State of Washington
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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

February 26, 2025

Delivered electronically to castilloc@ballardspahr.com; dan@danbradylaw.com

Subject: PDC Case 160530 regarding Let's Go Washington Sponsored by Brian Heywood (2)

Let's Go Washington Sponsored by Brian Heywood (2):

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint filed by Abby Lawlor on behalf of Defend Washington on October 11, 2024. The complaint alleged that Let's Go Washington Sponsored by Brian Heywood (Let's Go Washington or LGW) may have violated RCW 42.17A.320(6) and RCW 42.17A.350 by failing to include required sponsor identification on political advertising.

Applicable Laws & Rules

RCW 42.17A.320(6) states that political advertising sponsored by a political committee, costing one thousand dollars or more (adjusted by rule to $2,000 or more) supporting or opposing ballot measures, must include in the sponsor identification the names of the top five contributors to the political committee, as required by RCW 42.17A.350.

RCW 42.17A.350 states, in part, (1) For any requirement to include the top five contributors under RCW **42.17A.320** the sponsor must identify the five persons or entities making the largest contributions to the sponsor in excess of the required threshold ($2,000 since 2023) during the 12 month period preceding the date on which the advertisement is initially to be published or otherwise presented to the public. (2) If one or more of the top five contributors is a political committee, the top three non-political committee contributors to the political committee must be identified. (3) Contributions to the sponsor or a political committee that are earmarked, tracked, and used for purposes other than the advertisement in question should not be counted in identifying the top five contributors under subsection (1) of this section or the top three contributors under subsection (2) of this section.

RCW 42.17A.005(15)(a)(i) defines contribution to include: "(a) loan, gift, deposit, subscription, forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, pledge, payment, transfer of funds, or anything of value, including personal and professional services for less than full consideration..."

Background & Findings

- Let's Go Washington Sponsored by Brian Heywood is a political committee that was formed to support several initiatives to the Legislature during 2023, three of which appeared on the 2024 general election ballot. LGW also supported a 2024 initiative to the people concerning the use of natural gas that appeared on the 2024 ballot.
- Let's Go Washington sponsored three ads supporting the committee's four initiatives that were posted on the committee's YouTube page. The ads were named, "Pinocchio," "Supposed to Help," and "Need All Four." The "Pinocchio" ad also aired on Fox 13 as a TV ad during the Seahawks - 49ers Game on October 11, 2024. The sponsor identification read,

  "PAID FOR BY LET'S GO WASHINGTON SPONSORED BY BRIAN HEYWOOD. TOP FIVE CONTRIBUTORS: BRIAN HEYWOOD, BIAW MEMBER SERVICES CORPORATION, STEVE GORDON, LAWRENCE HUGHES, KEMPER HOLDINGS LLC."

- The complaint alleged that the Top 5 Contributors should have included Main Street Matters to Washington, a political committee that contributed $1,400,000 during the 12 months before the ads were presented to the public, instead of Brian Heywood who the complaint alleged was not a Top 5 Contributor. The complaint further alleged that because Mainstreet Matters to Washington was a political committee, its Top 3 non-political committee contributors also needed to be identified in the political ads but were not identified.
- However, during the 12 months before the political ads at issue were presented to the public, Brian Heywood made monetary contributions that were loans to Let's Go Washington totaling $1,456,000, making Mr. Heywood one of the Top 5 Contributors.
- In addition, the Respondent stated that the contributions to LGW from Mainstreet Matters to Washington were restricted by the contributor from being used for any political advertising supporting any ballot measure other than advertising exclusively supporting I-2066, concerning the use of natural gas. Thus, its contributions could not be used for the ads cited in the complaint.
- Because none of the Top 5 Contributors for the advertisements cited in the complaint were political committees, the requirement to list the Top 3 non-political committee contributors to a Top 5 Contributor is not relevant.

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 Phil Stutzman at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,
Electronically Signed by Phil Stutzman
Phil Stutzman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,
Electronically signed by Kim Bradford
Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Abby Lawlor, on behalf of Defend Washington