

by Jim Lazar on Mon, 21 Apr at 8:42 AM via Email

Public Comment on Campaign Reporting Schedules Agenda Item

External Email

This comment relates to the Campaign Reporting Schedules agenda item for the 4/24/25 Commission meeting.

I am an occasional Campaign Treasurer, and a frequent campaign expenditure observer.

The shift to all-mail balloting has changed the timing of major campaign expenditures, and this has led to "gaming" of campaign expenditures in the current reporting schedules.

Many campaigns do mailings exactly 21 days prior to the election. This date comes BEFORE voters have read their ballots, but AFTER the last date included in the 21-day pre-election C4. While this is most evident for the November

General Election date, the same incentive applies to the February, April, and August election dates.

The result is that the public does not know until the next C4 date, seven days before the election, whether a campaign has mailed 100 brochures or 1 million brochures. By then, it is impossible for an opponent, political committee, or member of the public to respond by printing and mailing a response, even if they have the financial ability to do so.

I suggest two approaches to address this:

a) Require same-day special reports whenever any Candidate or Committee expends amounts above a threshold within 21 days of an election, similar to the requirement in RCW 42.17A.260 for Independent Expenditures and Ballot Measure expenditures. That threshold is currently \$1,000.

or

b) Require a C4 to be filed 21 days, **14 days**, and 7 days prior to an election.

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Under the Trump administration, America is retreating from hard power,
surrendering soft power, and yielding economic power.
Is this what greatness looks like?

David A. Graham, The Atlantic

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