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**“WE ARE WORKING HARD
TO KEEP THE WINDOW
OF TRANSPARENCY OPEN
— AND PERHAPS WIDEN
IT A CRACK OR TWO.”**

Fred Jarrett

Public Disclosure Commission Chair