State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
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Memo

To: PDC Commissioners
From: Sean Flynn, General Counsel
Date: November 26, 2025
Re: Rulemaking Report re Slate Cards

The agency adopted an emergency rule in response to an APA Petition by the Democratic Party to allow for political parties to include ballot propositions on slate cards that would still qualify for the statutory exemption from contribution limits. The emergency rule took effect on June 30, 2025, in time for implementation during the 2025 election cycle.

Emergency rules only last for 120 days. Therefore, the original emergency rules were extended on October 27, 2025 to reach the general election deadline and allow time to initiate permanent rulemaking. The emergency rules will expire on February 24, 2026.

Permanent rulemaking was initiated on October 8, 2025. The agency will file the proposed rules for publication and set the date for the public hearing at the January PDC meeting (tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2026). Final adoption can be made anytime after the public hearing is held.

Staff recommends that the Commission affirm (1) the adoption of the proposed rules (attached); and (2) the scheduled public hearing for January 22, 2026. The proposed permanent rules are the same as the emergency rules currently in effect.