

File a Formal Complaint - Conner Edwards

Conner Edwards reported (Sun, 8 Apr at 9:49 PM) via Portal Meta
To Whom It May Concern --

It has come to my attention that Yes to SCS, its officers, its treasurer, and any parent or subsidiary organization associated with it (hereafter collectively referred to as "Yes to SCS") have habitually and willfully committed frequent and multiple violations of RCW 42.17A. Additionally, I have reason to believe that other violations of this chapter have occurred beyond what I have identified below.

1) Failure to timely file form C6 reporting independent expenditure. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.255)

State law requires that independent expenditures must be reported to the PDC in a timely fashion. The form for disclosing independent expenditures is identified as form C6 according to the PDC.

The group "Yes to SCS" has failed to report its numerous expenditures in opposition of I-27 and in support of "safe injection sites" in King County. I-27 is a ballot measure as defined by RCW 42.17A.005(4).

The specific independent expenditures that "Yes to SCS" failed to report include, but are not limited to:

a) Staff time or contractor payment to create the website "yestoscs.com".

b) Staff time or contractor payment to create the following videos:

i) Safer is Better / Sharon – Sharon talks about why she supports safe consumption spaces -- Created 9/27/2017 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj-kWTOQzKQ>

ii) Safer is Better / Sidney -- Sidney talks about why he supports safe consumption spaces -- Created 9/27/2017 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zBkPPPap40>

iii) Yes to SCS / unsupervised or supervised? -- Say Yes to SCS -- Created 8/21/2017 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1oF4eElzDE>

iv) Seattle / SCS -- Councilman Higgins stands up for science and safe consumption sites in Seattle -- Created 8/21/2017 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKGmhw1Y6yA&t=2s>

v) Safer is Better / Testimonials 1 – [no description] – Created 9/21/2017 : <https://vimeo.com/234930434>

vi) Safer is Better / Testimonials 2 – [no description] – Created 9/23/2017 : <https://vimeo.com/235131299>

vii) Safer is Better / Steve – [no description] -- Created 9/23/2017
: <https://vimeo.com/235192220>

viii) Safer is Better / For Amber – [no description] – Created “one month ago”:
<https://vimeo.com/242641335>

ix) Safer is Better / For Andrew – [no description] – Created “two months ago”:
<https://vimeo.com/236137228>

(Note that these videos appear to have been created with the professional videography services of Castle Mountain Media. See link: <http://www.castlemountainmedia.org/about/>)

c) Staff time or contractor payment to maintain SCS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/yestoscs/>

d) Staff time or contractor payment to maintain the SCS Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/YesToSCS>

e) Staff time or contractor payment for professional photography used in videos and on website. See: <https://www.yestoscs.org/>

f) Printing materials for outreach and food for their volunteers.

g) Staff time or contractor payment for participating in outreach events.

The above expenditures meet the definition contained in RCW 42.17A.005(20) which includes “...a payment... ..assisting in furthering or opposing any election campaign.” Many of these expenditures also constitute political advertising per RCW 42.17A.00(36) which includes “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.”

To date, the campaign has not submitted a single C6 disclosing their expenditures to the public.

2) Failure to timely file C1-pc. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.205)

State law requires that committees file their C1-pc statement of organization within 2 weeks of accepting contributions or making expenditures, whichever is sooner.

On April 17, 2017, I-27 was filed with the King County Clerk’s Office. Any expenditures made by “Yes on SCS” after this point would have qualified as “expenditures” under RCW 42.17A.005(20).

It is unknown at what point they made their first “expenditure” meeting this statutory definition, but based on the evidence provided above they have clearly passed their deadline for registering as a political committee.

3) Failure to file accurate, timely C3 and C4 reports. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.235)

State law requires that candidates and committees file frequent, accurate reports of contributions, expenditures, in-kind contributions, and debt. Unfortunately, Yes to SCS has failed to do this despite operating as a political committee.

4) Failure to include proper sponsor ID and list top 5 contributors. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.320)

The committee has failed to include proper sponsor ID and list its top 5 contributors on numerous independent expenditures/political advertisements. This is a violation of state law.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
Conner Edwards
(425) 533-1677 cell