

Legislative Ethics Board



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COMPLAINT 2024 – No. 13

In re McEntire
March 4, 2025

NO SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION – ORDER OF DISMISSAL

I. NATURE OF COMPLAINT

The Complaint alleges that Respondent violated the Ethics Act by removing the campaign signs of other candidates and posting a picture of himself with the two signs of losing candidates on his personal Facebook page.

II. BACKGROUND

Complaint 2024 – No. 13 was received on November 15, 2024, and discussed at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on February 21, 2025.

III. JURISDICTION

The Board has personal jurisdiction but lacks subject matter jurisdiction. RCW 42.52.320.

IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a member of the House of Representatives representing the 19th legislative district. He has served in this position since 2021.
2. Complainant is a constituent of the Respondent's.
3. On November 6, 2024, Respondent posted on his personal Facebook page, a picture of himself holding two campaign signs. The picture shows him in his home holding the signs of Mike Coverdale and Terry Carlson, both of whom ran for House seats in the 19th legislative district.
4. Above this picture Respondent wrote the following: "collected my war trophies. Stand by for a live update on our LD 19 racers and my thoughts on Washington State in general."
5. The Complainant indicated that she discovered this Facebook post because she is one of the Respondent's constituents and his Facebook posts come across her newsfeed.

6. Respondent indicated that after every election, he goes to a local "sign garden" (which is a dumpster by the bridge) and grabs discarded campaign signs, and not just of his opponents. He takes them home and writes data about the election on them and stores them in his garage. He stated that he is a bit of a collector.
7. When asked, Respondent stated that he **did** not remove the signs from someone's yard.


V. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to RCW 42.52.320, the Board has jurisdiction over legislators and legislative staff and is authorized to enforce the Ethics Act and its rules. RCW 29A.84.040 provides that "A person who removes or defaces lawfully placed political advertising including yard signs or billboards without authorization is guilty of a misdemeanor..."

While the Board has personal jurisdiction over the Respondent, it does not have jurisdiction to enforce potential violations of a criminal statute. The Board, therefore, lacks subject matter jurisdiction.

VI. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that: the Board lacks subject matter jurisdiction in this matter and the complaint is dismissed.



Larry Hoff, Chair

Date: 3/4/2025