



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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March 1, 2021

Delivered electronically to "millsaustin@wavecable.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools, PDC Case 82098

Dear Gerry Austin:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on December 13, 2020. Your complaint alleged Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools, a group created by Dave Kimball, may have violated RCW 42.17A.205, .235, and .240 by failing to timely and accurately register and report as a political committee after establishing themselves as the Committee Against the February 2021 SKSD Levy and making expenditures to oppose the levy through the placement of signs. The complaint alleged Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools failed to file a Committee Registration, Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports), disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the Campaign.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; a response submitted by Dave Kimball; and spoke with Mr. Kimball to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Jim Bryant called himself Committee Against South Kitsap School District 2021 Levy in order to submit the opposition statement in the Kitsap County Voters Pamphlet. Mr. Bryant stated he did not raise or spend any funds concerning the February 9 ballot measure, but acknowledged using Dave Kimball's website at no charge to express his opposition to the levy.
- Mr. Kimball said when he realized Mr. Bryant did not have his own website, he offered use of his website to Mr. Bryant at no cost for two months. Mr. Bryant identified Committee Against South Kitsap School District 2021 Levy as being responsible for the content he posted on the website. Mr. Kimball and Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools stopped using the website during the two months Mr. Bryant posted information about the February 9 election.
- Mr. Kimball said the only expenditures he has incurred have been the annual costs to maintain the website. On December 13, 2020, Mr. Kimball paid \$151.87 to One.com for hosting services and

renewal of the domain name for the upcoming year. The value of using the website for two months was approximately \$25. Mr. Kimball said Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools has never solicited or accepted any funds.

- Mr. Kimball said Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools did not authorize the purchase or placement of any signs opposing the school district's 2021 levy.
- Mr. Kimball confirmed Jeff Daily, a South Kitsap School District Director, has been involved with Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools since it was established, and has publicly stated his opposition to the South Kitsap School District 2021 Levy.

Based on these findings, staff has determined, no evidence was found supporting the alleged violation that Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools was a political committee required to register and report its activities with the Public Disclosure Commission.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s Electronically Signed Philip E. Stutzman

Phil Stutzman

Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s Electronically Signed Barbara Sandahl

Barbara Sandahl

Deputy Director

For Peter Lavalley

Executive Director

cc: Dave Kimball, Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools