

Respondent Name
Ron Davis
Complainant Name
Wendy Sykes
Complaint Description
<u>Wendy Sykes</u> reported via the portal <i>(Mon, 24 Jul 2023 at 8:45 PM)</i> Received strange letter from "Ron Davis" today. This was a 1 page, 2-sided letter - not a political postcard - that was printed, not hand-written. It was not on letterhead, had no signature, had no sponsorship or "paid for by" details, no return address or organization name - just a PO Box. (POB 20792, Seattle, WA 98102). Everything about it was odd and unprofessional. This seems like a violation of the public disclosure laws.
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
Spreads misinformation, does not clearly identify who/what is paying for political advertising.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
attached
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
John Schussler, husband, 206-331-1811
Certification (Complainant)
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Hello neighbors - I'm Ron Davis, and I'm running for City Council for our District.

Many of you already know me, whether because I have knocked on your door, from my appearances in the news and at forums, or from our most recent mailer.

Unfortunately, while I've been busy trying to focus on my positive agenda for our neighborhoods, something disturbing has been happening in our district.

An outside group of MAGA Republican mega-donors has been trying to buy our city council seat. They've been spending tens of thousands of dollars flooding your mailboxes in order to elect my opponent, Maritza Rivera, so that she will cut taxes for the rich.

She has had trouble raising money, especially from donors in our district, but they don't care what our district wants; they decided to foot the bill themselves.

You may have also received a mailer from my opponent that compares me to Seattle's famously radical, Marxist councilmember-Kshama Sawant. As a businessman, dad, and Democrat, I make a pretty lousy radical. And I'm endorsed by all the District 4 Democratic party organizations, the King County Democrats, and several prominent business leaders. **This is my opponent's attempt to distract you from her true goal—which is to cut taxes for these donors.**

These Republican super-donors primarily want to kill off the JumpStart tax because it is one of our only progressive taxes – that is, it takes a higher percentage from the rich than the poor. It is a small tax on high incomes that is charged directly to large businesses. Economists say taxes like this have zero **negative economic impact**.

I'm a Democrat, so as you can imagine, I support the JumpStart tax.

The money raised from this tax goes to support affordable housing, childcare, and small businesses in Seattle, and to plug holes in our general fund. We need this money.

Our taxes are the most upside down in the country. We force young, struggling workers, and seniors on fixed incomes to foot more of the bill than anywhere else.

A high income household like mine - a family doctor and a tech worker - pays 3% of our income a year in state and local taxes. But the people who take patients' blood pressure before my wife walks into the exam room, or serve coffee down the street, pay around 17%. I don't think this is reasonable or fair.

In fact, their opposition to making our tax system more balanced is why these Republican mega-donors are spending so much money supporting my opponent.

The ringleader, Georgie Petrie, has given nearly \$100,000 to Donald Trump and the Republican Party over the last few years. He started a large monthly donation after the January 6th insurrection. He and some of his fellow donors have also donated tens of thousands to flipping our state legislature to Republicans, who as we know are trying to take away our rights, gut our education and mental health system, and push our state back by decades.

This group clearly doesn't share our values. Most of these donors don't even live in our district.

We need to show them our votes are not for sale.

Killing JumpStart will devastate our neighborhoods and decimate public safety.

JumpStart raises \$230M a year for Seattle, and we are already facing a huge projected shortfall next year because of the real estate market slowdown. Together, these would **blow a \$400M+ hole in our budget**, and without JumpStart we'd have to **gut our investments in affordable housing, public safety, buses, traffic upgrades, libraries, public litter removal** - really everything that matters to our voters.

911 wait times will surely increase, not decrease, under this scenario.

We don't have to hate people for their good fortune, or raise taxes so high that we kill the golden goose. We just need a reasonably balanced tax code where the rich pay their fair share. **We can't just keep relying on young workers and seniors with fixed incomes to pay for everything—this isn't sustainable or right.** This is mainstream Democratic party 101 stuff.

