



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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NOTE: On Jan. 1, 2026, RCW 42.17A was recodified to RCW 29B

April 21, 2026

Delivered electronically to Charles Ames at kinsmed@yahoo.com

Subject: PDC Case 151223 regarding Charles Ames

Charles Ames:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint filed by Conner Edwards on February 15, 2024. The complaint alleged violations of RC 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures during the 2023 election.

Applicable Laws and Rules

Candidates are required to register pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.205](#) by filing a *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report) with the PDC within two weeks of candidacy. A candidate that selects the Full Reporting option on their C-1 report is required to report contributions and expenditures to the PDC on *Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions* reports (C-3 reports) and *Campaign Summary Receipts & Expenditures* reports (C-4 reports) pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.235](#) & [RCW 42.17A.240](#). The due dates for these reports are based upon the election cycle, the candidate's election participation, and their financial activity.

Pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.240\(2\)](#), monetary contributions are disclosed on C-3 reports, which must include, but are not limited to: 1) the name and address of each person who contributed more than \$100 during the period covered by the report; 2) the monetary value and date of each contribution, except for the items specifically mentioned in subsection (2)(a) through (g); and 3) the aggregate value of all contributions received from each person during the campaign. "Contribution," as defined, includes an in-kind contribution, which is disclosed on a C-4 report.

Pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.240\(7\)](#), expenditures are disclosed on C-4 reports, which must include, but are not limited to: 1) the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure was made in the aggregate of more than \$200 during the period covered by the report; 2) the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure; and 3) the total sum of all expenditures. Purpose details should state the goods or services provided by the vendor, including the number of items purchased, identify any candidates or ballot propositions supported or opposed by the expenditure, and the name & address of any sub-

vendors used. For advertising expenditures, campaigns should describe the type and number of ads, where they appeared or were broadcast, and when (e.g. run dates). An in-kind contribution is disclosed like an expenditure on the PDC's Online Reporting of Campaign Activity (ORCA) software.

Background and Findings

- On May 1, 2023, Charles Ames (the Respondent) submitted a Candidate Registration Statement (C-1 report) declaring his candidacy for Lakewood City Council, in the 2023 election, selecting the "Full Reporting" option and listing himself as Treasurer and the only officer. The Respondent was not elected to the office he was seeking.
- The complaint alleged the Respondent failed to timely file: (1) a 21-day pre-primary C-4 report covering June 1, 2023 to July 10, 2023, due July 11, 2023; (2) a 7-day pre-primary C-4 report covering July 11, 2023 to July 24, 2023, due July 25, 2023; and (3) a post-primary C-4 report covering July 25, 2023 to August 31, 2023, due September 11, 2023.
- The Respondent timely filed a C-4 report covering May 19 to 31, 2023, and a C-4 report for June 2023, but the May 2023 C-4 did not reflect an accurate carry forward from campaign activity prior to May 19, 2023.
- After conducting a preliminary review and assessment of the complaint filed by Mr. Edwards on February 15, 2024, PDC staff opened a formal investigation and held an Initial Hearing (Case Status Review) on May 7, 2024, pursuant to RCW 42.17A.755 and WACs 390-37-060 and 390-37-071. The Respondent did not participate in the Initial Hearing.
- On July 10, 2024, the Respondent worked with PDC staff to file a: (1) C-3 report disclosing a \$1,000 deposit of personal funds made January 3, 2023; (2) C-4 report covering activity from January 1 to April 30, 2023; (3) C-4 report covering the entire month of May 2023; (4) C-3 report disclosing a \$200 deposit of personal funds made June 15, 2023; and (5) C-4 covering July 1 to September 30, 2023. The reports were submitted between 303 and 516 days late.
- The Respondent shared that he had experienced difficulties with the PDC's electronic filing system.

Summary and Resolution

The Respondent has run for public office once before also acting as his own treasurer and, in that instance, selecting the "Mini Reporting" option. It appears that the late and inaccurate 2023 campaign reporting was attributable in part to the Respondent's limited experience with the PDC's electronic filing system and general lack of knowledge regarding reporting requirements. Staff found no evidence that the errors or late reporting was done purposely to conceal information regarding his 2023 campaign from the public. Staff noted that when the Respondent ran again for office in 2025, he employed the services of a paid treasurer rather than serving in the role himself.

You completed a Statement of Understanding (SOU) in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule), acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240 for failing to timely file C-3 and C-4 reports during the 2023 primary election to resolve the allegations listed in this case.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 29B.60.020(1).

If you have questions, contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Jennifer Hansen

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Conner Edwards