



Washington State Auditor's Office

Troy Kelley

Integrity • Respect • Independence

Whistleblower Investigation Report
Washington State University

For the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Published March 26, 2015

Report No. 1013821





Washington State Auditor Troy Kelley

March 26, 2015

Dr. Elson S. Floyd, President
Washington State University

Report on Whistleblower Investigation

Attached is the official report on Whistleblower Case No. 15-013 at the Washington State University.

The State Auditor's Office received an assertion of improper governmental activity at the University. This assertion was submitted to us under the provisions of Chapter 42.40 of the Revised Code of Washington, the Whistleblower Act. We have investigated the assertion independently and objectively. This report contains the result of our investigation.

Questions about this report should be directed to Whistleblower Manager Jim Brownell at (360) 725-5352.

Sincerely,

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR
OLYMPIA, WA

cc: Heather Lopez, Director, Internal Audit
Governor Jay Inslee
Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Executive Ethics Board
Jacque Hawkins-Jones, Investigator

WHISTLEBLOWER INVESTIGATION REPORT

Assertions and results

Our Office received a submission asserting an employee at Washington State University used state resources for the purpose of political fundraising and campaigning.

We found no reasonable cause to believe an improper governmental action occurred.

About the Investigation

As authorized by state law (RCW 42.40.040(5)(d)), we referred this matter to the Washington State University. The University investigated and reported its findings to our Office.

The University reviewed the subject's emails, calendars and travel documentation. The University found the subject did not use state resources for political purposes.

Our Office reviewed the information provided by the complainant and the investigation report provided by the University. We found no reasonable cause to believe the subject used state resources for political purposes.

State Auditor's Office Concluding Remarks

We thank University officials and personnel for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

WHISTLEBLOWER INVESTIGATION CRITERIA

We came to our determination in this investigation by evaluating the facts against the criteria below:

RCW 42.52.180 Use of public resources for political campaigns.

(1) No state officer or state employee may use or authorize the use of facilities of an agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of a person to an office or for the promotion of or opposition to a ballot proposition. Knowing acquiescence by a person with authority to direct, control, or influence the actions of the state officer or state employee using public resources in violation of this section constitutes a violation of this section. Facilities of an agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of state employees of the agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the agency.

WAC 292-110-010 Use of state resources.

(5) Prohibited uses.

(b) Any use for the purpose of supporting, promoting the interests of, or soliciting for an outside organization or group, including, but not limited to, a private business, or a political party, or supporting, promoting the interests of, or soliciting for a nonprofit organization unless provided for by law or authorized by an agency head or designee.