

WRITTEN COMMENT

Clarification on Fine Payment and Feedback on First-Time Filing Penalty

Jane Long

reported via email

15 hours ago (Tue, 1 Jul 2025 at 5:23 PM)

To:"PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

Cc:pat.mccarthy@sao.wa.gov, center@sao.wa.gov, gloria.mendoza@leg.wa.gov,
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External Email

Dear Public Disclosure Commission,

I'm writing in follow-up to a recent hearing regarding a missed report. I reside in Skamania County and serve as a volunteer member of the school board in Washougal WA and, having accepted no campaign contributions or made any expenditures, I filed what I believed to be the appropriate report. I did not realize that additional filings were still required and sincerely thought I had completed my responsibilities.

When I was made aware of the issue, I attended the hearing, explained the situation in good faith, and accepted the Commission's decision. I was assessed a \$100 fine, but have not yet received any instructions on how to pay it. I would appreciate your guidance so I can take care of this promptly.

I also want to express my sincere thanks to your staff—every time I reached out with questions, I received prompt, kind, and helpful responses. The support provided by the PDC team has been consistently professional and appreciated.

At the same time, I want to share my frustration that a first-time, good-faith mistake by someone in an **unpaid, volunteer role**—who filed the report believing it was sufficient and acted in full transparency—results in a fine. Experiences like this can unintentionally discourage civic engagement. When the cost of participating in our democracy is the risk of personal penalties for administrative errors, it undermines the spirit of service that motivates many of us to step up in the first place.

I fully support the PDC's mission and value the role you play in maintaining transparency and trust. I simply ask that you consider additional grace or flexibility in enforcement when dealing with first-time filers serving in volunteer, non-financial campaigns.

Thank you again for your time and for the work you do to support transparency in our state.

Sincerely,

Jane Long