Respondent Names
Ryan Swinburnson
Complainant Name
Mary Ann Ottinger
Complaint Description

MaryAnn Ottinger
reported via the portal
(Tue, 3 Nov 2026 at 4:39 AM)

1. During the week of October 13, 2026, Ryan Swinburnson and his campaign organization disseminated a mailing urging voters to elect him as Prosecuting Attorney in Whatcom County. His mandatory PDC report of October 27, 2026 failed to disclose any expenditure for this mailing which should have included costs for design, print, mail house fees, and postage, as well as the number of pieces mailed. A copy of this mailing is attached.

RCW 29B.25.100
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=29B.25.100

WAC 390-16-205
https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=390-16-205

2. Throughout his campaign, Swinburnson reported six payments to "INSOLVD, INC." totaling $12,193.99 for "donor lists." This description of the goods or services purchased from this vendor is incomplete.

RCW 29B.25.100
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=29B.25.100

WAC 390-16-205
https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=390-16-205

3. Throughout his campaign, Swinburnson has reported sign purchases from republicansigns.com totaling $6,804.55 as of this date. None of these reports disclosed the number of signs purchased on each occasion nor the various sizes, as required.

WAC 390-16-037
https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=390-16-037

4. On his C-4 filing of October 27, 2026, Swinburnson reported payments totaling $3,000 to Loud Sound for "video campaign advertising". However, the report fails to disclose where the video was distributed or dates of distribution as required.

PDC Guidelines, Expenditures That Require Additional Disclosure:

Media Buys

Expenditures for media buys must be broken down by the date the expenditure was made, amount paid, the date the ad is first broadcast or published if known, and each media outlet (newspaper, radio or TV station, billboard company, etc.). ORCA users who purchase flight time through an agent or broker, enter one expenditure with the broker as the vendor and each broadcast outlet is entered as a separate expense with the station name in the description.

https://www.pdc.wa.gov/registration-reporting/candidates-committees/expenditures-debts/expenditures-require-additional-disclosure

5. Swinburnson distributed to voters a campaign handout promoting his election between April and September, 2026 which did not contain the required campaign disclosure information -- i.e., paid for by, etc. Copy attached.

RCW 29B.30.050
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=29B.30.050

WAC 390-18-010
https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=390-18-010

6. Swinburnson distributed to voters a campaign handout promoting his election between April and September, 2026 which contained the following false and misleading language:

"THE ONLY CANDIDATE WITH EXPERIENCE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CURRENT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE."

Swinburnson only acknowledged the falsity of this statement -- which was misleading as to a material fact in this election -- after a formal Public Records Request to the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office revealed that Swinburnson had NEVER worked "inside" the Prosecutor's Office, whereas his three Primary opponents DID have that experience. A copy of this handout and the response to the Public Records Request are attached.

RCW 29B.30.070
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=29B.30.070

7. Swinburnson's campaign website promoting his election does not contain the required "disclaimer" information with campaign address and party preference. https://www.swinburnsonforprosecutor.com/

RCW 29B.30.050
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=29B.30.050

WAC 390-18-010

https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=390-18-010

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

The stated mission of the Public Disclosure Commission is to promote confidence in Washington state's political process by helping voters and the public understand where money in politics comes from and where it's going. Reporting of accurate and timely information and data is important so the public can remain informed. Honesty matters.

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

Copy of mailing by candidate Swinburnson distributed in week of October 13, 2026

Copy of first campaign handout distributed by Swinburnson between April and September, 2026

Copy of response to Public Records Request dated 9/15/26

All other documents referred to here can be found at:
https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/candidates/3391609#expenditures

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Swinburnson campaign treasurer - Sharon Nelson - 360-201- 4273

Ryan Swinburnson - 360-201- 4273

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.

maryann@methownet.com

From: Whatcom County Public Records <whatcomcounty@govqa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 4:29 PM
To: maryann@methownet.com
Subject: New Message :: R001376-091326

--- Please respond above this line ---



RE: Public Records Request of September 13, 2026, Reference # R001376-091326

Dear Mary Ann Ottinger,

Whatcom County received a request from you on September 13, 2026. Your request sought:

Any and all records of employment in a Prosecutor capacity in the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office by Ryan Swinburnson.

Pursuant to RCW 42.56.520, Whatcom County has conducted a search for records responsive to your request. This search included, but was not limited to, the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office and the Human Resource Department for Whatcom County, using the search terms, criteria and date ranges reasonably calculated to locate records responsive to your request.

Based on this search, **no records responsive to your request were located.**

This letter constitutes the County's final response to your request. The Public Records Act's one-year statute of limitations to seek judicial review has started to run because the County does not intend to further address this

request. You may submit follow-up questions within [30] days of this letter; if you do not intend to pursue this matter further, no further action is required.

Sincerely,

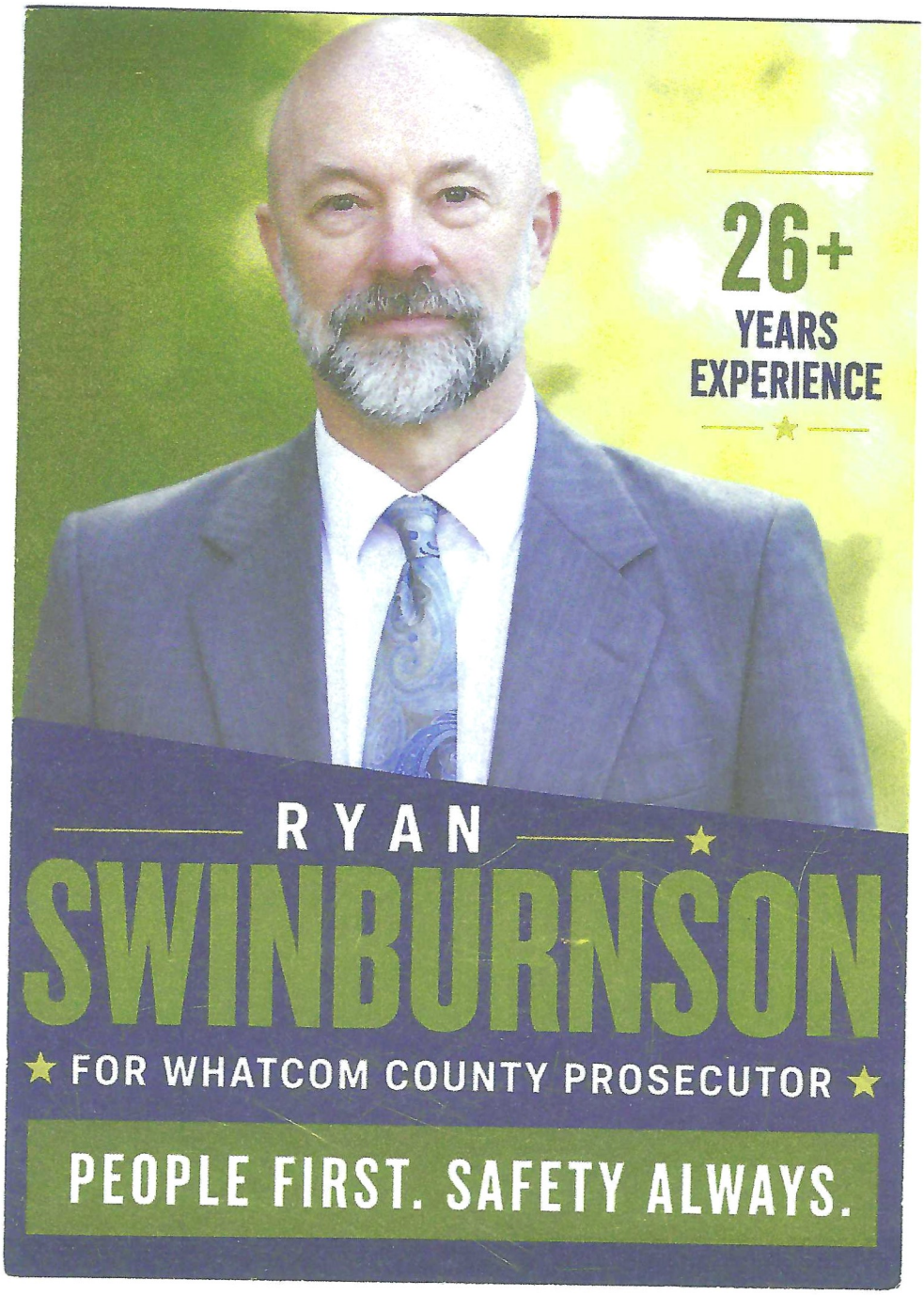
Rick Gregory

Whatcom County Public Records Officer

Information Technology

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the Public Records Center.




26+
YEARS
EXPERIENCE
RYAN
SWINBURNSON
FOR WHATCOM COUNTY PROSECUTOR
PEOPLE FIRST. SAFETY ALWAYS.

EXPERIENCE THAT MATTERS

PROSECUTOR
Years of courtroom experience.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
I understand both sides of the courtroom.

COUNTY CIVIL ATTORNEY
Experience in complex legal and civil matters.

DIRECTOR, WHATCOM COUNTY CONFLICT OFFICE
Leading programs that resolve conflict and strengthen our community.

INDEPENDENT LEADERSHIP

THE ONLY CANDIDATE WITH EXPERIENCE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CURRENT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.

MY PRIORITIES

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST
Hold offenders accountable and protect our communities.

SUPPORT VICTIMS
Compassion, respect, and resources for those we serve.

REDUCE DELAYS
