



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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

February 2, 2026

Delivered electronically to mkolodrub@gmail.com and johnestey97@gmail.com

Subject: PDC Case 179355 regarding Martin Kolodrub

Dear Martin Kolodrub:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaints filed by John Estey (the “Complainant”) on September 26, 2025 and October 7, 2025. The complaints alleged that Martin Kolodrub (the “Respondent”) violated RCW 42.17A.235, .240, and .320 by failing to 1) timely and accurately report expenditures, specifically campaign signs and a candidate website; and 2) provide the required sponsor identification (ID) on political advertising, specifically the signs and website.

The second complaint alleged that the stickers the Respondent appended to his campaign signs to remedy missing sponsor ID were insufficient in size and some signs were missing stickers. The Complainant also alleged the campaign had recently erected a billboard where sponsor address was missing and the font size used for sponsor ID was insufficient.

Applicable Laws and Rules

- Candidates are required to register with the PDC by filing a *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report). A candidate that selects the Full Reporting option on their C-1 report is required to disclose contributions and expenditures to the PDC on C-3 reports and 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.
- From early June through early November, C-3 reports are due weekly, instead of monthly, for candidates that are participating in the General Election. Furthermore, candidate committees that are participating in an election are subject to an accelerated reporting schedule that includes pre- and post-election C-4 reports, regardless of financial activity.
- A candidate committee may file monthly C-4 reports, due by the 10th day of the following month, for those months during which they are not participating in an election. The committee

may delay the filing of these monthly reports until they have either received contributions or made expenditures that exceed \$750¹ since the last such report filed. RCW 42.17A.235(3(a) and [WAC 390-05-400](#).

- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.240(7), a candidate's C-4 report should disclose, but is not limited to, the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure was made in the aggregate amount of more than \$200² during the period covered by the report, as well as the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure. Person, as defined, includes a vendor. Expenditure details should include, but are not limited to, the name and address of the vendor or recipient, the dollar amount, the date paid, and a description of the goods or services provided, including the number of items. Per [WAC 390-16-037\(2\)](#), the purpose description for some expenditures, such as advertising, may require additional disclosures. An in-kind contribution is disclosed as an expenditure for purposes of campaign accounting and reporting.
- Political advertising as defined in [RCW 42.17A.005\(40\)](#) includes, but is not limited to, digital communication and other forms of mass communication, which is defined in [WAC 390-05-290](#) to include internet websites.
- Pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.320](#), all written political advertising must include the name and address of the sponsor³. Sponsor identification should appear on the first page or fold of the political advertising, be set apart from any other printed matter, and the font size used must be at least the larger of the following: 1) ten percent of the largest type used in the advertisement; or 2) ten-point type.
 - For websites, sponsor ID is required to be present on the home page (or landing page, if different) and is recommended, but not required, on other web pages.
- [WAC 390-18-010](#) indicates that all political advertising must clearly state that it has been paid for by the sponsor. Additional disclosures may be required, depending on the sponsor and type of advertising used and [WAC 390-18-030](#) contains additional information regarding sponsor identification requirements and exemptions for political advertising, and alternatives for online advertising.

Background and Findings

- The Respondent was a 2025 candidate for School Director for Mead School District 354. He registered with the PDC as a candidate on May 22, 2025 and selected the Full Reporting option on his C-1 report (Candidate Registration). The C-1 report was amended on October 2, 2025 to reflect the campaign's use of the alternate name "Friends of Martin Kolodrub." The candidate

¹ Per [WAC 390-05-400](#), this dollar amount increased from \$200 to \$750 effective April 1, 2023.

² Per [WAC 390-05-400](#), this dollar amount increased from \$50 to \$200 effective April 1, 2023.

³ For the purposes of political advertising, the "sponsor" is the person who paid for the advertising. If a person acts as an agent or is reimbursed for the payment, the original source of the payment is the sponsor.

served as his own Treasurer. The Respondent participated in the 2025 General Election and was not elected to the position sought.

