



Washington State Conservation Commission

Conservation District Elections

Issue Advisory 04-19

Campaign Disclosure, Personal Financial Affairs Reporting and Conservation District Elections

Date: January 22, 2019

Re: Campaign disclosure, personal financial affairs reporting and conservation district elections

Question:

Are candidates for elected positions on conservation district boards subject to the provisions of RCW Chapter 42.17A - Campaign Disclosure and Contribution?

Short Answer:

No. RCW 42.17A.010 exempts conservation district (CD) elections from the requirements of RCW Chapter 42.17A - *Campaign Disclosure and Contribution* for purposes of campaign disclosure and personal financial affairs reporting requirements.

Background:

Conservation district supervisor elections are conducted consistent with procedures established by the Conservation Commission.¹ Conservation district elections do not fall under the state statute for general elections² unless the Conservation Commission election procedures are silent.³

¹ [RCW Chapter 89.08.190](#). See also generally [WAC Chapter 135-110](#) and the [Election Manual](#)

² See generally [Title 29A RCW](#) and specifically [RCW 29A.04.330 \(1\) \(b\)](#).

³ "In circumstances where these rules and/or procedures are silent or in conflict, the Commission will look to general election law ([RCW Chapter 29A](#)) rules and procedures for guidance." [Election Manual, page 1](#).

Analysis:

RCW 42.17A.010 exempts conservation district (CD) elections from the requirements of RCW Chapter 42.17A - *Campaign Disclosure and Contribution* for purposes of campaign disclosure and personal financial affairs reporting requirements:

Elections of conservation district supervisors held pursuant to chapter [89.08](#) RCW shall not be considered general or special elections for purposes of the campaign disclosure and personal financial affairs reporting requirements of this chapter. Elected conservation district supervisors are not considered elected officials for purposes of the annual personal financial affairs reporting requirement of this chapter.⁴

However, beyond the exemption for the purposes of campaign disclosure and personal financial affairs reporting in RCW 42.17A.010, all other provisions of RCW Chapter 42.17A or WAC Title 390 remain in effect.

For More Information:

Candidates should contact the [Washington Public Disclosure Commission](#) for further information related to RCW Chapter 42.17A.

⁴ [RCW 42.17A.010](#)