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FILED  
SUPERIOR COURT  
THURSTON COUNTY, WA

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Linda Myhre Enlow  
Thurston County Clerk

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
THURSTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

STATE OF WASHINGTON,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
CLARK COUNTY REPUBLICAN  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, a Washington  
registered political committee which  
maintains exempt and non-exempt  
accounts,  
  
Defendant.

NO. 17-2-05688-34  
  
COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL  
PENALTIES AND FOR INJUNCTIVE  
RELIEF FOR VIOLATIONS OF  
RCW 42.17A

**I. NATURE OF ACTION**

Plaintiff State of Washington (State) brings this action to enforce state campaign finance disclosure laws, RCW 42.17A. The State alleges that Defendant, CLARK COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE (the Committee), a Washington registered political committee which maintains both exempt and non-exempt accounts, violated provisions of RCW 42.17A by 1) failing to timely report contributions received, and 2) failing to timely report expenditures made including debts and obligations. Such conduct applies to both its exempt and non-exempt accounts. The State seeks relief under RCW 42.17A.750 and .765, including penalties, costs and fees, and injunctive relief.

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**II. PARTIES**

2.1 Plaintiff is the State of Washington. Acting through the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, Attorney General, or a local prosecuting attorney, the State enforces state campaign finance disclosure laws contained in RCW 42.17A.

2.2 Defendant CLARK COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE is registered with the state Public Disclosure Commission as a continuing bona fide political party committee and maintains both an exempt and non-exempt account. As the term is used under RCW 42.17A.005(6)(c), it is the county central committee for the Washington State Republican Party in Clark County, Washington.

**III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3.1 This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the present case in accordance with RCW 42.17A. The Attorney General has authority to bring this action pursuant to RCW 42.17A.765.

3.2 This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant as a registered Washington State county political committee. Additionally, the acts alleged below occurred in whole or in part in Thurston County, Washington.

3.3 Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to RCW 4.12.020(1).

**IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

4.1 RCW 42.17A declares as a matter of public policy “[t]hat political campaign and lobbying contributions and expenditures be fully disclosed to the public and that secrecy is to be avoided.” RCW 42.17A.001(1). Further, the statute provides that the provisions of the law “shall be liberally construed to promote complete disclosure of all information respecting the financing of political campaigns. . . .”

4.2 Washington’s campaign finance law requires political committees, including party county committees, to timely report contributions received, including in-kind

1 contributions. The information required to be disclosed includes the name and address of the  
2 source of contributions that exceed \$25 in the aggregate, and the employer and occupation of  
3 any individual contributor giving more than \$100 in the aggregate. RCW 42.17A.235, .240;  
4 WAC 390-16-037. Contribution disclosures are reported on a Public Disclosure Commission  
5 form "C-3" which is called the "Cash Receipt Monetary Contributions" form.

6 4.3 Washington's campaign finance law also requires political committees to timely  
7 report expenditures related to state campaigns, including any debts incurred by the political  
8 committee. RCW 42.17A.235, .240(8); RCW 42.17A.005(20). The PDC form to report  
9 expenditures is called a "Summary, Full Report Receipts and Expenditures" and is a form  
10 "C-4." An expenditure is defined to include "a *promise to pay*, . . . . For the purposes of this  
11 chapter, agreements to make expenditures, contracts, and promises to pay may be reported as  
12 estimated obligations until actual payment is made." RCW 42.17A.005(20).

13 4.4 The Committee is a political party committee as the term is used in RCW  
14 42.17A, and is more specifically a county central committee of the Washington State  
15 Republican Party. As such, the Committee routinely raises funds in order to support various  
16 republican candidates. Since 2012, the Committee received contributions and made  
17 expenditures, all of which were required to be reported in accordance with RCW 42.17A.

18 4.5 The activities of the Public Disclosure Commission, including its receipt and  
19 compilation of reports required by law, are conducted in and about Thurston County.

20 4.6 On August 2, 2017, the Attorney General's Office received a citizen action  
21 notice alleging that the Committee had failed to timely file reports of contributions received  
22 and expenditures made for the years 2015, 2016, and 2017. The notice alleged other violations  
23 of RCW 42.17A and advised that in the event the State did not act on the allegations, the  
24 citizen would proceed in the name of the State.

25 4.7 Then on September 1, 2017, the Attorney General's Office received a second  
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1 citizen action notice alleging the same type of allegations.

2 4.8 The State conducted an investigation into the allegations contained in the citizen  
3 action notice. As a result of the investigation, the State determined that certain provisions of  
4 RCW 42.17A had been violated by the Committee since November 2012.

5 Failure to Timely Report Contributions Received

6 4.9 The Committee failed to timely disclose contributions it received through its  
7 Exempt Funds account as required by law on a C-3 report. Specifically, the Committee failed  
8 to timely file and disclose \$124,261.31 in contributions deposited since April 2013 on 48  
9 separate C-3 reports. Collectively, these reports were a total of 1,745 days late.

10 4.10 The Committee failed to timely disclose contributions it received through its  
11 Non-Exempt Funds account as required by law on a C-3 report. Specifically, the Committee  
12 failed to timely file and disclose \$457,017.84 in contributions deposited since November 2012  
13 on 227 separate C-3 reports. Collectively, these reports were a total of 8,441 days late.

14 Failure to Timely Report Expenditures

15 4.11 Since October 2012, the Committee failed to timely disclose expenditures made  
16 from its Exempt Funds account as required by law on a C-4 report. Specifically, the Committee  
17 failed to timely file and disclose \$150,033.91 in expenditures it made since October 2012,  
18 including debts and obligations, on 32 separate C-4 reports. Collectively, these reports were a  
19 total of 1,203 days late.

20 4.12 Since October 2012, the Committee failed to timely disclose expenditures made  
21 from its Non-Exempt Funds account as required by law on a C-4 report. Specifically, the  
22 Committee failed to timely file and disclose \$313,045.39 in expenditures it made since June  
23 2013, including debts and obligations, on 33 separate C-4 reports. Collectively, these reports  
24 were a total of 1,192 days late  
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**V. CLAIMS**

The State re-alleges and incorporates by reference all the factual allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs, and based on those allegations, makes the following claims:

5.1 First Claim: The State reasserts the factual allegations made above and further asserts that Defendant, in violation of RCW 42.17A.235 and .240, failed to timely disclose contributions it received since November 2012.

5.2 Second Claim: Plaintiff reasserts the factual allegations made above and further asserts that Defendant, in violation of RCW 42.17A.235 and .240, failed to timely and completely disclose expenditures it made since October 2012.

5.3 Third Claim: Plaintiff reasserts the factual allegations made above and further asserts that the actions of Defendants stated in the above claims were negligent and/or intentional.

**VI. REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the State requests the following relief as provided by law:

6.1 For such remedies as the court may deem appropriate under RCW 42.17A.750, including but not limited to temporary and permanent injunctive relief, as authorized by RCW 42.17A.750(1)(h);

6.2 For such remedies as the court may deem appropriate under RCW 42.17A.750, including but not limited to imposition of a civil penalty, all to be determined at trial;

6.3 For all costs of investigation and trial, including reasonable attorneys' fees, as authorized by RCW 42.17A.765(5); and

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