

Public Comment for September 2023 PDC Meeting

To:

Chair Nancy Isserlis (Nancy.isslerlis@pdc.wa.gov)

Comm. Fred Jarrett (Fred.jarrett@pdc.wa.gov)

Comm. Allen Hayward (allen.hayward@pdc.wa.gov)

Comm. J. Leach (j.leach@pdc.wa.gov)

Commissioners:

Thank you for hosting last month's collaboration session which focused on the foreign contribution certification requirement and the problems that this requirement has created for candidates, political committees, and treasurers. Over the last two years, the PDC has heard from a great number of stakeholders about the problems created by this requirement.

During this past legislative session, the PDC did not weigh in on this issue or commit to working with lawmakers and stakeholders to find a solution to the problems created by this requirement.

Instead, the agency attempted to pass a large omnibus campaign finance bill to address other issues such as raising the LMC threshold, giving treasurers another day to file pre-election C4 reports, and requiring campaigns to disclose to social media companies whether or not the ads they purchase are political advertisements.

These are great changes to make to our state's campaign finance requirements. However, the problems that these changes would address pale in comparison to the massive problems associated with the foreign contribution certification requirement.

The foreign contribution certification requirement is the preeminent problem posed by the current campaign finance laws. For many of us treasurers (and for many lawmakers) passing an omnibus campaign finance bill that ignores the most significant problem is not an option.

Continuing to ignore this problem will not change anything. At this upcoming meeting on Thursday, please discuss this issue and commit to working with stakeholders and lawmakers to come up with a reasonable solution that works for everyone.

Best,

Conner Edwards
Professional Campaign Treasurer
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