

2006 – 2007 PDC Law and Rule Change Highlights

[underlining denotes change]

Use of agency shop fees. A labor organization may not use agency shop fees paid by an individual who is not a member of the organization to make contributions or expenditures to influence an election or to operate a political committee, unless affirmatively authorized by the individual. A labor organization does not use agency shop fees when it uses its general treasury funds to make such contributions or expenditures if it has sufficient revenue from sources other than agency shop fees in its general treasury to fund such contributions or expenditures. [Effective May 11, 2007. Chapter 438, Laws of 2007.]

Personal Financial Affairs Statements. Trustees of Washington State's technical colleges must file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement (PDC Form F-1). Newly appointed trustees must file within two weeks of appointment. [Effective July 22, 2007. Chapter 15, Laws of 2007.]

A person filing a personal financial affairs statement shall report the name of any limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, professional limited liability company, and similar entity in which a partnership or membership is held by the person or member of the person's immediate family, and any title held. [WAC 390-24-201, effective November 6, 2006.]

Modifying the dates of the election cycle. "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the first day of January after the date of the last previous general election for the office that the candidate seeks and ending on December 31st after the next election for the office. In the case of a special election to fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the period beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on December 31st after the special election. [Effective July 22, 2007. Chapter 180, Laws of 2007.]

Shortening the statute of limitations for citizen actions. Any person who notifies the attorney general and the prosecuting attorney in the county in which a violation occurs in writing that there is reason to believe that some provision of RCW 42.17 is being or has been violated may himself bring in the name of the state any of the actions authorized by RCW 42.17. Any citizen action must be commenced within two years after the date when the alleged violation occurred. [Effective July 22, 2007. Chapter 455, Laws of 2007.]

Identifying persons authorized to make expenditures. (NEW) Persons who perform solely ministerial functions for a candidate or committee are distinguished from persons who are agents of campaigns or authorized to make expenditures or decisions on behalf of a candidate or committee. [Effective January 1, 2008. Chapter 358, Laws of 2007.]

Candidates Who Must File Campaign Disclosure Reports ("C" Series). Candidates who seek election to a state- or county-wide office or an office in a jurisdiction that had 5,000 or more registered voters as of the last General Election are subject to all provisions of the state public disclosure law. Candidates who seek election to an office in any political subdivision with less than 5,000 registered voters as of the last General Election are subject to all provisions of the state public disclosure law if they receive or expect to receive campaign contributions totaling \$5,000 or more [including the candidate's own funds]. [Effective 6/7/2006. SSB 6323.]

Session Freeze. Candidates who are subject to the session freeze period may accept contributions received through the mail after the start of the session freeze period if the contribution is postmarked prior to the session freeze start date. [Effective 6/7/2006. SSB 1226.]

The session freeze will be in effect during the period beginning on the 30th day before the date a regular legislative session convenes and continuing through the date of final adjournment, and during the period beginning on the date a special legislative session convenes and continuing through the date that session adjourns. [Effective 1/1/2007. ESB 6236.]

Reporting by Out-of-State Political Committees. An out-of-state political committee, including any committee filing campaign reports with the Federal Election Commission, that is not otherwise required to file campaign disclosure reports in Washington state shall file a statement (C-5 report) with the PDC when it makes an expenditure supporting or opposing Washington state candidates or ballot measures. The statement shall disclose:

- The committee's name and address, its purpose(s), and the names, addresses and titles of its officers or, if it has no officers, the names, addresses, and the titles of its responsible leaders;
- The name, office sought, and party affiliation of each candidate in the state of Washington whom the committee is supporting or opposing and the name of the political party if the out-of-state committee is supporting or opposing the entire ticket of any party;
- Any Washington ballot proposition supported or opposed and whether the committee is supporting or opposing the measure;
- The name and address of each person residing in the state of Washington or corporation which has a place of business in the state of Washington who has contributed more than \$25 in the aggregate to the out-of-state committee during the current calendar year, together with the amounts of such contributions;
- The name, address, and employer of each person and the name and address of each corporation residing outside the state of Washington who has contributed more than \$2,500 in the aggregate to the out-of-state committee during the current calendar year, together with the amounts of such contributions;
- The name and address of each person in the state of Washington to whom an expenditure of \$50 or more was made by the out-of-state committee with respect to a candidate or political committee, the amount, date, purpose of the expenditure, and the total sum of expenditures.

This statement is due on the 10th day of the month following any month in which the contributions are made to or expenditures are made on behalf of Washington state candidates or ballot measures. An out-of-state committee incurring an obligation to file additional statements in a calendar year may satisfy the obligation by timely filing supplemental reports. [Effective 6/7/06. SSB 1226.]

Candidate Contribution Limits.

<u>OFFICE SOUGHT:</u>	<u>LIMIT</u>
State Executive (Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General, etc.)	\$1,400 per election*
Legislative (Senator and State Representative)	\$700 per election*
Judicial [Supreme Court, state Courts of Appeal, Superior, District & Municipal Courts]	<u>\$1,400 per election</u>
<u>County-wide office in a county that has over 200,000 registered voters as of the last General Election</u>	<u>\$700 per election*</u>
<u>Port Commissioner in a port district that has over 200,000 registered voters as of the last General Election</u>	<u>\$1,400 per election*</u>
[King, Pierce, Snohomish & Spokane Counties in 2006]	
[Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma in 2006]	

*Contributions made by political party and caucus committees are subject to different limits. Contributions received by judicial, county, and port district candidates that exceed the contribution limit that have not been spent by the recipient by June 7, 2006 must be disposed of in accordance with RCW 42.17.095 except for subsections (6) and (7) of that section. [Effective 6/7/2006. SSB 1226.]

Public Disclosure Commission's Penalty Authority. The Commission's penalty authority is \$1,700 for a single violation of law and \$4,200 for multiple violations of law. [Effective 6/7/2006. ESB 6152.]