Improve efficiency and get cases resolved in a timely manner.

STRENGTHEN THE OFFICE
Support our team and build a stronger, more effective Prosecutor's Office.

ENDORSED BY



JACK LOUWS
FORMER WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE



KELLI LINVILLE
FORMER MAYOR OF BELLINGHAM

EXPERIENCED. INDEPENDENT. COMMITTED TO WHATCOM COUNTY.

EXPERIENCE. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

People First. Safety Always.



Standing, left to right:
Kendra Cristelli • Lisa Anderson • Kerri Burnside • Jaime Arnett
Ryan Swinburnson • Sara O'Connor • Flo Simon
Seated, left to right: Alicia Rule • Mary Lou Steward • Kelli Linville • Dona Bracke

RYAN
SWINBURNSC

FOR
WHATCOM COUN
PROSECUTO

27 years of legal experience

Conflict Office Director
Blaine School Board Presider

NO PARTY PREFERENCE

YOUR BALLOT IS ARRIVING. VOTE RYAN SWINBURNSON.

SwinburnsonForProsecutor.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ryan Swinburnson
PO Box 903, Blaine, WA 98230

RYAN SWINBURNSON
FOR WHATCOM COUNTY PROSECUTOR
People First. Safety Always.

TRUSTED ACROSS WHATCOM COUNTY

PUBLIC SAFETY

Whatcom County Sheriff's Guild

Bellingham Police Guild

Bill Elfo
Former Whatcom County Sheriff

Flo Simon
Former Bellingham Police Chief

Dona Bracke
Whatcom County Senior Prosecuting Attorney

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Pete Kremen
Former Whatcom County Executive

Jack Louws
Former Whatcom County Executive

Satpal Sidhu*
Whatcom County Executive

Kelli Linville
Former Bellingham Mayor

Alicia Rule
State Representative

ALSO ENDORSED BY

Whatcom County Association of REALTORS®
AGC of Washington BUILD PAC

*Satpal Sidhu has endorsed both candidates.

See the full endorsement list:
SwinburnsonForProsecutor.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ryan Swinburnson
PO Box 903, Blaine, WA 98230

PRSR
U.S. PC
PA
BLAI
PERMIT

