

Public Disclosure Commission

711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Olympia, WA 98504-0908 Website: <http://www.pdc.wa.gov>
 Vicki Rippie, Executive Director email: vrippie@pdc.wa.gov 360-586-4838

Responsibilities -- RCW 42.17.350 through .471

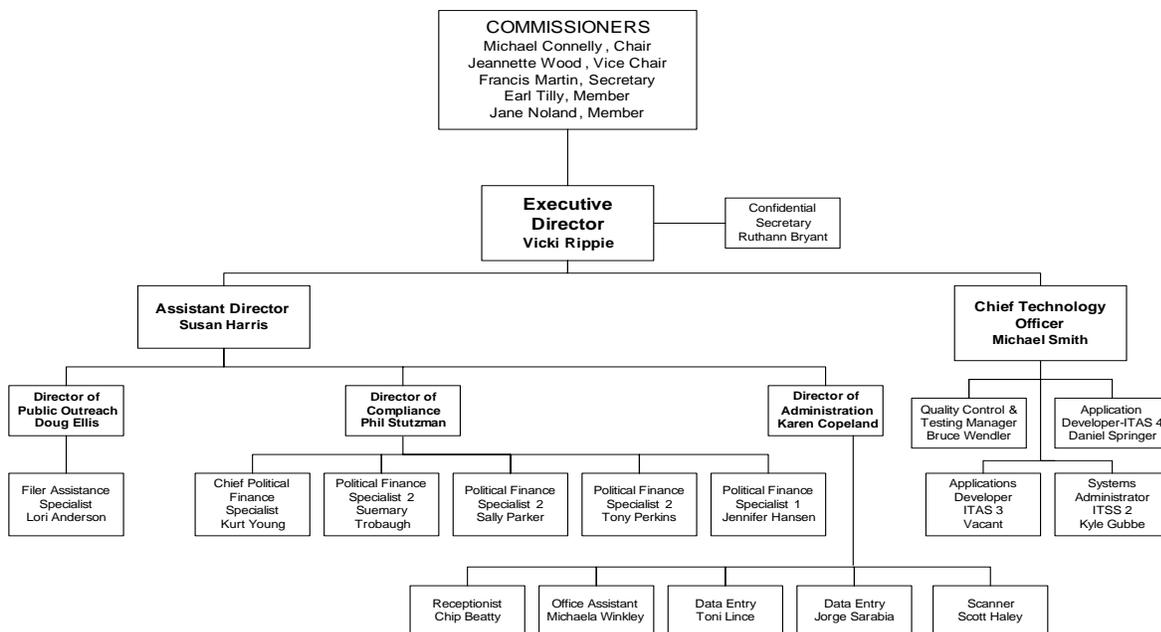
- Implement and administer Initiatives 276 (1972) and 134 (1992) and effectuate the intent of these public policy statements to the full extent of the agency's delegated powers.
- Provide reliable public access to timely political finance information through maintenance of a website that furnishes: 1) images of reports filed by state and local office candidates, political committees, lobbyists and lobbyist employers; 2) a campaign finance sortable database allowing easy and quick access to contributor and expenditure data; and 3) other information that assists the public and those subject to the disclosure law.
- Enforce the statutory provisions under its jurisdiction in a prompt, efficient, vigorous, uniform and fair manner.
- Provide all agency customers with quality service through timely, personal responses, conscientious attention to detail, and polite treatment.
- Train and assist filers to comply with statutory requirements, including mandatory electronic filing for candidates and committees spending \$10,000 or more.

Budget – 24.6 FTEs

Vicki Rippie, Executive Director; Susan Harris, Assistant Director; Michael Smith, Chief Technology Officer; Doug Ellis, Director of Public Outreach; Karen Copeland, Director of Administration; Phil Stutzman, Director of Compliance

2003-2005 Appropriation: General Fund – State \$3,596,600

Organizational Chart



Most Pressing Issues or Challenges

Technology Dependence

PDC is statutorily mandated to provide Internet access to timely information as well as electronic filing alternatives to campaigns, lobbyists, lobbyist employers and personal financial affairs (F-1) filers. As such, the agency heavily relies on technology to meet these core service obligations. Information technology is constantly evolving and it will be important for the agency to have sufficient resources to upgrade and maintain commercial software and replace the e-filing programs to satisfy customer demands for greater functionality, clarity and ease-of-use. PDC staff is developing a new campaign filing program for deployment in 2006 to address some of these concerns. However, the agency does not have the wherewithal to develop new programs for the lobbying community or persons who file F-1 reports. Without better programs, the number of electronic filers will not increase and, as a result, the public will not have ready access to all of the lobbying expenditure data available on monthly lobbying reports. Currently, only 21% of lobbyists file electronically.

Campaign Finance Reform

With the passage of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) -- and its provisions being substantially upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court -- federal election law has recently changed dramatically, especially with respect to prohibiting national political parties from receiving unrestricted contributions and with respect to regulating political advertising. The full effect of BCRA's provisions are yet to be realized, as those who participate in campaigns at the federal level adjust and alter their strategies and tactics to accommodate the new law. If BCRA is perceived as being successful in improving the caliber of federal office campaigns, many of its provisions may find their way into state law. It's always a challenge to implement sweeping new reform provisions, especially those of a controversial nature.

Faster Resolution of Complaints

The PDC receives approximately 70 complaints per year, alleging violations ranging in complexity from simple to very time-consuming and complicated. The agency has set a goal of completing routine investigations within 90 days. However, since the six-person compliance staff also spend between 40% and 70% of their time assisting filers, in FY 2004, only 32% of routine investigations were completed within 90 days, with 77% being concluded within 180 days. The public, complainants and the subjects of complaints deserve prompt resolution of allegations. Without additional resources to devote to customer service, complaints are unlikely to move through the process more rapidly.

Perception of Commission's Fairness and Non-partisanship

The PDC commissioners and staff are always alert to the importance of not only being fair, unbiased and non-partisan, but of being perceived as acting in this manner. Without public confidence in the agency's impartiality, PDC will cease to be effective and will be unable to do its part to build confidence in government. Considerable emphasis is placed on efficient, effective service because it is the right way to operate, but also because it contributes to the agency's reputation, which in turn builds public confidence in the agency's entire operation. Continued vigilance and commitment to neutrality remains necessary.

Board Member Listing by Board Position

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION (GS140)

Agency 082 - Public Disclosure Commission	Senate Conf. Y	Positions: Maximum 005
Authority Governor	Public Disc. Y	Minimum 000
Authoriztn. RCW 42.17.350	Term Length 060	Actual 013
Rem. Auth. GC	Meetings/Yr. 20	

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
001	Wood, Jeannette 24223 Timberlane Woodway, WA 98020	A	C	03/04/2004	12/31/2008
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Republican		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
002	Martin, Francis 1408 S. 26th Avenue Yakima, WA 98902	A	C	06/21/2002	12/31/2004
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Democrat		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
003	Noland, Jane 3116 Cascadia Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98144	A	C	03/16/2004	12/31/2005
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Democrat		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
004	Connelly, Michael F. PO Box 135 Latah, WA 99018	A	C	04/02/2002	12/31/2006
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Democrat		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
005	Tilly, Earl (The Honorable) 1509 Jefferson Wenatchee, WA 98801	A	C	01/01/2003	12/31/2007
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Republican		