



**State of Washington**  
**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**  
711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112  
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcc.wa.gov](http://www.pdcc.wa.gov)

October 25, 2018

Sent electronically to Rebecca Erickson at "rbigforderickson@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint filed by Carollynn Zimmers against Mayor Rebecca Erickson, PDC Case 39203

Dear Mayor Erickson:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to Carollynn Zimmers, concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against you (Mayor Rebecca Erickson) alleging a violation of RCW 42.17A.555 by using the City of Poulsbo Mayor's office to support your candidacy for State Representative in Legislative District 23 in the 2018 election.

As noted in the letter to Ms. Zimmers, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [jennifer.hansen@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:jennifer.hansen@pdcc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Hansen  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director



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October 25, 2018

Delivered electronically to Carollynn Zimmers at "drcarollynn@comcast.net"

Subject: Complaint regarding Rebecca Erickson, PDC Case 39203

Dear Ms. Zimmers:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 3, 2018 and the additional information provided on September 19, 2018. Your complaint alleged that Rebecca Erickson, the current Mayor of the City of Poulsbo, violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using the City of Poulsbo Mayor's office to support her candidacy for State Representative in Legislative District 23 in the 2018 election by inviting attendees of a political forum to visit her official Mayoral office when it is unlikely they have concerns relevant to city business.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in your complaint, PDC Interpretation #04-02, and the August 23, 2018 response from Rebecca Erickson. As a result of staff's review, we found the following:

- RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates, including the use of city offices and equipment.
- The Commission adopted PDC Interpretation 04-02, *Guidelines for Local Government Agencies in Election Campaigns*, which provides information concerning the use of public facilities including activities that are permitted or prohibited, activities which are part of the "normal and regular conduct" of the city offices, equipment, permissible activities of local elected officials, and other general considerations.
- When Rebecca Erickson was elected as Mayor of the City of Poulsbo in 2009, she expanded the official hours of the Mayor's office to include Saturdays in addition to the normal business hours of Poulsbo City Hall, in order to "connect with her constituency." Mayor Erickson stated that, during her eight years in office, she has spoken to people from all over the world as well as those located in "greater Poulsbo" which encompasses areas outside of the city limits.
- On May 29, 2018, Rebecca Erickson filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring her candidacy for State Representative in Legislative District 23 in the 2018 election.
- In a letter to addressed to the Kitsap Herald dated June 11, 2018, Mayor Erickson identified her plan for holding two elected offices, Poulsbo Mayor and State Representative, which included details about expanding her hours of availability to times and locations outside of the official hours posted at Poulsbo City Hall.
- On August 1, 2018, Mayor Erickson attended a political forum as a candidate for State Representative in which she invited attendees to contact her at the several city and non-city locations to discuss general issues

of concern. In her response, Mayor Erickson stated that she specifically stated to the attendees of the forum that she would not be discussing campaign related topics during official office hours or at the official city location.

- Finally, in response to continued confusion, Mayor Erickson took actions to further clarify that the city office would not be used to discuss campaign topics by posting signage at her desk in Poulsbo City Hall, stating that election topics would not be discussed at that location.

Mayor Rebecca Erickson has a history of using the Poulsbo City Hall and Mayoral offices, in ways that are consistent with permissible activities related to candidate campaigns and ballot measures under PDC Interpretation #04-02 and not in violation of RCW 42.17A.555. No evidence was found that Mayor Erickson used the official Mayoral office to support her 2018 candidacy for State Representative.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [jennifer.hansen@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:jennifer.hansen@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s\_\_\_\_\_   
Jennifer Hansen  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

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

cc: Rebecca Erickson