



## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Seattle Elections Code, SMC 2.04.290.B.1 states that: “All...political advertising, whether relating to candidates or ballot propositions, must state “paid for by” or “sponsored by,” followed by the sponsor's name and address.”
2. The letters described above do not identify the sponsor or include the sponsor’s address.
3. As such, the letters violate SMC 2.04.290.B.1.

## AGREEMENT

1. The Committee acknowledges that it violated SMC 2.04.290.B.1 when it failed to include the sponsor identification in Exhibits A and B.
2. Within five business days of the approval of this settlement, the Committee agrees to pay the City of Seattle \$1,000 for violating SMC 2.04.290.B.
3. The Parties agree that this settlement agreement, upon the Commission’s approval, will constitute, insofar as is legally possible, a full and final settlement between the Parties, as to all facts, actions, controversies, and matters that have occurred or may have occurred, as described herein, related to the Committee’s failure to include the required sponsor identification in its two letters mailed to 32,925 residents on July 20 and July 24, 2023 and do forever release, acquit, and discharge each party, its present or former officials, employees, agents, representatives, successors, heirs, and assigns from all present claims, demands, damages, costs (specifically including attorney’s fees and costs), actions, or causes of action arising, during the aforementioned time period, out of all facts, actions, controversies, and matters that have occurred, or may have occurred or in any way related to this matter, and the acts or omissions of the Commission, its members, agents, or employees in handling the matter filed under Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Case No. 23-2-0725-1 and any events related thereto.
4. The Parties agree that the Commission’s review of this settlement agreement does not preclude the Commission from hearing this case in the event that the Commission rejects this agreement and calls for a hearing, or in the event that the Committee rejects any Commission modification of this agreement and requests a hearing.
5. The Parties agree that if the Committee breaches this agreement the Commission will be entitled to hold a special meeting or a regular meeting to issue a determination that the Committee has violated the Elections Code. Under the Seattle Municipal Code, the Commission

may impose a fine of up to \$5,000 per violation, and may require costs that do not exceed the amount of any monetary fine.

6. The Parties agree that this settlement incorporates and supersedes any and all other oral and written agreements and assurances of any and all kinds between the parties, that this agreement shall constitute the whole agreement between the parties, and that there are no other written or oral agreements that alter or modify this agreement.

DocuSigned by:  
Ron Davis  
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Ron for Seattle  
By: Ron Davis  
August<sup>29</sup>, 2023

Wayne Barnett  
Wayne Barnett, Executive Director  
August       , 2023  
*September 7, 2023*

# EXHIBIT A

Hello neighbors - I'm Ron Davis, and I'm running for City Council for our District.

Many of you already know me, whether because I have knocked on your door, from my appearances in the news and at forums, or from our most recent mailer.

Unfortunately, while I've been busy trying to focus on my positive agenda for our neighborhoods, something disturbing has been happening in our district.

**An outside group of MAGA Republican mega-donors has been trying to buy our city council seat.** They've been spending tens of thousands of dollars flooding your mailboxes in order to elect my opponent, Maritza Rivera, so that she will cut taxes for the rich.

She has had trouble raising money, especially from donors in our district, but they don't care what our district wants; they decided to foot the bill themselves.

You may have also received a mailer from my opponent that compares me to Seattle's famously radical, Marxist councilmember—Kshama Sawant. As a businessman, dad, and Democrat, I make a pretty lousy radical. And I'm endorsed by all the District 4 Democratic party organizations, the King County Democrats, and several prominent business leaders. **This is my opponent's attempt to distract you from her true goal—which is to cut taxes for these donors.**

These Republican super-donors primarily want to kill off the JumpStart tax because it is one of our only progressive taxes – that is, it takes a higher percentage from the rich than the poor. It is a small tax on high incomes that is charged directly to large businesses. Economists say taxes like this have zero **negative economic impact.**

I'm a Democrat, so as you can imagine, I support the JumpStart tax.

The money raised from this tax goes to support affordable housing, childcare, and small businesses in Seattle, and to plug holes in our general fund. We need this money.

Our taxes are the most upside down in the country. We force young, struggling workers, and seniors on fixed incomes to foot more of the bill than anywhere else.

A high income household like mine - a family doctor and a tech worker - pays 3% of our income a year in state and local taxes. But the people who take patients' blood pressure before my wife walks into the exam room, or serve coffee down the street, pay around 17%. I don't think this is reasonable or fair.

In fact, their opposition to making our tax system more balanced is why these Republican mega-donors are spending so much money supporting my opponent.

The ringleader, Georgie Petrie, has given nearly \$100,000 to Donald Trump and the Republican Party over the last few years. He started a large monthly donation after the January 6th insurrection. He and some of his fellow donors have also donated tens of thousands to flipping our state legislature to Republicans, who as we know are trying to take away our rights, gut our education and mental health system, and push our state back by decades.

**This group clearly doesn't share our values. Most of these donors don't even live in our district.**

**We need to show them our votes are not for sale.**

Killing JumpStart will devastate our neighborhoods and decimate public safety.

JumpStart raises \$230M a year for Seattle, and we are already facing a huge projected shortfall next year because of the real estate market slowdown. Together, these would **blow a \$400M+ hole in our budget**, and without JumpStart we'd have to **gut our investments in affordable housing, public safety, buses, traffic upgrades, libraries, public litter removal** - really everything that matters to our voters.

