

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6361**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Kuderer, Hunt, and Wilson, C.; by request of Public Disclosure Commission)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to the administration of election campaign  
2 activities and reporting statements of financial affairs; amending  
3 RCW 42.17A.005, 42.17A.105, 42.17A.700, 42.17A.710, and 42.17A.785;  
4 and adding a new section to chapter 42.17A RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17A.005 and 2019 c 428 s 3 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
9 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

10 (1) "Actual malice" means to act with knowledge of falsity or  
11 with reckless disregard as to truth or falsity.

12 (2) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies.  
13 "State agency" includes every state office, department, division,  
14 bureau, board, commission, or other state agency. "Local agency"  
15 includes every county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-  
16 municipal corporation, or special purpose district, or any office,  
17 department, division, bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof,  
18 or other local public agency.

19 (3) "Authorized committee" means the political committee  
20 authorized by a candidate, or by the public official against whom

1 recall charges have been filed, to accept contributions or make  
2 expenditures on behalf of the candidate or public official.

3 (4) "Ballot proposition" means any (~~"measure" as defined by RCW~~  
4 ~~29A.04.091, or any initiative, recall, or referendum~~) proposition  
5 proposed to be submitted to the voters (~~of the state or any~~  
6 ~~municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other voting~~  
7 ~~constituency from and after~~). For purposes of this chapter, a  
8 proposition is considered proposed at the time when (~~the proposition~~  
9 ~~has been~~) it is initially filed with the appropriate election  
10 (~~officer of that constituency before its circulation for~~  
11 ~~signatures~~) official, or is initially circulated for signatures,  
12 whichever occurs first. Reporting requirements apply to expenditures  
13 made from the point at which a proposition is considered proposed.

14 (5) "Benefit" means a commercial, proprietary, financial,  
15 economic, or monetary advantage, or the avoidance of a commercial,  
16 proprietary, financial, economic, or monetary disadvantage.

17 (6) "Bona fide political party" means:

18 (a) An organization that has been recognized as a minor political  
19 party by the secretary of state;

20 (b) The governing body of the state organization of a major  
21 political party, as defined in RCW 29A.04.086, that is the body  
22 authorized by the charter or bylaws of the party to exercise  
23 authority on behalf of the state party; or

24 (c) The county central committee or legislative district  
25 committee of a major political party. There may be only one  
26 legislative district committee for each party in each legislative  
27 district.

28 (7) "Books of account" means:

29 (a) In the case of a campaign or political committee, a ledger or  
30 similar listing of contributions, expenditures, and debts, such as a  
31 campaign or committee is required to file regularly with the  
32 commission, current as of the most recent business day; or

33 (b) In the case of a commercial advertiser, details of political  
34 advertising or electioneering communications provided by the  
35 advertiser, including the names and addresses of persons from whom it  
36 accepted political advertising or electioneering communications, the  
37 exact nature and extent of the services rendered and the total cost  
38 and the manner of payment for the services.

1 (8) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination for  
2 election or election to public office. An individual seeks nomination  
3 or election when the individual first:

4 (a) Receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves  
5 space or facilities with intent to promote the individual's candidacy  
6 for office;

7 (b) Announces publicly or files for office;

8 (c) Purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to  
9 promote the individual's candidacy; or

10 (d) Gives consent to another person to take on behalf of the  
11 individual any of the actions in (a) or (c) of this subsection.

12 (9) "Caucus political committee" means a political committee  
13 organized and maintained by the members of a major political party in  
14 the state senate or state house of representatives.

15 (10) "Commercial advertiser" means any person that sells the  
16 service of communicating messages or producing material for broadcast  
17 or distribution to the general public or segments of the general  
18 public whether through brochures, fliers, newspapers, magazines,  
19 television, radio, billboards, direct mail advertising, printing,  
20 paid internet or digital communications, or any other means of mass  
21 communications used for the purpose of appealing, directly or  
22 indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support in any  
23 election campaign.

24 (11) "Commission" means the agency established under RCW  
25 42.17A.100.

26 (12) "Committee" unless the context indicates otherwise, includes  
27 a political committee such as a candidate, ballot proposition,  
28 recall, political, or continuing political committee.

29 (13) "Compensation" unless the context requires a narrower  
30 meaning, includes payment in any form for real or personal property  
31 or services of any kind. For the purpose of compliance with RCW  
32 42.17A.710, "compensation" does not include per diem allowances or  
33 other payments made by a governmental entity to reimburse a public  
34 official for expenses incurred while the official is engaged in the  
35 official business of the governmental entity.

36 (14) "Continuing political committee" means a political committee  
37 that is an organization of continuing existence not limited to  
38 participation in any particular election campaign or election cycle.

39 (15)(a) "Contribution" includes:

1 (i) A loan, gift, deposit, subscription, forgiveness of  
2 indebtedness, donation, advance, pledge, payment, transfer of funds,  
3 or anything of value, including personal and professional services  
4 for less than full consideration;

5 (ii) An expenditure made by a person in cooperation,  
6 consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a  
7 candidate, a political or incidental committee, the person or persons  
8 named on the candidate's or committee's registration form who direct  
9 expenditures on behalf of the candidate or committee, or their  
10 agents;

11 (iii) The financing by a person of the dissemination,  
12 distribution, or republication, in whole or in part, of broadcast,  
13 written, graphic, digital, or other form of political advertising or  
14 electioneering communication prepared by a candidate, a political or  
15 incidental committee, or its authorized agent;

16 (iv) Sums paid for tickets to fund-raising events such as dinners  
17 and parties, except for the actual cost of the consumables furnished  
18 at the event.

