State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
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MINUTES – Regular Meeting
9:30 a.m. | April 23, 2026
711 Capitol Way S. #206
Olympia, Washington

Commission Members Present (Participated via Microsoft Teams)
J. Leach, Chair; Douglass North, Vice Chair; James Oswald, Member.

Staff Present
Jana Greer, Administrative Officer.

Staff Present (Participated via Microsoft Teams)
Peter Frey Lavallee, Executive Director; Kim Bradford, Deputy Director; Sean Flynn, General Counsel; James Gutholm, Chief Information Officer; Nate Meyer, Customer Service and Outreach Manager; BG Sandahl, Compliance Officer; Jordan Campbell, Compliance Coordinator; Tabatha Blacksmith, Compliance Officer; Natalie Johnson, Communications Specialist; John Meader, Assistant Attorney General representing the Commission; and Chad Standifer, Assistant Attorney General representing the Staff.

The regular meeting of the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) was called to order by Chair Leach at 9:31 a.m.

The meeting was streamed live via TVW at PDC.04.23.26.

Note: The TVW stream experienced technical difficulties, so the meeting and audio recording pick-up at agenda item "Enforcement, Request for Reconsideration."

Chair Opening Comments
Chair Leach welcomed all attendees and viewers to the April 23, 2026, Regular Commission meeting.

Consideration and Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes
Meeting minutes were presented to the Commission for consideration and possible approval:
- March 26, 2026, Regular Meeting
- April 06, 2026, Special Meeting

MOTION 26-012 Moved by Commissioner North and seconded by Commissioner Oswald that the Commission approve the meeting minutes for the March 26, and April 6, 2026, regular meeting as submitted.

The motion passed 3 – 0.

Jolene Unsoeld Public Policy Internship
Executive Director Frey Lavallee introduced Evergreen State College junior Nathan Tippman, the first recipient of the Jolene Unsoeld Public Policy Internship. The Commission established the internship in late 2025 to honor Unsoeld's role in the creation and support of the PDC and long legacy of public service. Nathan is working with members of the Commission's executive management team to research possible impacts from federal court decisions on contribution limits.

Enforcement–Request for Reconsideration | PDC Meeting Video
PDC Case 183935 Trish Huddleston: At the January 29, 2026, Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (BAP Hearing), the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 29B.25.090 for failure to timely file one or more mandatory Expenditure and Summary Reports (C-4). The Respondent was assessed a penalty of $150, with $50 suspended, which they now ask the Commission to reconsider.

MOTION 26-013 Moved by Commissioner North and seconded by Commissioner Oswald that the Commission reconsider the matter.

The motion passed 2 – 1; Oswald and North Yes; Leach No

MOTION 26-014 Moved by Commissioner North that the Commission find a violation of RCW 29B.25.090 and assess no penalty.

The motion failed due to lack of a 2nd

MOTION 26-015 Moved by Commissioner Oswald and seconded by Commissioner North that the Commission find a violation of RCW 29B.25.090 and assess a penalty of $150 with $150 suspended on the condition that there be no further violations and the outstanding report in the matter is filed within 30 days from the date of the final Order.

The motion passed 2 – 1; Oswald and North Yes; Chair Leach No

Request for Reporting Modification | PDC Meeting Video
Jennifer Hansen, Compliance Officer, presented renewal requests for reporting modifications for two-year terms.

- WA State Democratic Party – Bonafide State Party Committee RCW 29B.20.040 & WAC 390-28-100
- WA State Republican Party – Bonafide State Party Committee RCW 29B.20.040 & WAC 390-28-100

MOTION 26-016 Moved by Commissioner North and seconded by Commissioner Oswald that the Commission grant the partial reporting modification requests presented for 2026 and 2027, on the basis that literal application of the law would cause a manifestly unreasonable hardship on the applicant and that the limited modification would not frustrate the purposes of the Act.

The motion passed 3 – 0.

Public Comment | PDC Meeting Video
As was noticed and announced, a Teams video and conference line was provided for public comment during this time.

The following person(s) provided public comment.

- Conner Edwards commented on enforcement reconsideration of PDC Case 183935; caseload trends agenda item; and Open Public Meetings Act.

- Joe Kunzler commented on agenda packet materials availability; and Public Disclosure Commission member vacancy.
- Arthur West commented on needing the PDC to focus more on actual enforcement than education.
- Anonymous caller commented on an issue with the meeting agenda, anonymous commenters and compliance with the OPMA.

Legal Update | PDC Meeting Video
General Counsel Sean Flynn provided an update to the Commission on NRSC v. FEC, pending in the US Supreme Court.

Budget Update |PDC Meeting Video
Executive Director Peter Frey Lavallee provided the budget update to the Commission.

Management Team Updates | PDC Meeting Video
- Executive Director Update.
- Deputy Director Update.
- Chief Information Officer Update.
- Customer Service and Filer Assistance Update.

Enforcement Update | PDC Meeting Video
Jennifer Hansen, Compliance Officer, presented the enforcement update for April 2026.
- Enforcement Report – Categorization and Status of Open Cases.

Enforcement Caseload Trends | PDC Meeting Video
Deputy Director Kim Bradford and Compliance Officer Jennifer Hansen gave an update on ongoing enforcement caseload trends in response to questions from commissioners at their March regular meeting. Deputy Director Bradford presented a chart showing trends over two years of PDC enforcement activity, including complaints received, cases opened and cases closed.

The chart showed a gradual decrease in open cases since spring 2024, resulting partly from Commission guidance on resolving routine cases from prior election years and from staff initiatives to expedite resolution. Complaint volume and total open cases generally increase before primary and general elections and decrease during the first few months of the year.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Delegation of Authority to the Executive Director | PDC Meeting Video

Commission Chair Leach proposed the Commission consider whether to delegate some authority to resolve minor litigation, such as contract disputes with vendors, to Executive Director Peter Frey Lavallee.

Leach noted that the Commission currently must convene an executive session to discuss any pending litigation, while other small state and local agencies delegate authority to resolve some issues to staff, such as an executive director. Commissioner James Oswald said the Commission should still have input on potential settlements.

No decisions were made at the April 23 meeting. Commissioners agreed to consider the matter and discuss it again at a future public meeting.

Executive Session | PDC Meeting Video
The Commission convened into Executive Session at 11:38 a.m. to discuss with legal counsel legal matters to which the agency is currently a party.

Public knowledge of these discussions is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the commission.

The Chair announced that the executive session will conclude at 12:30 p.m. If an extension of time was needed, the Chair would return to announce the length of the extension and the updated time the session included.

Chair Leach returned at 12:30 p.m. to announce Executive Session would continue until 1:00 p.m.

Chair Leach returned at 1:00 p.m. to announce the end of Executive Session. No final action was taken, and nothing was discussed except pending litigation to which the PDC is a party.

Chair Leach adjourned the regular meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Approved May 28, 2026.