- When the first complaint was filed, “Paid for by” or “Sponsored by” and the sponsor’s name and address were missing from the Respondent’s campaign signs and candidate website, located at www.martinformeade.com. The identity of the sponsor could be discerned from the information available on the website, which is partially mitigating.
- The Respondent replied to the first complaint by telephone on October 1, 2025. He indicated his intention to add stickers containing the missing sponsor ID to his campaign signs and update his website to include sponsor ID that evening. The Respondent requested assistance from PDC staff to report campaign expenditures.
- The candidate’s website was updated on or about October 1, 2025 to include “Sponsored by Friends of Martin Kolodrub” followed by his campaign’s address.
- On October 7, 2025, the Respondent emailed PDC staff a photo of a campaign sign with a sticker containing sponsor ID attached, left a voice mail message, and sent a written response to the complaint by email indicating he was working on his reports and hoped to submit them that evening.
- The Respondent confirmed by telephone on October 8, 2025 that his printing company measured the font size on his smaller yard signs to ensure the stickers containing sponsor ID were the required size. He also emailed a photo of one of the corrected signs to PDC staff.
- The Respondent provided a written response to the second complaint on October 26, 2025 and said he had amended his reports to disclose website hosting and include additional expenditure description details for his campaign signs and billboards. The Respondent confirmed that he had affixed stickers to all his signs but would check to make sure they were still attached.
- Sponsor ID on the Respondent’s Lamar billboard was incomplete or insufficient. “Sponsored by Friends of Martin Kolodrub” was present and appeared to be substantially compliant in size. However, sponsor address was either missing or displayed in a font size too small and too close to the bottom margin of the sign/billboard frame to be legible.
- The Respondent does not have previous warnings/violations of PDC requirements.

Reporting History (2025)

The timeliness of the reports filed by the Respondent for election year 2025 is summarized below:

- The monthly C-4 report for June, which was a zero-dollar report, was not late because the committee did not meet the \$750 reporting threshold.

- The monthly C-4 reports for May and July contained information that was disclosed 7 days late, based on when the committee met the \$750 reporting threshold.
- The monthly C-4 report for August was filed 7 days late.
- The candidate's 21-day pre-General, 7-day pre-General, Post-General, and End-of-Election Cycle (Dec.) C-4 reports were all timely filed.
- Twenty-three C-3 reports were filed 1-99 days late.

Alleged Missing or Incomplete Reports (2025)

The complaint alleged that the Respondent failed to report expenditures for his candidate website and campaign signs. Below are our findings concerning these allegations:

- The Respondent amended his monthly July C-4 report on October 7, 2025 to include an in-kind contribution valued at \$189.83, paid to WIX on 7/16/25, for website hosting. This information was disclosed 27 days late, based on when the committee met the reporting threshold. The July report was amended again on 10/28/25 to include vendor address.
- The Respondent said he placed and paid for his signs in September. As a result, there was no reportable debt prior to September and the sign expenditures did not need to be disclosed on reports until October 14, 2025 when the 21-day pre-Primary C-4 report (covering 9/1/25-10/13/25) was due.
- The Respondent timely filed a 21-day pre-Primary C-4 report on 10/14/25 disclosing expenditures for signs, professionally printed address stickers, and billboards. The 21-day pre-election report was timely amended on 10/28/25 to show that the billboards were an in-kind contribution, paid for by the candidate, and was amended again on 11/10/25 to include vendor address (which appeared on the original report).
- Based on the above information, the allegation regarding failure to report campaign sign expenditures is hereby dismissed.

Summary and Resolution

Noncompliance appears to be the result of good-faith omissions or errors. Other mitigating factors in this case include 1) the Respondent's status as a first-time candidate; 2) the relatively small size and modest expenditures of the campaign; and 3) the late-reported information was disclosed prior to the 2025 General Election. The unresolved nature of inadequate sponsor address on the Lamar billboard is an aggravating factor.

However, pursuant to [WAC 390-37-060\(1\)\(d\)](#), this serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to 1) provide sponsor ID on political advertising; and 2) timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures in election year 2025. In the future, PDC staff expect you to provide complete sponsor ID and timely and accurately disclose all contributions and expenditures on required

reports, including in-kind contributions. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed by Tabatha Blacksmith

Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Officer

Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: John Estey