19 (b) "Contribution" does not include:

20 (i) Accrued interest on money deposited in a political or  
21 incidental committee's account;

22 (ii) Ordinary home hospitality;

23 (iii) A contribution received by a candidate or political or  
24 incidental committee that is returned to the contributor within ten  
25 business days of the date on which it is received by the candidate or  
26 political or incidental committee;

27 (iv) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a  
28 regularly scheduled news medium that is of interest to the public,  
29 that is in a news medium controlled by a person whose business is  
30 that news medium, and that is not controlled by a candidate or a  
31 political or incidental committee;

32 (v) An internal political communication primarily limited to the  
33 members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
34 political or incidental committee, or to the officers, management  
35 staff, or stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to  
36 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

37 (vi) The rendering of personal services of the sort commonly  
38 performed by volunteer campaign workers, or incidental expenses  
39 personally incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of  
40 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker. "Volunteer

1 services," for the purposes of this subsection, means services or  
2 labor for which the individual is not compensated by any person;

3 (vii) Messages in the form of reader boards, banners, or yard or  
4 window signs displayed on a person's own property or property  
5 occupied by a person. However, a facility used for such political  
6 advertising for which a rental charge is normally made must be  
7 reported as an in-kind contribution and counts toward any applicable  
8 contribution limit of the person providing the facility;

9 (viii) Legal or accounting services rendered to or on behalf of:

10 (A) A political party or caucus political committee if the person  
11 paying for the services is the regular employer of the person  
12 rendering such services; or

13 (B) A candidate or an authorized committee if the person paying  
14 for the services is the regular employer of the individual rendering  
15 the services and if the services are solely for the purpose of  
16 ensuring compliance with state election or public disclosure laws; or

17 (ix) The performance of ministerial functions by a person on  
18 behalf of two or more candidates or political or incidental  
19 committees either as volunteer services defined in (b)(vi) of this  
20 subsection or for payment by the candidate or political or incidental  
21 committee for whom the services are performed as long as:

22 (A) The person performs solely ministerial functions;

23 (B) A person who is paid by two or more candidates or political  
24 or incidental committees is identified by the candidates and  
25 political committees on whose behalf services are performed as part  
26 of their respective statements of organization under RCW 42.17A.205;  
27 and

28 (C) The person does not disclose, except as required by law, any  
29 information regarding a candidate's or committee's plans, projects,  
30 activities, or needs, or regarding a candidate's or committee's  
31 contributions or expenditures that is not already publicly available  
32 from campaign reports filed with the commission, or otherwise engage  
33 in activity that constitutes a contribution under (a)(ii) of this  
34 subsection.

35 A person who performs ministerial functions under this subsection  
36 (15)(b)(ix) is not considered an agent of the candidate or committee  
37 as long as the person has no authority to authorize expenditures or  
38 make decisions on behalf of the candidate or committee.

39 (c) Contributions other than money or its equivalent are deemed  
40 to have a monetary value equivalent to the fair market value of the

1 contribution. Services or property or rights furnished at less than  
2 their fair market value for the purpose of assisting any candidate or  
3 political committee are deemed a contribution. Such a contribution  
4 must be reported as an in-kind contribution at its fair market value  
5 and counts towards any applicable contribution limit of the provider.

6 (16) "Depository" means a bank, mutual savings bank, savings and  
7 loan association, or credit union doing business in this state.

8 (17) "Elected official" means any person elected at a general or  
9 special election to any public office, and any person appointed to  
10 fill a vacancy in any such office.

11 (18) "Election" includes any primary, general, or special  
12 election for public office and any election in which a ballot  
13 proposition is submitted to the voters. An election in which the  
14 qualifications for voting include other than those requirements set  
15 forth in Article VI, section 1 (Amendment 63) of the Constitution of  
16 the state of Washington shall not be considered an election for  
17 purposes of this chapter.

18 (19) "Election campaign" means any campaign in support of or in  
19 opposition to a candidate for election to public office and any  
20 campaign in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot proposition.

21 (20) "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the first day  
22 of January after the date of the last previous general election for  
23 the office that the candidate seeks and ending on December 31st after  
24 the next election for the office. In the case of a special election  
25 to fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the period  
26 beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on December 31st  
27 after the special election.

28 (21)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast,  
29 cable, or satellite television, radio transmission, digital  
30 communication, United States postal service mailing, billboard,  
31 newspaper, or periodical that:

32 (i) Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or  
33 judicial office either by specifically naming the candidate, or  
34 identifying the candidate without using the candidate's name;

35 (ii) Is broadcast, transmitted electronically or by other means,  
36 mailed, erected, distributed, or otherwise published within sixty  
37 days before any election for that office in the jurisdiction in which  
38 the candidate is seeking election; and

39 (iii) Either alone, or in combination with one or more  
40 communications identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during

1 the sixty days before an election, has a fair market value or cost of  
2 one thousand dollars or more.

3 (b) "Electioneering communication" does not include:

4 (i) Usual and customary advertising of a business owned by a  
5 candidate, even if the candidate is mentioned in the advertising when  
6 the candidate has been regularly mentioned in that advertising  
7 appearing at least twelve months preceding the candidate becoming a  
8 candidate;

9 (ii) Advertising for candidate debates or forums when the  
10 advertising is paid for by or on behalf of the debate or forum  
11 sponsor, so long as two or more candidates for the same position have  
12 been invited to participate in the debate or forum;

13 (iii) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a  
14 regularly scheduled news medium that is:

15 (A) Of interest to the public;

16 (B) In a news medium controlled by a person whose business is  
17 that news medium; and

18 (C) Not a medium controlled by a candidate or a political or  
19 incidental committee;

20 (iv) Slate cards and sample ballots;

21 (v) Advertising for books, films, dissertations, or similar works  
22 (A) written by a candidate when the candidate entered into a contract  
23 for such publications or media at least twelve months before becoming  
24 a candidate, or (B) written about a candidate;

25 (vi) Public service announcements;

26 (vii) An internal political communication primarily limited to  
27 the members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
28 political or incidental committee, or to the officers, management  
29 staff, or stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to  
30 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

31 (viii) An expenditure by or contribution to the authorized  
32 committee of a candidate for state, local, or judicial office; or

33 (ix) Any other communication exempted by the commission through  
34 rule consistent with the intent of this chapter.

35 (22) "Expenditure" includes a payment, contribution,  
36 subscription, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money  
37 or anything of value, and includes a contract, promise, or agreement,  
38 whether or not legally enforceable, to make an expenditure.  
39 "Expenditure" also includes a promise to pay, a payment, or a  
40 transfer of anything of value in exchange for goods, services,

1 property, facilities, or anything of value for the purpose of  
2 assisting, benefiting, or honoring any public official or candidate,  
3 or assisting in furthering or opposing any election campaign. For the  
4 purposes of this chapter, agreements to make expenditures, contracts,  
5 and promises to pay may be reported as estimated obligations until  
6 actual payment is made. "Expenditure" shall not include the partial  
7 or complete repayment by a candidate or political or incidental  
8 committee of the principal of a loan, the receipt of which loan has  
9 been properly reported.

10 (23) "Final report" means the report described as a final report  
11 in RCW 42.17A.235 (11) (a).

12 (24) "General election" for the purposes of RCW 42.17A.405 means  
13 the election that results in the election of a person to a state or  
14 local office. It does not include a primary.

15 (25) "Gift" has the definition in RCW 42.52.010.

16 (26) "Immediate family" includes the spouse or domestic partner,  
17 dependent children, and other dependent relatives, if living in the  
18 household. For the purposes of the definition of "intermediary" in  
19 this section, "immediate family" means an individual's spouse or  
20 domestic partner, and child, stepchild, grandchild, parent,  
21 stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half  
22 sister of the individual and the spouse or the domestic partner of  
23 any such person and a child, stepchild, grandchild, parent,  
24 stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half  
25 sister of the individual's spouse or domestic partner and the spouse  
26 or the domestic partner of any such person.

27 (27) "Incidental committee" means any nonprofit organization not  
28 otherwise defined as a political committee but that may incidentally  
29 make a contribution or an expenditure in excess of the reporting  
30 thresholds in RCW 42.17A.235, directly or through a political  
31 committee. Any nonprofit organization is not an incidental committee  
32 if it is only remitting payments through the nonprofit organization  
33 in an aggregated form and the nonprofit organization is not required  
34 to report those payments in accordance with this chapter.

35 (28) "Incumbent" means a person who is in present possession of  
36 an elected office.

37 (29) (a) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure that has  
38 each of the following elements:

39 (i) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for  
40 office by a person who is not:



- 1 (A) A candidate for that office;  
2 (B) An authorized committee of that candidate for that office;  
3 and  
4 (C) A person who has received the candidate's encouragement or  
5 approval to make the expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or  
6 in part for political advertising supporting that candidate or  
7 promoting the defeat of any other candidate or candidates for that  
8 office;

9 (ii) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for  
10 office by a person with whom the candidate has not collaborated for  
11 the purpose of making the expenditure, if the expenditure pays in  
12 whole or in part for political advertising supporting that candidate  
13 or promoting the defeat of any other candidate or candidates for that  
14 office;

15 (iii) The expenditure pays in whole or in part for political  
16 advertising that either specifically names the candidate supported or  
17 opposed, or clearly and beyond any doubt identifies the candidate  
18 without using the candidate's name; and

19 (iv) The expenditure, alone or in conjunction with another  
20 expenditure or other expenditures of the same person in support of or  
21 opposition to that candidate, has a value of one thousand dollars or  
22 more. A series of expenditures, each of which is under one thousand  
23 dollars, constitutes one independent expenditure if their cumulative  
24 value is one thousand dollars or more.

25 (b) "Independent expenditure" does not include: Ordinary home  
26 hospitality; communications with journalists or editorial staff  
27 designed to elicit a news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in  
28 a regularly scheduled news medium that is of primary interest to the  
29 general public, controlled by a person whose business is that news  
30 medium, and not controlled by a candidate or a political committee;  
31 participation in the creation of a publicly funded voters pamphlet  
32 statement in written or video form; an internal political  
33 communication primarily limited to contributors to a political party  
34 organization or political action committee, the officers, management  
35 staff, and stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or  
36 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;  
37 or the rendering of personal services of the sort commonly performed  
38 by volunteer campaign workers or incidental expenses personally  
39 incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of two hundred  
40 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker.

1 (30) (a) "Intermediary" means an individual who transmits a  
2 contribution to a candidate or committee from another person unless  
3 the contribution is from the individual's employer, immediate family,  
4 or an association to which the individual belongs.

5 (b) A treasurer or a candidate is not an intermediary for  
6 purposes of the committee that the treasurer or candidate serves.

7 (c) A professional fund-raiser is not an intermediary if the  
8 fund-raiser is compensated for fund-raising services at the usual and  
9 customary rate.

10 (d) A volunteer hosting a fund-raising event at the individual's  
11 home is not an intermediary for purposes of that event.