Also, **we need to be smart with our money.** I'm the only candidate in this race to actually identify ways to save money in our current budget, rather than just making vague promises to "look at the budget" and conjure hundreds of millions in savings.

My tax plan will still take far less from the rich than they pay in other blue parts of the country (which are also doing economically well, even with taxes for rich people, mind you!). But it will get us closer to a more balanced approach, stabilize Seattle's recklessly volatile finances, and allow us to tackle our most pressing problems. And we won't balance our budgets on the backs of workers or seniors living on Social Security.

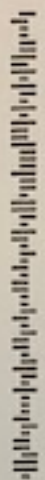
Please don't tolerate this outside influence from bad actors trying to buy our elections and buy themselves a tax cut while they let the rest of us responsible citizens pick up their mess.

Hope to meet you, in person, soon. Please be sure to return your ballot by August 1

Ron

PO box 20792
Seattle, WA 98102

John Schuster and Wendy Sykes
1627 NE 7th St
Seattle, WA 98105-4445



Hello neighbors! I'm Ron Davis and I'm running for City Council. Ballots are due August 1st.

I'm running to make sure Seattle is an affordable, safe, thriving place where people from any background can start a career, raise a family, and age happily at home.

About me: I'm a former startup CEO and a Harvard Law grad, a policy nerd with a history of closing complex deals for tech companies. My wife is an amazing family doctor, and we are raising our two young boys, who go to Seattle Public Schools. I've served on the boards of the University YMCA, Roosevelt Neighborhood Association, Seattle Subway, and Futurewise (we passed the climate bill in Olympia this year!) and am active in the local Democratic Party.

Luck has smiled on me. My parents were teenagers when they got pregnant with me, but they were eventually able to buy a house, and provide the stability we needed to find upward mobility, a story you can't start in Seattle today. We have to fix that.

I didn't want public office; I hoped to just quietly serve my community and live a private life. But I couldn't stand by and watch us strangle our children's future, destroy the climate and give up on public safety. I had to jump into the fray.

I'm **endorsed** by all **5 Democratic Party organizations**, **environmental groups**, the **Urbanist, labor** (like bus drivers, UW research scientists & engineers, grocery workers, hospital workers, sailors, truck drivers & construction workers), **political leaders like progressive champions** Girmay Zahilay, Larry Gosset, Brady Walkinshaw, Toshiko Haswagawa, Sen Joe Nguyen, Rep David Hackney, Melissa Taylor, Nancy Connolly, **business friendly politicians** like Sam Cho, Ryan Calkins, and Vivian Song Maritz and our former Councilmember Abel Pacheco, and **community leaders** - from venture capitalists like Chris DeVore, former McKinsey Partner Ben Maritz and Slalom Managing Director Erik Johnson, to Neighborhood Association Leaders like Jay Lazerwitz, community activists like Lhorna Murray, environmental leaders like think-tank founder Alan Durning and former Councilmember Jim Street, and many, many more.

I am the only candidate in this race that wasn't recruited by lobbyists to get the biggest businesses a big tax cut and/or with plans to gut social services. We know those lobbyists and their ringleader - a Trump superdonor - think they can buy this race for Martiza Rivera. Their dark money PAC has already dumped tens of thousands dollars filling your mailbox.

Instead of recycling the same old dirty, divisive politics that have poisoned our city and made it so hard to build safe, prosperous neighborhoods, I will follow the most battle-tested, scientifically-validated policies from around the world to:

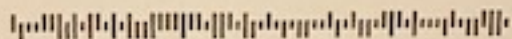
- **Make sure Seattle is safe for everyone**

- Stop crime before it starts
 - Fully fund human services and behavioral health
 - Invest in community violence intervention
- Get **drugs off our street and drug abusers into treatment**
 - Restrict use to medically-managed overdose prevention centers
 - Use the prevention centers as a pipeline into treatment

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