



## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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To: Members, Washington State Public Disclosure Commission  
From: Lori Anderson, Communications & Training Officer  
Date: January 15, 2015  
Re: January - July 2015 Rule Making Agenda

Staff is preparing to file with the Code Reviser the Commission's January – July 2015 rules development agenda. This semiannual agenda is required by the Administrative Procedures Act and will be published in the state register. The staff strives to develop a comprehensive list that includes only necessary rule making that can realistically be accomplished in the six-month time period. The agenda is not binding, however, and the Commission may engage in other rule making, if necessary.

Staff proposes the agenda include a placeholder for rules required by 2015 legislation as well as rule making addressing these subjects:

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE

1. Commercial advertisers – public inspection. A reference to electioneering communications is needed to update and clarify the Commission's rule concerning what commercial advertisers must make available for public inspection.
2. Contribution limits. Converting to rule a 1994 policy interpreting how limits are applied to contributions made to affiliated committees and which committees are affiliated for the purpose of receiving contributions subject to limits. *Whether the Commission wants to proceed with this rule making is scheduled for discussion during the January meeting.*

### LOBBYING

3. Lobbyist Employer Disclosure. In November, Washington Nonprofits contacted staff and requested that the Commission require disclosure of lobbyist employers' Employer Identification Numbers (EINs). RCW 42.17A.600(1) authorizes the Commission to prescribe what details must be disclosed for a lobbyist employer. An attached email from Rick Anderson, Sr. Policy Coordinator for Washington Nonprofits, describes the expected public benefit this disclosure would achieve. Additionally, the staff is researching whether EINs may be used as unique identifiers in the Commission's data collection.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

4. Informal Settlement Procedures Review. The Commission has expressed interest in reviewing the agency's current procedures regarding informal approaches to resolving complaints without the need for formal enforcement actions, as well as exploring additional options that might be appropriate to allow for more efficient resolution of cases.
5. Executive Director's Duties. Revisions may result from the informal settlement procedures review.

## **OTHER**

6. Form Updates. The Commission has approved expedited rule making to add the website reference to rules/forms where it is not included.

**From:** [rick@washingtonnonprofits.org](mailto:rick@washingtonnonprofits.org)  
**To:** [Lori Anderson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Information Request - Washington Nonprofits  
**Date:** Friday, November 07, 2014 11:41:22 AM

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Lori,

The Open Government movement is founded not only on the idea of providing data to citizens but also to provide the data is provided in a form that is most useful to citizens. The current PDC data is essentially "locked" in the sense that it cannot be used in combination with other data sets without a unique identifier. In terms of nonprofits, locked data means we can't answer **very basic** questions like:

- Which nonprofit organizations hire lobbyists?
- How many nonprofits hire lobbyists?
- Which service areas do nonprofit lobbyists represent? (Note: All 501(c)(3) organizations are assigned an alphanumeric code that provides detailed information about their work but PDC doesn't allow us to connect those dots.)
- What are the geographic areas covered by these lobbyists?
- What are the gaps? Overlaps?
- Which bills did these lobbyists work on?
- What was the outcome of these bills?
- How much does the private sector spend on lobbyists v. the nonprofit sector?

Many nonprofits work on complex social problems such as health, education, and poverty. By connecting the PDC data to Census Bureau or ERDC data, we can answer more **advanced** questions, such as:

- To what extent are the interests of (specific) disadvantaged sub-populations being represented in Olympia?
- What is the connection, if any, between lobbying expenditures, legislative outcomes, and demographic measures such as race, poverty, and graduation rates?
- What is the connection, if any, between lobbying expenditures, legislators receiving legislative donations, and voting records (on issues important to the nonprofit community)?

Please let me know if you'd like any additional information or if I can format this information in a way that is more helpful to making the case to include this in the PDC's decisions vis a vis rule-making.

Rick

Rick Anderson  
*Sr. Policy Coordinator*  
**Washington Nonprofits**  
360.451.6988

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Information Request - Washington Nonprofits

From: "Lori Anderson" <lori.anderson@pdc.wa.gov>

Date: 11/7/14 9:23 am

To: "rick@washingtonnonprofits.org" <rick@washingtonnonprofits.org>

January 31 is the next deadline by which agencies must submit to the Code Reviser their rule making projections. Because the lobbyist registration form is a rule, we will consider your request when we develop our schedule in January. In the meantime, it would be helpful to hear from you how you think the general public would benefit from having EIN numbers disclosed.



Lori Anderson

(360) 664-2737 - phone

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(360) 753-1112 - fax

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**From:** rick@washingtonnonprofits.org [mailto:rick@washingtonnonprofits.org]

**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 9:02 AM

**To:** Lori Anderson

**Subject:** Information Request - Washington Nonprofits

Hi Lori,

Sorry to be so tardy in getting back to you. You had left a message requesting that I send you a written summary of the request that Washington Nonprofits is making to the PDC.

**Background:**

Washington Nonprofits is the state association for the nonprofit community in Washington State. Approximately two years ago, I formally requested - and received - a spreadsheet with the names of lobbyist employers from the PDC. My intention was to identify all lobbyists employed by a nonprofit organization. We cross-referenced the PDC data with our own internal data using the name of the organization. The name of an organization, it turns out, is not a particularly good unique identifier. Washington Nonprofits has subsequently obtained a database of the 25,000+ nonprofits in Washington State that are recognized by the IRS as having 501(c)(3) status. For each organization, we have a Employer Identification Number (EIN) and it serves as our unique identifier when we work with state agencies. Currently, we are using the EIN in our work with the Employment Security Department (nonprofit wage-job data), Enterprise Services (state-nonprofit contracting), and the Office of the Secretary of State (nonprofit training). In addition, Washington Nonprofits is working with First Lady Trudi Inslee to develop "impact communities" through cross-sector networks of nonprofits.

**Request:**

Washington Nonprofits is requesting that the PDC include the EIN as required registration information for lobbyists and organizations that hire lobbyists and that this information is available to the public.

I'm happy to have a conversation on the phone or in person, if that would be helpful.

Best, Rick

Rick Anderson

*Sr. Policy Coordinator*

**Washington Nonprofits**

360.451.6988