



July 23, 2024

Washington Public Disclosure Commission  
PO Box 40908  
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing on behalf of People Powered Elections Washington, a statewide, multi-racial, multi-generational coalition committed to building more equitable and transparent campaign financing policies so that our government is responsive, representative, and reflective of all of us.

Our campaign finance disclosure laws are some of the best in the nation and we are grateful for a dedicated staff and commissioners working toward transparent and timely enforcement of the laws. We are also watching with growing concern the growth in unresolved enforcement cases.

In recent meetings, the PDC has expended significant effort discussing solutions to increased caseloads. We especially appreciate the emphasis added to timely enforcement and the planned use of IT solutions to communicate directly to campaigns the deadlines for compliance, and to make it easier to file reports.

We are writing to urge the PDC to take emergency action to prioritize investigations into campaigns who have failed to meet disclosure requirements for 2024 elections. Because staff resources are limited, and time is of the essence, risk assessment is needed to triage significant, high-dollar, high-profile complaints. Please consider referral to the Attorney General Office, and/or contracting with outside attorneys, consultants, administrative support to resolve the backlog. Voters need to know details of how campaigns are financing and spending cash and in kind resources before they cast their ballots.

To maintain the public confidence and trust in the PDC, we also request more enforcement information available on the homepage of the website and the Disclosures newsletter. We understand there are legal restrictions to discussing details, however, discussion of the types of complaints, the progress of the investigation, and any new resources allocated to the enforcement effort are important to disclose and for the public to understand.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

People Powered Elections WA  
Washington Community Alliance  
Washington for Equitable Representation  
League of Women Voters of Washington  
Fix Democracy First  
The Washington Bus  
Washington Conservation Action  
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle