



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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TO: Members, Public Disclosure Commission
FROM: BG Sandahl, Deputy Director
DATE: December 7, 2017
RE: Possible Adoption of Rule Making for January – June 2018

The Commission is required to prepare a rules development agenda that includes planned rule making for the first six months of the year. By the end of December, the Commission submits the agenda to the Code Reviser for publication in the State Register.

Staff proposes the Commission consider the following for rule making:

Amendments to WAC 390-05-400 – Changes in dollar amounts

The provisions of RCW 42.17A.125 require the Commission, in even-numbered years, to consider making inflationary adjustments to limits and other dollar amounts enacted by I-134 and found in WAC 390-05-400. The provisions of RCW 42.17A.125 require consideration of an annual inflationary adjustment to the reporting threshold for contributions received by Washington State candidates subject to the contribution limits found in RCW 42.17A.405, including Statewide Executive and Legislative candidates, as well as candidates for local office, and judicial candidates as noted in RCW 42.17A.410. In addition to the changes in dollar amount for candidate contribution limits, WAC 390-05-400 also indexes the contribution limits for political party organizations and caucus political committees, the dollar thresholds for candidate loan repayment limits, independent expenditure information, and the threshold for contributions made to a candidate or political committee using cash.

New WAC provision – Public inspection of books of account

RCW 42.17A.235(4)(a) allows for the public inspection of the “books of account” of a candidate or a political committee. Staff believe the public, candidates and political committees need more clarity around these types of public inspections. The new rule

would attempt to address a variety of issues: what constitutes the “books of account” for a candidate or political committee; what records should be made available; the limitations of the inspection period; the timeframe for the inspection; what visual inspection means; and any other areas requiring clarification pursuant to the statute. Staff recommends the new rule be as detailed as possible to assist filers. A possible model for these amendments is the framework established for the public inspection of records for a commercial advertiser set forth in WAC 390-18-050.

Action Requested: Staff requests the Commission adopt the rules development agenda for submission to the Washington State Register for January – June 2018.