



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@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

December 19, 2018

Delivered electronically to "saturn@votesaturn.com"

Subject: PDC Case 41577

Dear Mr. Saturn:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Joe Hyer concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). As noted below in the letter to Mr. Hyer, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of vetting all information used in political advertisement, naming a candidate for public office and sponsored by any future campaigns you are involved with to avoid potential violations of RCW 42.17A.335.

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 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail jennifer.hansen@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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December 19, 2018

Delivered electronically to Joe Hyer at "joexhyer@gmail.com"

Subject: Andrew Saturn complaint return with reminder PDC Case 41577

Dear Mr. Hyer:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on September 26, 2018. Your complaint alleged that Andrew Saturn, a candidate for Thurston County Public Utility Commissioner in 2018, may have violated; (1) RCW 42.17A.335 by making false statements of material fact about his opponent, Linda Oosterman, a candidate for public office; and (2) RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to disclose on Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditures (C-4 reports), the expenditure for the candidate filing fee and debts for advertisements appearing on Facebook.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, the evidence provided, the C-4 reports filed by the Andrew Saturn Campaign, and the response from the Campaign. As a result of staff's review, we found the following:

- Andrew Saturn filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) on March 29, 2018, declaring his candidacy for Thurston County Public Utility Commissioner, and choosing the "Mini Reporting" option, later amending his C-1 choosing the "Full Reporting" option on August 28, 2018.
- On September 26, 2018, a complaint was filed including a one-page advertisement distributed by the Saturn Campaign, both electronically and via hard copy at various campaign events. The advertisement included five statements regarding Mr. Saturn's opponent, Linda Oosterman and her campaign, and her knowledge and duties as an incumbent PUD commissioner.
- RCW 42.17A.335 prohibits a person to sponsor, with actual malice a statement constituting libel or defamation per se, a political advertisement containing false statements of material fact about a candidate for public office.
- In his response, Mr. Saturn cited various details he used to substantiate the statements listed in the political advertisement regarding the 2018 Thurston County PUD campaign.
- Mr. Saturn confirmed that the filing fee was paid for and reported on May 16, 2018 and that all expenses paid to Facebook for advertisements were not debt and were reported on C-4 reports as required by RCW 42.17A.240.

Andrew Saturn is a first-time candidate for public office and has no prior PDC violations.

Based on these facts, staff has determined that in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a material violation warranting further investigation.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). Mr. Saturn will be reminded about the importance of vetting all information used in political advertisement, naming a candidate for public office and sponsored by any future campaigns he is involved with to avoid potential violations of RCW 42.17A.335.

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.

Sincerely,

/s _____

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Andrew Saturn