

191237 Ann E Jolie

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reported via email

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To:"pdc@pdc.wa.gov" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov>

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External Email

Dear Members of the Public Disclosure Commission,

I respectfully request review by the full Public Disclosure Commission of the Initial Order issued in my case.

The circumstances surrounding my candidacy were highly unusual and unlike those of a typical candidate.

I filed as a candidate for Pierce County Council District 7 only after the only Republican candidate, Mike Solan, had been removed from the ballot by Pierce County. Because candidate filing had already closed, I made the difficult decision to file at the last possible opportunity and paid the required filing fee of approximately \$1,400 so there would be Republican representation in the race. That filing fee is non-refundable, and I accepted that financial loss because I believed it was important that voters have a Republican candidate on the ballot.

Shortly afterward, Mr. Solan challenged his removal in court. A judge ruled that his removal from the ballot was unconstitutional, and he was reinstated as a candidate.

Once Mr. Solan was restored to the ballot, I immediately attempted to withdraw. Pierce County Elections informed me that they would not remove my name from the ballot and stated that I would need a court order to do so. I asked why Mr. Solan could be removed without a court order, yet I could not be removed without one. I never received an explanation.

As a result, my name remained on the ballot despite the fact that I was no longer running for office. The official Voters' Pamphlet states that I am not actively running. My continued presence on the ballot has actually disadvantaged the Republican candidate by creating unnecessary confusion among voters.

I never campaigned, never raised contributions, never solicited donations, never spent campaign funds, never sought endorsements, and never conducted myself as an active candidate after Mr. Solan was reinstated. My candidacy existed solely because of the extraordinary circumstances

created by the removal and subsequent reinstatement of another candidate.

Regarding the Statement of Financial Affairs (F-1), I acknowledge that I did not file it. I also acknowledge receiving notice of the hearing. Unfortunately, I made an honest mistake when entering the hearing date into my calendar and mistakenly recorded it in July instead of June. As a result, I unintentionally failed to appear. Had I realized the correct date, I absolutely would have attended and explained these circumstances.

I understand and respect the Commission's role in enforcing Washington's campaign finance laws. My request is not based on a disagreement with the Commission's authority or the importance of public disclosure. Rather, I am asking the Commission to consider the extraordinary facts of this situation and the absence of any intent to avoid my legal obligations.

I have now been assessed a \$1,000 penalty in addition to the non-refundable \$1,400 filing fee that I paid solely to preserve Republican representation after another candidate was improperly removed from the ballot. I also remain subject to an F-1 filing requirement despite never conducting a campaign, raising funds, or actively seeking election after Mr. Solan was reinstated.

Throughout this process, I acted in good faith. I voluntarily accepted a significant financial loss to ensure voters had a choice in the election. When the court restored Mr. Solan to the ballot, I immediately attempted to withdraw because I no longer wished to be a candidate. My failure to appear at the hearing resulted from an honest calendaring mistake, not from disregard for the Commission or its processes.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the full Commission to exercise its discretion, review the Initial Order, and reconsider the civil penalty in light of these unique and extraordinary circumstances. I would be grateful for the opportunity to personally appear before the Commission to answer any questions and provide any additional information that may assist in its review.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and public service.

Respectfully,

Ann Jolie
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