12 (31) "Legislation" means bills, resolutions, motions, amendments,  
13 nominations, and other matters pending or proposed in either house of  
14 the state legislature, and includes any other matter that may be the  
15 subject of action by either house or any committee of the legislature  
16 and all bills and resolutions that, having passed both houses, are  
17 pending approval by the governor.

18 (32) "Legislative office" means the office of a member of the  
19 state house of representatives or the office of a member of the state  
20 senate.

21 (33) "Lobby" and "lobbying" each mean attempting to influence the  
22 passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature of the state  
23 of Washington, or the adoption or rejection of any rule, standard,  
24 rate, or other legislative enactment of any state agency under the  
25 state administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Neither  
26 "lobby" nor "lobbying" includes an association's or other  
27 organization's act of communicating with the members of that  
28 association or organization.

29 (34) "Lobbyist" includes any person who lobbies either on the  
30 person's own or another's behalf.

31 (35) "Lobbyist's employer" means the person or persons by whom a  
32 lobbyist is employed and all persons by whom the lobbyist is  
33 compensated for acting as a lobbyist.

34 (36) "Ministerial functions" means an act or duty carried out as  
35 part of the duties of an administrative office without exercise of  
36 personal judgment or discretion.

37 (37) "Participate" means that, with respect to a particular  
38 election, an entity:

39 (a) Makes either a monetary or in-kind contribution to a  
40 candidate;

1 (b) Makes an independent expenditure or electioneering  
2 communication in support of or opposition to a candidate;

3 (c) Endorses a candidate before contributions are made by a  
4 subsidiary corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate  
5 or that candidate's opponent;

6 (d) Makes a recommendation regarding whether a candidate should  
7 be supported or opposed before a contribution is made by a subsidiary  
8 corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or that  
9 candidate's opponent; or

10 (e) Directly or indirectly collaborates or consults with a  
11 subsidiary corporation or local unit on matters relating to the  
12 support of or opposition to a candidate, including, but not limited  
13 to, the amount of a contribution, when a contribution should be  
14 given, and what assistance, services or independent expenditures, or  
15 electioneering communications, if any, will be made or should be made  
16 in support of or opposition to a candidate.

17 (38) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, joint venture,  
18 public or private corporation, association, federal, state, or local  
19 governmental entity or agency however constituted, candidate,  
20 committee, political committee, political party, executive committee  
21 thereof, or any other organization or group of persons, however  
22 organized.

23 (39) "Political advertising" includes any advertising displays,  
24 newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids,  
25 flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, digital  
26 communication, or other means of mass communication, used for the  
27 purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for  
28 financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign.

29 (40) "Political committee" means any person (except a candidate  
30 or an individual dealing with the candidate's or individual's own  
31 funds or property) having the expectation of receiving contributions  
32 or making expenditures in support of, or opposition to, any candidate  
33 or any ballot proposition.

34 (41) "Primary" for the purposes of RCW 42.17A.405 means the  
35 procedure for nominating a candidate to state or local office under  
36 chapter 29A.52 RCW or any other primary for an election that uses, in  
37 large measure, the procedures established in chapter 29A.52 RCW.

38 (42) "Public office" means any federal, state, judicial, county,  
39 city, town, school district, port district, special district, or  
40 other state political subdivision elective office.

1 (43) "Public record" has the definition in RCW 42.56.010.

2 (44) "Recall campaign" means the period of time beginning on the  
3 date of the filing of recall charges under RCW 29A.56.120 and ending  
4 thirty days after the recall election.

5 (45) "Remediable violation" means any violation of this chapter  
6 that:

7 (a) Involved expenditures or contributions totaling no more than  
8 the contribution limits set out under RCW 42.17A.405(2) per election,  
9 or one thousand dollars if there is no statutory limit;

10 (b) Occurred:

11 (i) More than thirty days before an election, where the  
12 commission entered into an agreement to resolve the matter; or

13 (ii) At any time where the violation did not constitute a  
14 material violation because it was inadvertent and minor or otherwise  
15 has been cured and, after consideration of all the circumstances,  
16 further proceedings would not serve the purposes of this chapter;

17 (c) Does not materially harm the public interest, beyond the harm  
18 to the policy of this chapter inherent in any violation; and

19 (d) Involved:

20 (i) A person who:

21 (A) Took corrective action within five business days after the  
22 commission first notified the person of noncompliance, or where the  
23 commission did not provide notice and filed a required report within  
24 twenty-one days after the report was due to be filed; and

25 (B) Substantially met the filing deadline for all other required  
26 reports within the immediately preceding twelve-month period; or

27 (ii) A candidate who:

28 (A) Lost the election in question; and

29 (B) Did not receive contributions over one hundred times the  
30 contribution limit in aggregate per election during the campaign in  
31 question.

32 (46) (a) "Sponsor" for purposes of an electioneering  
33 communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising  
34 means the person paying for the electioneering communication,  
35 independent expenditure, or political advertising. If a person acts  
36 as an agent for another or is reimbursed by another for the payment,  
37 the original source of the payment is the sponsor.

38 (b) "Sponsor," for purposes of a political or incidental  
39 committee, means any person, except an authorized committee, to whom  
40 any of the following applies:

1 (i) The committee receives eighty percent or more of its  
2 contributions either from the person or from the person's members,  
3 officers, employees, or shareholders;

4 (ii) The person collects contributions for the committee by use  
5 of payroll deductions or dues from its members, officers, or  
6 employees.

7 (47) "Sponsored committee" means a committee, other than an  
8 authorized committee, that has one or more sponsors.

9 (48) "State office" means state legislative office or the office  
10 of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney  
11 general, commissioner of public lands, insurance commissioner,  
12 superintendent of public instruction, state auditor, or state  
13 treasurer.

14 (49) "State official" means a person who holds a state office.

15 (50) "Surplus funds" mean, in the case of a political committee  
16 or candidate, the balance of contributions that remain in the  
17 possession or control of that committee or candidate subsequent to  
18 the election for which the contributions were received, and that are  
19 in excess of the amount necessary to pay remaining debts or expenses  
20 incurred by the committee or candidate with respect to that election.  
21 In the case of a continuing political committee, "surplus funds" mean  
22 those contributions remaining in the possession or control of the  
23 committee that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay all  
24 remaining debts or expenses when it makes its final report under RCW  
25 42.17A.255.

26 (51) "Technical correction" means the correction of a minor or  
27 ministerial error in a required report that does not materially harm  
28 the public interest and needs to be corrected for the report to be in  
29 full compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

30 (52) "Treasurer" and "deputy treasurer" mean the individuals  
31 appointed by a candidate or political or incidental committee,  
32 pursuant to RCW 42.17A.210, to perform the duties specified in that  
33 section.

34 (53) "Violation" means a violation of this chapter that is not a  
35 remediable violation, minor violation, or an error classified by the  
36 commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.

37 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17A.105 and 2010 c 204 s 302 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

39 The commission shall:

- 1 (1) Develop and provide forms for the reports and statements  
2 required to be made under this chapter;
- 3 (2) (~~Prepare and publish a manual setting forth~~) Provide  
4 recommended uniform methods of (~~bookkeeping~~) recordkeeping and  
5 reporting for use by persons required to make reports and statements  
6 under this chapter;
- 7 (3) Compile and maintain a current list of all filed reports and  
8 statements;
- 9 (4) Investigate whether properly completed statements and reports  
10 have been filed within the times required by this chapter;
- 11 (5) Upon complaint or upon its own motion, investigate and report  
12 apparent violations of this chapter to the appropriate law  
13 enforcement authorities;
- 14 (6) Conduct a sufficient number of audits and field  
15 investigations, as staff capacity permits without impacting the  
16 timeliness of addressing alleged violations, to provide a  
17 statistically valid finding regarding the degree of compliance with  
18 the provisions of this chapter by all required filers. Any documents,  
19 records, reports, computer files, papers, or materials provided to  
20 the commission for use in conducting audits and investigations must  
21 be returned to the candidate, campaign, or political committee from  
22 which they were received within one week of the commission's  
23 completion of an audit or field investigation;
- 24 (7) Prepare and publish an annual report to the governor as to  
25 the effectiveness of this chapter and (~~its enforcement by~~  
26 ~~appropriate law enforcement authorities~~) the work of the commission;
- 27 (8) Enforce this chapter according to the powers granted it by  
28 law;
- 29 (9) (~~Adopt rules governing the arrangement, handling, indexing,~~  
30 ~~and disclosing of those reports required by this chapter to be filed~~  
31 ~~with a county auditor or county elections official. The rules shall:~~  
32 ~~(a) Ensure ease of access by the public to the reports; and~~  
33 ~~(b) Include, but not be limited to, requirements for indexing the~~  
34 ~~reports by the names of candidates or political committees and by the~~  
35 ~~ballot proposition for or against which a political committee is~~  
36 ~~receiving contributions or making expenditures;~~  
37 ~~(10))~~) Adopt rules to carry out the policies of chapter 348, Laws  
38 of 2006. The adoption of these rules is not subject to the time  
39 restrictions of RCW 42.17A.110(1); and

1        ~~((11))~~     (10)     Adopt administrative rules establishing  
2 requirements for filer participation in any system designed and  
3 implemented by the commission for the electronic filing of reports(~~(7~~  
4 ~~and~~  
5        ~~(12) Maintain and make available to the public and political~~  
6 ~~committees of this state a toll-free telephone number)~~).

7        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 3.**     A new section is added to chapter 42.17A  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9        (1) In addition to the disclosure requirements under RCW  
10 42.17A.320 and 42.17A.350, any political advertising relating to an  
11 election for public office that includes an endorsement must also  
12 include a disclaimer if the endorsement in fact was made in support  
13 of an individual for a different election or a different office from  
14 the election or office that is the subject of the advertisement.

15        (2) The disclaimer required in this section must clearly  
16 attribute the endorsement to the person or entity who made it, and  
17 the person, election, and office for which the endorsement was made.  
18 If the advertisement is first presented to the public after the  
19 period to declare as a candidate under RCW 29A.24.031, and the  
20 endorsement is about an individual who has not filed a declaration of  
21 candidacy, or a write-in declaration of candidacy under RCW  
22 29A.24.311, for the same election and office that is the subject of  
23 the advertisement, the disclaimer must include the following  
24 statement: "This person has not declared as a candidate as  
25 of . . . . (include the date of the initial publication), and no  
26 votes for this person will be counted unless this person files a  
27 declaration as a write-in candidate."

28        (3) The disclaimer required in this section must:

29        (a) For any written communication, appear immediately next to the  
30 endorsement, in at least ten-point type, or in type at least ten  
31 percent of the largest size type used for the endorsement where  
32 directed at more than one voter, such as a billboard or poster,  
33 whichever is larger. The disclaimer may not use any half-tone or  
34 screening process;

35        (b) For television or other transmission that includes a visual  
36 image:

37        (i) Be clearly spoken immediately before or after the endorsement  
38 is displayed or spoken; or

1 (ii) Appear in print and be visible for at least four seconds,  
2 immediately before, during, or after the endorsement is displayed or  
3 spoken, in letters greater than four percent of the visual screen  
4 height, with a reasonable color contrast with the background; and

5 (c) For radio or other communication that does not include a  
6 visual image, be clearly spoken immediately before or after the  
7 endorsement is spoken.

8 **Sec. 4.** RCW 42.17A.700 and 2019 c 428 s 35 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) After January 1st and before April 15th of each year, every  
11 elected official and every executive state officer (~~who served for~~  
12 ~~any portion of the preceding year~~) shall electronically file with  
13 the commission a statement of financial affairs for the preceding  
14 calendar year (~~or for that portion of the year served~~). Any  
15 official or officer in office for any period of time in a calendar  
16 year, but not in office as of January 1st of the following year,  
17 (~~may~~) must electronically file either within sixty days of leaving  
18 office or during the January 1st through April 15th reporting period  
19 of that following year. Such filing must include information for the  
20 portion of the current calendar year for which the official or  
21 officer was in office.

22 (2) Within two weeks of becoming a candidate, every candidate  
23 shall file with the commission a statement of financial affairs for  
24 the preceding twelve months. However, a candidate who already has an  
25 existing obligation to file a statement for the preceding year must  
26 report for that period.

27 (3) Within two weeks of appointment, every person appointed to a  
28 vacancy in an elective office or executive state officer position  
29 during the months of January through November shall file with the  
30 commission a statement of financial affairs for the preceding twelve  
31 months (~~(, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section)~~). For  
32 appointments made in December, the appointee must file the statement  
33 of financial affairs between January 1st and January 15th of the  
34 immediate following year for the preceding twelve-month period ending  
35 on December 31st.

36 (4) (~~A statement of a candidate or appointee filed during the~~  
37 ~~period from January 1st to April 15th shall cover the period from~~  
38 ~~January 1st of the preceding calendar year to the time of candidacy~~  
39 ~~or appointment if the filing of the statement would relieve the~~



1 ~~individual of a prior obligation to file a statement covering the~~  
2 ~~entire preceding calendar year.~~

3 ~~(5))~~ No individual may be required to file more than once in any  
4 calendar year.

5 ~~((6))~~ (5) Each statement of financial affairs filed under this  
6 section shall be sworn as to its truth and accuracy.

7 ~~((7))~~ (6) Every elected official and every executive state  
8 officer shall file with their statement of financial affairs a  
9 statement certifying that they have read and are familiar with RCW  
10 42.17A.555 or 42.52.180, whichever is applicable.

11 ~~((8))~~ (7) For the purposes of this section, the term "executive  
12 state officer" includes those listed in RCW 42.17A.705.

13 ~~((9))~~ (8) This section does not apply to incumbents or  
14 candidates for a federal office or the office of precinct committee  
15 officer.

16 **Sec. 5.** RCW 42.17A.710 and 2019 c 428 s 36 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 ~~((1) The statement of financial affairs required by RCW~~  
19 ~~42.17A.700 shall disclose the following information for the reporting~~  
20 ~~individual and each member of the reporting individual's immediate~~  
21 ~~family:~~

22 ~~(a) Occupation, name of employer, and business address;~~

23 ~~(b) Each bank account, savings account, and insurance policy in~~  
24 ~~which a direct financial interest was held that exceeds twenty~~  
25 ~~thousand dollars at any time during the reporting period; each other~~  
26 ~~item of intangible personal property in which a direct financial~~  
27 ~~interest was held that exceeds two thousand dollars during the~~  
28 ~~reporting period; the name, address, and nature of the entity; and~~  
29 ~~the nature and highest value of each direct financial interest during~~  
30 ~~the reporting period;~~

31 ~~(c) The name and address of each creditor to whom the value of~~  
32 ~~two thousand dollars or more was owed; the original amount of each~~  
33 ~~debt to each creditor; the amount of each debt owed to each creditor~~  
34 ~~as of the date of filing; the terms of repayment of each debt; and~~  
35 ~~the security given, if any, for each such debt. Debts arising from a~~  
36 ~~"retail installment transaction" as defined in chapter 63.14 RCW~~  
37 ~~(retail installment sales act) need not be reported;~~

38 ~~(d) Every public or private office, directorship, and position~~  
39 ~~held as trustee; except that an elected official or executive state~~

~~1 officer need not report the elected official's or executive state  
2 officer's service on a governmental board, commission, association,  
3 or functional equivalent, when such service is part of the elected  
4 official's or executive state officer's official duties;~~

~~5 (e) All persons for whom any legislation, rule, rate, or standard  
6 has been prepared, promoted, or opposed for current or deferred  
7 compensation. For the purposes of this subsection, "compensation"  
8 does not include payments made to the person reporting by the  
9 governmental entity for which the person serves as an elected  
10 official or state executive officer or professional staff member for  
11 the person's service in office; the description of such actual or  
12 proposed legislation, rules, rates, or standards; and the amount of  
13 current or deferred compensation paid or promised to be paid;~~

~~14 (f) The name and address of each governmental entity,  
15 corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship,  
16 association, union, or other business or commercial entity from whom  
17 compensation has been received in any form of a total value of two  
18 thousand dollars or more; the value of the compensation; and the  
19 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;~~

~~20 (g) The name of any corporation, partnership, joint venture,  
21 association, union, or other entity in which is held any office,  
22 directorship, or any general partnership interest, or an ownership  
23 interest of ten percent or more; the name or title of that office,  
24 directorship, or partnership; the nature of ownership interest; and:~~

~~25 (i) With respect to a governmental unit in which the official seeks  
26 or holds any office or position, if the entity has received  
27 compensation in any form during the preceding twelve months from the  
28 governmental unit, the value of the compensation and the  
29 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;~~

~~30 and (ii) the name of each governmental unit, corporation,  
31 partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union,  
32 or other business or commercial entity from which the entity has  
33 received compensation in any form in the amount of ten thousand  
34 dollars or more during the preceding twelve months and the  
35 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation. As~~

~~36 used in (g) (ii) of this subsection, "compensation" does not include  
37 payment for water and other utility services at rates approved by the  
38 Washington state utilities and transportation commission or the  
39 legislative authority of the public entity providing the service.  
40 With respect to any bank or commercial lending institution in which~~

1 is held any office, directorship, partnership interest, or ownership  
2 interest, it shall only be necessary to report either the name,  
3 address, and occupation of every director and officer of the bank or  
4 commercial lending institution and the average monthly balance of  
5 each account held during the preceding twelve months by the bank or  
6 commercial lending institution from the governmental entity for which  
7 the individual is an official or candidate or professional staff  
8 member, or all interest paid by a borrower on loans from and all  
9 interest paid to a depositor by the bank or commercial lending  
10 institution if the interest exceeds two thousand four hundred  
11 dollars;

12 (h) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
13 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
14 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
15 dollars in which any direct financial interest was acquired during  
16 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
17 of the financial interest and of the consideration given in exchange  
18 for that interest;

19 (i) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
20 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
21 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
22 dollars in which any direct financial interest was divested during  
23 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
24 of the consideration received in exchange for that interest, and the  
25 name and address of the person furnishing the consideration;

26 (j) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
27 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
28 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
29 dollars in which a direct financial interest was held. If a  
30 description of the property has been included in a report previously  
31 filed, the property may be listed, for purposes of this subsection  
32 (1)(j), by reference to the previously filed report;

33 (k) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
34 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
35 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds twenty thousand  
36 dollars, in which a corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, or  
37 other entity had a direct financial interest, in which corporation,  
38 partnership, firm, or enterprise a ten percent or greater ownership  
39 interest was held;

1 ~~(1) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,~~  
2 ~~at which food and beverage in excess of fifty dollars was accepted~~  
3 ~~under RCW 42.52.150(5);~~

4 ~~(m) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,~~  
5 ~~at which items specified in RCW 42.52.010(9) (d) and (f) were~~  
6 ~~accepted; and~~

7 ~~(n) Such other information as the commission may deem necessary~~  
8 ~~in order to properly carry out the purposes and policies of this~~  
9 ~~chapter, as the commission shall prescribe by rule.~~

10 ~~(2) (a) When judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, or their immediate~~  
11 ~~family members are required to disclose real property that is the~~  
12 ~~personal residence of the judge, prosecutor, or sheriff, the~~  
13 ~~requirements of subsection (1) (h) through (k) of this section may be~~  
14 ~~satisfied for that property by substituting:~~

15 ~~(i) The city or town;~~

16 ~~(ii) The type of residence, such as a single-family or~~  
17 ~~multifamily residence, and the nature of ownership; and~~

18 ~~(iii) Such other identifying information the commission~~  
19 ~~prescribes by rule for the mailing address where the property is~~  
20 ~~located.~~

21 ~~(b) Nothing in this subsection relieves the judge, prosecutor, or~~  
22 ~~sheriff of any other applicable obligations to disclose potential~~  
23 ~~conflicts or to recuse oneself.~~

24 ~~(3) (a) Where an amount is required to be reported under~~  
25 ~~subsection (1) (a) through (m) of this section, it may be reported~~  
26 ~~within a range as provided in (b) of this subsection.~~

27 ~~(b)~~

Code A	Less than thirty thousand dollars;
Code B	At least thirty thousand dollars, but less than sixty thousand dollars;
Code C	At least sixty thousand dollars, but less than one hundred thousand dollars;
Code D	At least one hundred thousand dollars, but less than two hundred thousand dollars;
Code E	At least two hundred thousand dollars, but less than five hundred thousand dollars;

Code F	At least five hundred thousand dollars, but less than seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars;
Code G	At least seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, but less than one million dollars; or
Code H	One million dollars or more.

~~(c) An amount of stock may be reported by number of shares instead of by market value. No provision of this subsection may be interpreted to prevent any person from filing more information or more detailed information than required.~~

~~(4) Items of value given to an official's or employee's spouse, domestic partner, or family member are attributable to the official or employee, except the item is not attributable if an independent business, family, or social relationship exists between the donor and the spouse, domestic partner, or family member.)~~ The statement of financial affairs that an elected official and executive state officer must file under RCW 42.17A.700 is for the purpose of providing necessary information to the public for transparency and accountability about an official's personal financial interests to help ensure that the official is making decisions in the best interest of the public, not enhancing a personal financial interest, and to help identify potential conflicts of interest. The financial affairs statement, known as an "F-1," requires the disclosure of personal financial information of the filer and the immediate family members of the filer, which means spouse, or registered domestic partner, and dependents. The commission shall establish rules for the information that must be reported in the statement of financial affairs, and shall provide an electronic filing application. The statement of financial affairs filed by a professional staff member of the legislature is subject to public disclosure upon request, but the commission may not post a statement of financial affairs filed by a person in their capacity as a professional staff member of the legislature on any web site.

(1) The statement of financial affairs must disclose financial information for the applicable reporting period within certain categories, as provided in this subsection. The commission shall detail in rules the type of information required for each category,

1 and any additional information as necessary to carry out the purpose  
2 and policies of this chapter.

3 (a) **Assets held.** The statement must include information regarding  
4 the assets in which the filer or immediate family members held a  
5 direct financial interest, including:

6 (i) Each bank account and insurance policy with a value of  
7 twenty-five thousand dollars or more; and

8 (ii) Other intangible personal property with a value of ten  
9 thousand dollars or more, such as business ownership, securities, and  
10 retirement accounts.

11 (b) **Sources of income.** The statement must include information  
12 regarding the sources of income received by the filer or immediate  
13 family members with a value of two thousand five hundred dollars or  
14 more. Such information includes:

15 (i) Payments received, including compensation for employment or  
16 other consideration;

17 (ii) Government benefits received;

18 (iii) Pensions or other retirement income received; and

19 (iv) Income earned or provided from assets held by the filer or  
20 immediate family member.

21 (c) **Debt.** The statement must include information regarding the  
22 debt owed by the filer or immediate family members with a value of  
23 two thousand five hundred dollars or more, including the creditor's  
24 name, the original and present amount owed, the security given, and  
25 the terms of repayment. Debts arising from a "retail installment  
26 transaction" as defined in chapter 63.14 RCW, the retail installment  
27 sales act, are not required to be reported.

28 (d) **Real property.** The statement must include information  
29 regarding the direct financial interest in real property with a value  
30 of fifteen thousand dollars or more that the filer or immediate  
31 family members acquired, sold, or held during the reporting period.

32 (i) A judge, prosecutor, sheriff, or their immediate family  
33 members is not required to disclose the address or legal description  
34 of real property that is the personal residence of the judge,  
35 prosecutor, or sheriff. It is sufficient to disclose the following  
36 information regarding the personal residence of a judge, prosecutor,  
37 or sheriff:

38 (A) The city or town;

39 (B) The type of residence, such as a single-family or multifamily  
40 residence, and the nature of ownership; and

1 (C) Such other identifying information the commission prescribes  
2 by rule for the mailing address where the property is located.

3 (ii) The limitation on reporting information regarding personal  
4 residence may not be used to relieve a judge, prosecutor, or sheriff  
5 of any other applicable obligations to disclose potential conflicts  
6 or to recuse oneself.

7 (iii) The address of real property that is the personal residence  
8 of the filer is subject to public disclosure upon request, but the  
9 commission must redact the address of the filer's personal residence  
10 from any statement of financial affairs which is posted on a web  
11 site.

12 (e) **Gifts and other payments.** The statement must include  
13 information regarding gifts received by the filer, including:

14 (i) Food and beverages with a value of fifty dollars or more,  
15 which were accepted in the ordinary course of meals where attendance  
16 is related to the performance of official duties, as provided under  
17 RCW 42.52.150(5);

18 (ii) Payments for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with  
19 a speech, presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an  
20 official capacity, as provided under RCW 42.52.010(9)(d);

21 (iii) Items accepted for which the filer was authorized to accept  
22 by law, as provided in RCW 42.52.010(9)(e); and

23 (iv) Payment attributable to attending seminars and educational  
24 programs sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit  
25 professional, educational, trade, or charitable association or  
26 institution, as provided under RCW 42.52.010(9)(f).

27 (f) **Lobbying activities.** The statement must include information  
28 regarding:

29 (i) Any individual or entity who provided compensation to the  
30 filer or immediate family members to lobby, as defined in this  
31 chapter, or otherwise outside the state, except in the filer's or  
32 immediate family member's official service to a government entity;  
33 and

34 (ii) Any affiliated entity under (g) of this subsection that  
35 provided compensation to persons to lobby, as defined in this  
36 chapter, or otherwise outside the state.

37 (g) **Businesses interests and associations.** The statement must  
38 include information identifying each business, association, or other  
39 entity with which the filer or immediate family member holds an

1 office or director position, or ownership interest of at least ten  
2 percent. In addition, the information must include:

3 (i) The compensation of fifteen thousand dollars or more provided  
4 to each identified entity;

5 (ii) The real property interest in the state of Washington of  
6 twenty-five thousand dollars or more held by each identified entity  
7 with which the filer or immediate family member holds at least a ten  
8 percent ownership interest; and

9 (iii) The value of any payment to each identified entity from the  
10 government unit in which the filer or immediate family member holds  
11 or seeks an office or position, except for payment for water and  
12 other utility services at rates approved by the authority of the  
13 public entity providing the service.

14 (2) Where the disclosure of an amount is required within a  
15 category of financial information, the commission may establish value  
16 codes that allow for reporting monetary amounts within certain  
17 ranges, instead of disclosing the actual amount.

18 **Sec. 6.** RCW 42.17A.785 and 2018 c 304 s 18 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The public disclosure transparency account is created in the  
21 custody of the state treasury. All receipts from penalties collected  
22 pursuant to enforcement actions or settlements under this chapter,  
23 including any fees or costs, must be deposited into the account.  
24 ((Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Moneys  
25 in the account may be used only for the implementation of chapter  
26 304, Laws of 2018 and duties under this chapter, and may not be used  
27 to supplant general fund appropriations to the commission.))

28 (2) Moneys in the account may be used only for the development  
29 and implementation of projects designated by the commission for the  
30 purpose of improving the usability, transparency, and accessibility  
31 of systems and information regarding campaign financing, lobbying  
32 activities, and the financial affairs of public officials and  
33 candidates, consistent with the purposes of this chapter. The  
34 commission shall approve and update the list of designated projects  
35 and include a description, the purpose, and projected cost of each  
36 project as part of the commission's regular review of its technology  
37 and related business projects strategic priorities plan.



1       (3) Moneys in the account may not be used for ongoing operating  
2 or enforcement expenses and are not intended to be and shall not be  
3 used to supplant general fund appropriations to the commission.

4       (4) Only the commission may authorize expenditures from the  
5 account. The account is not subject to appropriation.

--- **END** ---