



# City of Seattle

Ethics and Elections Commission

April 1, 2015

Council President Tim Burgess  
Chair, Education and Governance Committee  
City Hall  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Burgess:

At its February 11 meeting, the Commission unanimously endorsed increasing the civil assessments for late-filing complete and accurate reports with the Commission.

The attached bill would do three things:

1. It would increase from \$10 to \$50 the penalty for late-filing a campaign finance report.
2. It would increase from \$50 to \$150 the penalty for late-filing a report in the closing days of an election.
3. With the move to all mail voting, it would expand the period for imposing the increased penalty from the final 7 days before Election Day to the final 30 days before Election Day.

The Commission believes that increasing these penalties – which have not been adjusted in almost two decades – is important if campaigns are to have a meaningful incentive to file timely reports.

With the 2015 elections on the horizon, the Commission urges that this bill be taken up as expeditiously as possible.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Barnett".

Wayne Barnett  
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission