

Respondent Name

Seattle Democratic Socialists of America

Complainant Name

Conner Edwards

Complaint Description

Conner Edwards reported via the portal
(Thu, 15 Aug 2024 at 9:57 AM)

Description of Complaint

See attached complaint.

Notice to Respondent

I apologize to you for any inconvenience caused by this complaint.

This complaint is one of hundreds that I have filed to highlight and ultimately fix the significant shortcomings associated with the agency responsible for administering our state's campaign finance laws.

What are these shortcomings?

Overcomplicated and outdated requirements that are difficult to understand and comply with. Failure to properly educate filers about the tasks they must perform to remain in compliance with applicable requirements and avoid complaints. Failure of the agency to send regular reminders to filers about pending deadlines. A failure to proactively enforce applicable requirements which enables the complaint system to become weaponized. Non-intuitive, non-user friendly, and buggy reporting software. Failure to meaningfully enforce core requirements. Failure to follow the best operating practices of other neighboring campaign finance agencies. An agency leadership structure that largely disregards stakeholder input and is slow to identify and resolve major agency deficiencies.

I believe that the best way to motivate the agency to address these problems is by filing a large number of complaints so that the agency's problems become impossible to ignore.

Slowly (too slowly) this strategy is starting to yield concrete and beneficial changes. You can read about these changes here: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/why-one-man-filed-800-campaign-finance-complaints-against-wa-candidates/>

If you believe that the agency could have done something different to help you proactively avoid the issues identified in this complaint, I hope that you will consider including it in your response. The agency, and the public, can benefit from your perspective and feedback.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

The PDC has an obligation to provide transparency to the voters by enforcing filing requirements. The agency's failure to actively enforce filing requirements damages both the public and the filers themselves.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

PDC Website and see complaint.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

See complaint and Seattle DSA Website: <https://seattledsa.org/> .

Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Hello:

I am filing a complaint because it appears that the entity “Seattle Democratic Socialists of America” has failed to register as a political committee pursuant to RCW 42.17A.205 and failed to file C3 and C4 reports pursuant to RCW 42.17A.235, and .240.

PDC Interpretation 07-02 sets forth the "Primary Purpose Test" guidelines for which entities are required to register as political committee and file frequent reports of contributions and expenditures.

There are two independent qualifying activities included in the definition of what constitutes a political committee: receiving contributions and making expenditures. The registration requirement can be triggered by either of those activities.

While the Seattle Democratic Socialists of America may qualify under the contribution prong, I believe it certainly qualifies under the expenditure prong based on publicly available information.

On the attached spreadsheet, you will find evidence of nearly \$40,000 worth of expenditures made by Seattle Democratic Socialists of America over the last 4 years that were reported as in-kind contributions by various other entities. There may have been more expenditures made by this entity that have gone unreported because this entity has not registered or filed reports. The majority of these expenditures were made to support the “Raise the Wage – Renton” effort. This ballot measure passed successfully during the February 2024 special election. ¹

In closing, I will share a passage from the Seattle Democratic Socialists of America’s website which helps affirm the assertion that the respondent is a political committee under the “expenditures” prong. Emphasis is added by me.

Due to their limited impact, Seattle DSA tends to avoid paper endorsements, which are nothing more than a permission for a campaign to use our name and logo on their web site and an encouragement to our members to volunteer with the endorsed campaign.

Instead, we focus on a smaller number of quality endorsements where we will actually commit significant chapter resources towards electing candidates or approving/defeating ballot initiatives.

This strategy is rooted in the belief that every socialist electoral campaign should do more than help elect a socialist to office – it should build the infrastructure and know-how for many socialist electoral campaigns moving forward.

A large part of this infrastructure will consist of the skills, confidence, and motivation that we build in our volunteers from one campaign to the next. Other elements also include our name recognition, technical skills, small donor list, and voter contact database, among others.

At Seattle DSA, we consider electoral work, especially our canvassing and phonebanking operations, as opportunities to build popular support for a larger socialist movement.

(Source: <https://seattledsa.org/2021/01/seattle-dsa-endorsement-background-motivation/>)

Sincerely,

Conner Edwards

¹ <https://raisethewagerenton.org/>

contributor_name	filer_name	election_year	type	contributor	contributor	contributor	contributor	origin	committee_filer_id	amount	cash_or_in	receipt_date	primary_group_code	contributor	contributor	contributor	url
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	2068.97	In-kind	2024-02-2	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110204666		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	1129.03	In-kind	2024-02-0	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110200074		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	545.52	In-kind	2024-01-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110200074		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	1774.19	In-kind	2024-01-2	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110198532		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	2000	In-kind	2023-12-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110198532		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	1500	In-kind	2023-11-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110192350		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	1987.5	In-kind	2023-10-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110188711		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	2500	In-kind	2023-09-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110178616		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	2500	In-kind	2023-08-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110171909		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	2500	In-kind	2023-07-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110165423		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	2500	In-kind	2023-06-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110157722		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	C3	31553	RENTR-2F	3000	Cash	2023-06-0	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110149824		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	2500	In-kind	2023-05-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110152023		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	2500	In-kind	2023-04-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110146193		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	1350	In-kind	2023-03-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110143289		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	1000	In-kind	2023-02-2	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110143288		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	1336	In-kind	2023-02-1	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110143288		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	C3	31553	RENTR-2F	3000	Cash	2023-02-0	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110138927		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Renton (RTWR)	2024	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	31553	RENTR-2F	1000	In-kind	2023-01-3	Full Electic Other	Organizati 1700 7TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110143287		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Raise The Wage Tukwila	2022	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	C3	30411	TUKWR-5	1500	Cash	2022-07-1	Full Electic Other	Individual 1700 76TH	98101	https://apollo.pdc.wa.gov/public/registrations/campaign-finance-report/110100498		
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Nicole Thomas-Kennedy	2021	Candidate	SEATTLE	WA	B.1	27669	THOMN-1	500	In-kind	2021-11-0	Full Electic Political Ac	Organizati 3853 37TH	98118	https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?repno=110065852		
SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA	Kshama Solidarity Campaign (KSC)	2021	Political Committee	SEATTLE	WA	C3	26046	KSHAM-1	1000	Cash	2021-08-0	Full Electic Other	Organizati 2440 WES	98121	https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?repno=110067935		



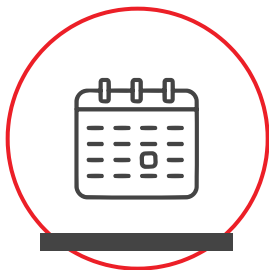
We are the Seattle chapter of the **Democratic Socialists of America**

Seattle DSA is a chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. We believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few. We are a political and activist organization, not a party; through community-based chapters DSA members use a variety of tactics to empower working people.

[Join](#)

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[Donate](#)



Upcoming Events

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Dispatches

Aug **Electoral**
16 **Working Group**
Fri **Post Primary**
Social
Online

11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Aug **Raise the Wage**
17 **Burien Canvass**
Sat **Burien Library**
400 SW 152nd St Burien

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Apr **Local Council**
20 **Meeting**
Sat **Online (Zoom Call)**

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Aug **Annual Summer**
17 **Picnic!**
Sat **Jefferson Park**
3801 Beacon Ave S Seattle

8:00 am - 11:30 am
Aug **Peoples'**
18 **Breakfast: U**
Sun **District**

Aug **Responding to City**
9 **Council's Blatant**
Fri **Voter Suppression**
Against Social
Housing
Seattle DSA

Aug **Reaffirming Our**
2 **Anti-Zionist**
Fri **Commitments**
Seattle DSA

Jun **The Capitalist**
5 **Housing Market**
Wed **has Failed Us**
Housing Justice Working
Group

Jun **No School**
4 **Closures: Tax the**
Tue **Rich**
Membership

University Heights
5031 University Way Seattle

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Jul
21
Sun
**Palestine
Solidarity:
Boycott War
Profiteers
Capitol Hill
Community table**
Online

[See All](#)

May
10
Fri
**Protesting
Genocide Is Not
Anti-Semitism!**
Membership

Mar
29
Fri
**Interview: How
Tacoma DSA Won
Strong Renter
Protections**
Membership

[See All](#)



JANUARY 20, 2021

CATEGORY LOCAL POLITICS / NEWS / OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

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Seattle DSA Endorsement – Background & Motivation

by Seattle DSA

4.9 minute
read

Due to their limited impact, Seattle DSA tends to avoid paper endorsements, which are nothing more than a permission for a campaign to use our name and logo on their... [Read more](#)

Due to their limited impact, Seattle DSA tends to avoid paper endorsements, which are nothing more than a permission for a campaign to use our name and logo on their web site and an encouragement to our members to volunteer with the endorsed campaign.

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Steps in the Endorsement Process

All endorsement decisions are made by the Seattle DSA general membership, at one of our monthly membership meetings.

The general process starts with an email inquiry (see details below), followed by an informal conversation with electoral committee members, then filling out a questionnaire, and finally a presentation to the general membership, who will vote on the endorsement at a monthly membership meeting.

While the electoral committee may make recommendations to endorse or not endorse to the general membership, only the membership can vote on an endorsement.

[Our chapter bylaws](#) require that members be given 14 days' advanced notice before an endorsement vote, in order to give our members time to study and reflect on the campaign that is seeking our endorsement. As such, the process may take several weeks to a couple of months.

Where to Begin

Candidates and campaigns seeking Seattle DSA's endorsement should begin the application process by emailing electoral@seattledsa.org, including the following information in the body of the email:

- Full name, including pronouns
- Position they are running for
- Campaign web page, or a brief candidate/campaign statement if a web page is not available yet
- Contact information

The Seattle DSA electoral committee will then contact the campaign to arrange for an informal discussion, to see if there is mutual interest in pursuing an endorsement. Any member of Seattle DSA or affiliated groups seeking to run for office themselves should seek to communicate with the Local Council or Electoral Committee Co-chairs before announcing their candidacy and any affiliation to Seattle DSA.

The Seattle DSA endorsement questionnaire is detailed and comprehensive, and campaigns seeking our endorsement will need to spend a substantial amount of time completing it. We want to respect the limited resources that progressive campaigns have at their disposal. The main objective of the initial conversation is to give the campaign a sense of Seattle DSA's priorities, before the campaign invests the time required to officially request an endorsement.

The Seattle DSA chapter passed an [Electoral Requirements and Responsibilities Resolution \(PDF\)](#) in 2022 and a [Socialist Priorities Resolution](#) in 2021. We advise candidates or their staff read it over to confirm that there is a fit between the campaign and Seattle DSA.

Candidates seeking endorsements should contact us as soon as possible. We will start considering campaign endorsements as early as 1 year before a primary election.

JANUARY 20, 2021

CATEGORY [LOCAL POLITICS](#) / [NEWS](#) / [OFFICIAL STATEMENTS](#)|



Join or Donate

DSA is funded by our membership — not corporate foundations or private companies. This ensures that DSA members are in full democratic and political control of our organization. Through national dues and local contributions, DSA members self-fund our own tools for liberation. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Contact us for more information.

Become a DSA Member

To become a DSA member you must pay dues to our national organization. Annual dues are an option, but we encourage everyone who is financially able to become a national monthly sustaining member.

[Click here](#) to become a member of the Democratic Socialists of America.

Sustain our local chapter

Local contributions are not mandatory but we do need them to keep the lights on. They are used for renting rooms, printing materials, logistical needs, working group budgets and to help run our campaigns and communications. One time donations are always appreciated, but regular monthly contributions allow us to build a more stable and sustainable organization. Your contributions help make sure that our organization is accountable to its membership alone.

[Monthly Dues](#)

+

[Donate](#)

-

Make a one-time contribution

[Donate](#)

**Show your
DSA colors**

Are you purchasing merchandise from Seattle DSA?

Display it with pride!

And use the link below to pay for it.

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SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE FILER (NOT A COMMITTEE) - UNAUTHORIZED

ID: C90018722

About this committee

TWO-YEAR PERIOD

2019-2020



Committee information

Committee name:	SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA
Mailing address:	2312 3RD AVENUE 221 SEATTLE, WA 98121
Treasurer:	None
Committee type:	Independent expenditure filer (not a committee)
Committee designation:	Unauthorized



SEATTLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

● ACTIVE - QUARTERLY

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE FILER (NOT A COMMITTEE) - UNAUTHORIZED

ID: C90018722


Committee filings

TWO-YEAR PERIOD

2019-2020



Regularly filed reports

 Filter this data

Report year: 2019-2020

Document	Version	Coverage start date	Coverage end date	Date filed	Image number	P
OCTOBER QUARTERLY 2020 Original	 Current version FEC- 1445741	07/01/2020	09/30/2020	10/10/2020	202010109285101130	
JULY QUARTERLY 2020 Original	 Current version FEC- 1420301	04/01/2020	06/30/2020	07/14/2020	202007149244519670	
APRIL QUARTERLY 2020 Original	 Current version FEC- 1397401	01/01/2020	03/31/2020	04/14/2020	202004149216710158	
YEAR-END 2019 Original	 Current version FEC- 1370045	10/01/2019	12/31/2019	01/13/2020	202001139167166193	
OCTOBER QUARTERLY 2019 Original	 Current version FEC- 1356793	07/01/2019	09/30/2019	10/14/2019	201910149163847744	
JULY QUARTERLY 2019 Original	 Current version	04/01/2019	06/30/2019	07/14/2019	201907159150604823	


Document	Version	Coverage start date	Coverage end date	Date filed	Image number	P
	FEC-1339280					

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Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

24- and 48-hour reports

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Report year: 2019-2020

Document	Version	Date filed	Image number	Pages
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No data available in table


Results per page: 100 ▼



Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries




Statements of organization

 Filter this data

Report year: 2019-2020

Document	Version	Date filed		Image number	Pages
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No data available in table


Results per page: 100 



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Other documents

 Filter this data

Report year: 2019-2020

Document	Version	Date filed		Image number	Pages
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No data available in table

Results per page: 100 



Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries



Definition of Political Committee

Cite as PDC Interpretation No. 07-02

"Primary Purpose Test" guidelines

The Public Disclosure Commission enforces Washington State campaign finance, reporting, and disclosure provisions found in [RCW 42.17A](#) (also known as the Fair Campaign Practices Act or "FCPA") and in [Title 390 WAC](#). This interpretative statement is to provide guidance about how the PDC uses the "primary purpose test" set forth by court decisions as a way to determine whether an entity that participates in campaigns, but whose campaign activities are only an aspect of their organization's work, is required to register and file reports with the PDC as a "political committee."

Under the FCPA, an entity (or individual not using their own personal funds) become a political committee and must register and begin reporting with the PDC within two weeks of being organized to initially make expenditures or accept contributions (or within three business days if organized within three weeks of an election).¹ The FCPA defines "political committee" as any individual or entity that has "the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in support of, or opposition to, any candidate or any ballot proposition." RCW 42.17A.005(40).

There are two independent qualifying activities included in the definition: receiving contributions and making expenditures. The registration requirement can be triggered by either of those activities.²

The contribution prong is met when an individual or entity begins to solicit or otherwise expects to receive contributions to support or oppose an election campaign, regardless of any spending activity. The application of the expenditure prong is not as

straightforward and has raised questions, particularly for corporations, associations, or similar organizations that do not solicit political campaign contributions and are not necessarily created specifically to finance campaign activities, but nevertheless spend money in election campaigns.

Courts have developed a test for determining the threshold of spending activity that meets the expenditure prong. Under this test, an organization making expenditures becomes a political committee only if it is determined that "a primary purpose" of the organization is to affect governmental decision-making by supporting or opposing candidates or ballot propositions. The test has been accepted and expounded by the courts over time to provide guidance on determining who is required to report as a political committee.

The "primary purpose" test first was articulated in a formal Attorney General's Opinion (AGO) issued within the same year Initiative 276, the ballot measure that created the PDC and Washington State's campaign finance law, was enacted.³ The question presented in the AGO was whether a corporation, or similar organization, becomes a political committee whenever it makes a contribution to an election campaign. The AGO concluded that the law was intended only to include organizations whose primary purpose was to influence elections, since many of the reporting requirements would be incompatible with an organization whose funding activities are not primarily related to campaign spending.

The State Supreme Court soon adopted the AGO's conclusion in *State v. Evans*, 86 Wn.2d 503 (1976), by establishing that an organization becomes a political committee when the facts and circumstances indicate that "the primary purpose or one of the primary purposes" support or oppose candidate or ballot measure.⁴ The Court, as well as the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, has since confirmed the constitutionality of this standard and has clarified that campaign financing can be one of several "primary purposes" sufficient to require registration and reporting as a political committee.⁵

While disclosure serves an important state interest, the *Evans* court cautioned that the law was not intended to indiscriminately capture all entities that engage in political campaign activities.⁶ The primary purpose test recognizes the need for some balance, but does not include any specific measurement of activity or priority that constitutes a "primary" purpose of an organization. Courts have acknowledged that most

organizations do not have one single determinable purpose and therefore consideration of the nuances of organizational structure is important to meet the State's interest in disclosure of political campaign activities.⁷ If, however, electoral political advocacy is just one of the tools an organization uses to meet its legitimate non-political goals, then such activity may not be a "primary" purpose of the organization.⁸

In considering this balance, the Court of Appeals, in *Evergreen Freedom Foundation*, offered a nonexclusive list factors to provide guidance to courts determining when election spending constitutes a primary purpose of an organization, including:

- (1) the content of the stated goals and mission of the organization;
- (2) whether the organization's actions further its stated goals and mission;
- (3) whether the stated goals and mission of the organization would be substantially achieved by a favorable outcome in an upcoming election; and
- (4) whether the organization uses means other than electoral political activity to achieve its stated goals and mission.⁹

The Court explained that these factors were not intended to be applied as a formula, but rather to avoid overreliance on the stated purpose of the organization, if its activities reveal that most of its efforts are put toward electoral political activity.

The PDC uses the primary purpose test, as established by the courts, for guidance on determining when an organization's activities require registration and reporting as a political committee under the FCPA. The test provides a meaningful tool to help the public receive information about election campaign spending, while narrowing such requirements so that groups that only incidentally engage in such activity are not included.¹⁰ The PDC uses the factors provided by the Court of Appeals in the *Evergreen Freedom Foundation* case to help determine the threshold for disclosure for the political campaign activities of organizations engaged in the electoral process. When an organization's expenditure activity rises to the level of becoming a political committee, in some cases such designation may apply for a limited period of time, such as a year, an election cycle, or other relevant timeframe that provides a measurement of the campaign spending activity of the organization in relation to its other priorities.

In order to assist organizations in evaluating whether their election spending activities require registration as a political committee, the organization should assess whether it uses over 30 percent of its general treasury budget or resources on spending in election campaigns as an initial indication whether the election activity may be a primary purpose of the organization. Such an assessment should measure the actual contributions or expenditures made in an election campaign, but also may need to incorporate the administrative and operational resources used specifically to support such activities. This does not mean that the PDC considers that 30 percent is in any way the exclusive factor or threshold for meeting the primary purpose test, but rather it provides a guide to assist organizations when to consider the *Evergreen Freedom Foundation* factors.

When an organization considers engaging in political contribution or expenditure activities, while maintaining its non-political activities, it should consider creating and registering a separate political committee to manage and report exclusively on the political campaign activities in order to avoid required reporting on non-campaign related activities.

[1] See: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/new-political-committees>

[2] See *State v. Grocery Manufactures Ass'n*, 195 Wn.2d 442, 460 (2020)

[3] AGO 1973 No. 14.

[4] *Evans*, 86 Wn.2d at 509.

[5] See *Utter v. Bldg. Industry Ass'n of Wash.*, 182 Wn.2d 398 (2015); and see *Human Life of Wash. v. Brumsickle*, 624 F.3d 990 (9th Cir. 2010).

[6] *Evans*, 86 Wn. 2d at 508.

[7] See *Brumsickle*, 624 F.3d at 1011.

[8] *Evergreen Freedom Foundation v. Wash. Ed. Ass'n.*, 111 Wn. App. 586 (Wash. Ct. App. 2002).

[9] *Id.* at 600.

[10] The enactment of the DISCLOSE Act, SSB 5991 (2018) requires registration and limited reporting for nonprofit organizations who make expenditures in political campaigns, but do not qualify as a political committee under the FCPA.

Approved: May 2, 2007

Revised: July 23, 2020

References: RCW 42.17A.005(40); AGO 1973 No. 14; State v. Evans, 86 Wn.2d 503 (1976); Evergreen Freedom Foundation v. Washington Education Assn., 111 Wn. App. 386 (2002); Human Life of Wash. v. Brumsickle, 624 F.3d 990 (2010); Utter v. Bldg. Industry Ass'n of Wash., 182 Wn.2d 398 (2015); State v. Grocery Manufacturers Ass'n, 195 Wn.2d 442 (2020).

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Name ▲	Election Year ▼	Committee Category ◆	Raised ◆	Spent ◆	Debt ◆	County ◆	Jurisdiction ◆
Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)	2024	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)	2023	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)	2022	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		

Name ▲	Election Year ▼	Committee Category ◆	Raised ◆	Spent ◆	Debt ◆	County ◆	Jurisdiction ◆
<u>Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)</u>	2021	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		

<u>Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)</u>	2020	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
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Committee Name

Socialist

X

Committee Category

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Election Year

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County

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Name ▲	Election Year ▼	Committee Category ◆	Raised ◆	Spent ◆	Debt ◆	County ◆	Jurisdiction ◆
Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)	2024	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)	2023	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)	2022	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		

Name ▲	Election Year ▼	Committee Category ◆	Raised ◆	Spent ◆	Debt ◆	County ◆	Jurisdiction ◆
<u>Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)</u>	2021	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<u>Olympia Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (Olympia DSA)</u>	2020	Continuing Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<u>Puget Sound Socialist Party (PSSP)</u>	2024	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<u>Puget Sound Socialist Party (PSSP)</u>	2023	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		

Name ▲	Election Year ▼	Committee Category ◆	Raised ◆	Spent ◆	Debt ◆	County ◆	Jurisdiction ◆
<u>Puget Sound Socialist Party (PSSP)</u>	2022	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<u>Puget Sound Socialist Party (PSSP)</u>	2021	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<u>Puget Sound Socialist Party (PSSP)</u>	2020	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<u>Puget Sound Socialist Party (PSSP)</u>	2019	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		

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