



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdca.wa.gov](http://www.pdca.wa.gov)

September 5, 2018

Delivered electronically to “stharinger@gmail.com”

Subject: PDC Case 37137

Dear Stephen Tharinger:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Glen Morgan concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted below to Glen Morgan, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter

PDC staff are reminding you about the importance of the timely filing of C-3 and C-4 reports, disclosing all contribution and expenditure activities, including the timely filing of amended C-3 and C-4 reports, and the timely filing of all future PDC reports.

If you have questions, you may contact Micaiah Ragins at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [micaiah.ragins@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:micaiah.ragins@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Micaiah Ragins  
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director



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September 5, 2018

Delivered electronically to “[glen@wethegoverned.com](mailto:glen@wethegoverned.com)”

Subject: Complaint regarding Steve Tharinger, PDC Case 37137

Dear Glen Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on June 20, 2018.

Your complaint alleged that Steve Tharinger, an incumbent State Representative from the 24th Legislative District and a candidate for re-election to that office in 2016 and 2018, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely and accurately file Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports), and Summary Full Report of Contributions and Expenditures (C-4 reports). PDC staff reviewed your allegations, the C-3 and C-4 reports filed by Tharinger for State Representative Campaign (Campaign), and the response from Mr. Tharinger. As a result of staff's initial review, we found the following:

- The Campaign was required to file five C-3 or C-4 reports for the 2018 election disclosing contribution and expenditure activities that were undertaken during the October and November of 2017. The C-3 and C-4 reports were filed by the Campaign on January 10, 2018, and were filed between 30 days to 58 days late.
- The Campaign was required to file three C-3 and C-4 reports for the 2016 election cycle disclosing contribution and expenditure activities that were undertaken during May of 2016, no later than June 10, 2016. The Campaign filed two C-3 reports and one C-4 report on June 11, 2018, one day late. In addition, an alleged late filed C-4 report was determined by PDC staff to be an amended filing, that was filed by the Campaign within 13 days of the initial C-4 report being filed.
- Representative Tharinger explained in the response that the late filed early C-3 and C-4 reports for the 2018 election disclosing 2017 activities, resulted from a change in Campaign treasurers

which caused the campaign to fall behind on filings. He stated that Argo Strategies was hired to bring the reports up to compliance and the PDC was notified of the reporting issue by the new treasurer in January 10, 2018.

- PDC staff reviewed copies of email correspondence between Argo Strategies and PDC staff that indicated the Campaign contacted the PDC informing staff that the Campaign had resolved the noncompliance issues prior to receiving notification from PDC staff about the complaint that was filed. Staff believes the Campaign made a good-faith effort to address and resolve the noncompliance issue and to keep PDC staff informed about their efforts.

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the failure to timely file C-3 and C-4 reports during the 2016 and 2018 elections does not support a finding of a material violation warranting further investigation. Several of the alleged late reports were inadvertent or minor in nature, and the late filed reports were submitted well before the election was held, so they did not materially affect the public interest.

PDC staff is reminding Steve Tharinger about the importance of the timely filing of C-3 and C-4 reports, disclosing all contribution and expenditure activities, including the timely filing of amended C-3 and C-4 reports, and the timely filings of all future PDC reports.

The PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing further enforcement action in this case. If you have questions, you may contact Micaiah Ragins at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [micaiah.ragins@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:micaiah.ragins@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Micaiah Ragins  
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

cc: Steve Tharinger