



City of Seattle

Ethics and Elections Commission

September 23, 2016

Ms. Teran Petrina, Treasurer
Committee for Equal Application of Laws (No on I-124)
510 Plum Street, Suite 200
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Ms. Petrina:

The Committee for Equal Application of Laws (the "Committee") has repeatedly filed reports late since June. I am therefore imposing a late-filing penalty of \$1,000.

FACTS

The Committee filed a Statement of Organization in June 2016 for the November 2016 ballot. The Committee was organized in opposition to Initiative 124, which concerns health, safety, and labor standards for Seattle hotel employees.

Beginning on June 1 of each election year, both State and City law require committees to file weekly C3s each Monday to report deposits made during the prior seven days. For ballot issue committees on the November ballot, monthly financial summaries (C4s) are due on the tenth of each month (or the next business day if the tenth falls on a weekend or holiday). (SMC 2.04.250)

RELEVANT FILING HISTORY

The committee filed the following reports late:

- The June C4 was filed 16 days late.
- Seven C3s reporting deposits totaling more than \$66,000 made in July were filed a total of 83 days late.
- The July C4 was filed nine days late. It included almost \$70,000 in in-kind contributions, and almost \$55,000 in new obligations.
- Four C3s reporting deposits of almost \$40,000 made in August were filed a total of 42 days late.
- The August C4 was filed one day late. (The Committee notified our office on the due date that they appeared to have lost their data and were having trouble restoring it.)
- The May, June and July C4s were each amended in mid-September to show \$3,975 in in-kind contributions of staff time from Washington Restaurant Association employees.

In total, more than \$105,000 in deposits, \$95,000 in in-kind contributions, and \$66,000 in obligations have not been timely reported in the last four months.

RELEVANT LAW

The Seattle Elections Code authorizes the Executive Director to impose late filing penalties of \$50 per day for each day that each report is due and not filed, and \$150 per day for any report that is not timely filed within 30 days of the election. (SMC 2.04.330 B-D).

LATE FILING PENALTIES

In determining a suitable penalty, I balanced the fact that the election is still a month and a half away with the fact that the Committee has thus far filed virtually every report due in this cycle late. I am levying a penalty of \$1,000.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

You may appeal this decision by submitting to this office, by 4:00 p.m., October 14, 2016, a written request for appeal, pursuant to the Commission's Administrative Rule 4.¹

ACTION TO TAKE

No later than October 14, 2016, deliver payment of \$1,000, payable to the City of Seattle, to the Commission at 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4010, P.O. Box 94729, Seattle, WA 98124-4729, or your request for appeal.

¹ Rule 4 APPEALS

- A. Upon the written request of a party aggrieved by the Executive Director's decision to dismiss a complaint, or to impose late-filing penalties under SMC 2.04.330, the action may be reviewed by the Commission.

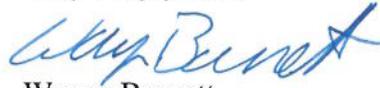
- C. An appeal of late-filing penalties shall be served at the Commission's office no later than 14 days after the date of mailing the decision of which review is sought.
- D. A request for review shall state the grounds therefor, and shall be no longer than twelve 8-1/2" x 11" double-spaced pages in length with margins of at least 1" on every side, and no more than 12 characters per inch.

CONCLUSION

A successful campaign finance reporting regime requires that all campaigns abide by the same rules. Any delay in reporting inhibits our ability to give the public timely access to this information. Therefore, we are compelled to impose penalties when reports have not been timely filed.

If you have any questions, please call me at 684-8577.

Very truly yours,



Wayne Barnett
Executive Director

cc: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission
Tony Perkins, Public Disclosure Commission