

SANDLER REIFF

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September 13, 2021

Via E-Mail

Charles K Kitcher, Esq.
Acting Associate General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

Re: RR 21L-53

Dear Mr. Kitcher:

The undersigned serves as counsel to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (“WSDCC”) and Julie Johnson, in her official capacity as Treasurer. I am writing in response to the Commission’s letter of August 11, 2021, in connection with the above-referenced referral.

For the reasons set forth below, the WSDCC respectfully requests that the Office of General Counsel recommend that no further action be taken in this matter or, in the alternative, that this matter be referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division for further proceedings.

This matter relates to a referral from the Commission’s Reports Analysis Division and specifically relates to additional activity reported by the WSDCC in connection with its 12 Day-Pre-General Report. The omission of \$250,000 in receipts and \$250,000 in disbursements from the initial report was caused by an internal miscommunication between WSDCC staff and consultants as to the account that was being used to make these transactions. Due to the identical errors in the amount of receipts and disbursements, there was no effect on the WSDCC’s cash on hand and the error was not immediately detected.

The omissions discussed above were discovered during the preparation of the WSDCC 30 Day Post-General Report. Upon discovery, in early December 2020, the WSDCC prepared an amended report to correct these omissions. For reasons that the WSDCC cannot explain, the amended report was not uploaded to the Commission. In February 2021, the WSDCC was notified by another state party committee who had received a contribution from the WSDCC that a transfer to their committee was not disclosed to WSDCC reports. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the December amendment had not been submitted and the WSDCC immediately filed the amended report.

The WSDCC acknowledges that it omitted certain transactions from its original 12 Day Pre-General report. These omissions were caused by a miscommunication between party staff and an outside consultant who prepares reports for the WSDCC. The WSDCC has taken steps to ensure that these errors do not happen again, including full reconciliation of all accounts before reports are filed, as well as seeking confirmation, through receipt that all filings have been received by the Commission on a timely basis. To that end, it should be noted that WSDCC staff and consultants participated in a training program on September 10, 2021 with the Commission's Reports Analysis Division. As part of that training, the WSDCC has agreed to provide further clarification with respect to the circumstances surrounding the omissions that are subject to this referral with 30 days of the training.

Based upon the above, the Commission should either determine to take no further action in this matter, or, in the alternative, refer this matter to its Alternative Dispute Resolution Division to work with the WSDCC to come up with comprehensive steps to ensure future compliance.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 479-1111.

Respectfully submitted,



Neil P. Reiff
Counsel for the Washington State
Democratic Central Committee and Julie
Johnson, in her official capacity as Treasurer