**911 wait times will surely increase, not decrease, under this scenario.**

We don't have to hate people for their good fortune, or raise taxes so high that we kill the golden goose. We just need a reasonably balanced tax code where the rich pay their fair share. **We can't just keep relying on young workers and seniors with fixed incomes to pay for everything—this isn't sustainable or right.** This is mainstream Democratic party 101 stuff.

Also, **we need to be smart with our money.** I'm the only candidate in this race to actually identify ways to save money in our current budget, rather than just making vague promises to "look at the budget" and conjure hundreds of millions in savings.

My tax plan will still take far less from the rich than they pay in other blue parts of the country (which are also doing economically well, even with taxes for rich people, mind you!). But it will get us closer to a more balanced approach, stabilize Seattle's recklessly volatile finances, and allow us to tackle our most pressing problems. And we won't balance our budgets on the backs of workers or seniors living on Social Security.

**Please don't tolerate this outside influence from bad actors trying to buy our elections and buy themselves a tax cut while they let the rest of us responsible citizens pick up their mess.**

Hope to meet you, in person, soon. Please be sure to return your ballot by August 1

Ron

# **EXHIBIT B**

Hello neighbors! I'm Ron Davis and I'm running for City Council. Ballots are due August 1st.

I'm running to make sure Seattle is an affordable, safe, thriving place where people from any background can start a career, raise a family, and age happily at home.

About me: I'm a former startup CEO and a Harvard Law grad, a policy nerd with a history of closing complex deals for tech companies. My wife is an amazing family doctor, and we are raising our two young boys, who go to Seattle Public Schools. I've served on the boards of the University YMCA, Roosevelt Neighborhood Association, Seattle Subway, and Futurewise (we passed the climate bill in Olympia this year!) and am active in the local Democratic Party.

Luck has smiled on me. My parents were teenagers when they got pregnant with me, but they were eventually able to buy a house, and provide the stability we needed to find upward mobility, a story you can't start in Seattle today. We have to fix that.

I didn't want public office; I hoped to just quietly serve my community and live a private life. But I couldn't stand by and watch us strangle our children's future, destroy the climate and give up on public safety. I had to jump into the fray.

I'm endorsed by all **5 Democratic Party organizations, environmental groups**, the Urbanist, **labor** (like bus drivers, UW research scientists & engineers, grocery workers, hospital workers, sailors, truck drivers & construction workers), **political leaders like progressive champions** Girmay Zahilay, Larry Gosset, Brady Walkinshaw, Toshiko Haswegawa, Sen Joe Nguyen, Rep David Hackney, Melissa Taylor, Nancy Connolly, **business friendly politicians** like Sam Cho, Ryan Calkins, and Vivian Song Maritz and our former Councilmember Abel Pacheco, and **community leaders** - from venture capitalists like Chris DeVore, former McKinsey Partner Ben Maritz and Slalom Managing Director Erik Johnson, to Neighborhood Association Leaders like Jay Lazerwitz, community activists like Lhorna Murray, environmental leaders like think-tank founder Alan Durning and former Councilmember Jim Street, and many, many more.

I am the only candidate in this race that wasn't recruited by lobbyists to get the biggest businesses a big tax cut and/or with plans to gut social services. We know those lobbyists and super-rich are going to do everything they can to buy this race, and they've already formed a PAC to try to stop our candidacy.

I will follow the most battle tested, scientifically validated policies from around the world to:

- **Make sure Seattle is safe for everyone**
  - Stop crime before it starts
    - Fully fund human services and behavioral health
    - Invest in community violence intervention
  - **Get drugs off our street and drug abusers into treatment**
    - Restrict use to medically-managed overdose prevention centers
    - Use the prevention centers as a pipeline into treatment



- Make sure the **response fits the crisis**
    - Ensure a 5 minute or faster 911 response
    - Add a full-sized behavioral health response department to 911
    - Use speed and red light cameras to free up police time
  - **Reject magical thinking**
    - Hiring police is tough *everywhere* in the US right now. So, Seattle Police thinks **we can only grow by 30 officers in the next** budget cycle, even though we are down nearly 400—our plans **must take this into account**
  - Ensure **accountability**, good governance, and community legitimacy of policing
    - Use independent civilian oversight with real accountability
    - Provide de-escalation training for all first responders
  - Stop repeat offenses with evidence-based rehabilitative practices
- **Improve housing affordability for all**
    - Make sure we build (attractive) housing as fast as people move here
    - Build more affordable housing *and* cut unhelpful rules that make it so expensive
    - Protect renters from gouging; use rental assistance to prevent homelessness
- **Cut homelessness to near zero as fast as possible**
    - By addressing housing market shortages and building more affordable housing, we will prevent people from falling into homelessness
    - Get people **off the street now** by quickly and cheaply building more tiny homes
    - Build affordable housing with mental/behavioral health support on site for people with chronic behavioral issues
    - Supplement the county's work to build more mental health facility capacity
- **Become a climate and livability leader for people of all ages and abilities**
    - Make it as easy to get around the city without a car as it is with
    - Ensure a short walk for everyone to the grocery store, doctor, and coffee shop
    - Make our roads safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and drivers
    - Electrify our cars and buses, and provide tax incentives for E-bikes
    - Protect trees everywhere; expand our tree canopy along roads and in parks

You can probably tell I am a detail-oriented policy wonk. For more information on my policies, please check out [seattle4ron.com](http://seattle4ron.com), or email me at [ron@seattle4ron.com](mailto:ron@seattle4ron.com).

I'm at the doors all day, (thousands of great conversations so far), so replies may be slow! Hope to see you out there!

Yours, Ron Davis

# EXHIBIT C

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