

Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee
Jeff Wiley, Chair
PO Box 27
Silverdale WA 98383

Tony Perkins
Investigator, Campaign Finance Unit
Washington Attorney General's Office

Mr. Perkins,

We wish to address the complaint of Glen Walker made on September 19th, 2017. We will address each exhibit separately. We will be addressing only 2016 and 2017, as those are the only years applicable for a court action. We think you will see that Mr. Morgan's assertion, that our actions show malicious intent, is without merit. We request that you refer this complaint to the PDC where it should have started in the first place.

We had multiple treasurers the past 2 years. In 2016, we started with a new Treasurer. That Treasurer had a heart attack mid-year, replaced by our deputy Treasurer, who served for the balance of the year. We elected a new Treasurer in 2017 who had full training by the Deputy Treasurer. The elected Treasurer had to resign in February when he accepted a Federal job. Our next Treasurer was then elected. I made the mistake of not tutoring her on the position, and she did not ask questions nor take the PDC training. She quit in September for medical reasons.

Exhibit A. Late C3 and C4 reports

Mistakes were made. As you can see all but one of the assertions regarding amended returns are false. Confirmed by the PDC, an amended return can be submitted that is identical to the original. We had multiple treasurers during that 2-year period. Those amended returns were submitted in error. Others were late, but they were relatively small amounts that had a marginal effect on any campaign. We do not believe these rise to the level of a suit by your office, as we believe the PDC's authority and range of penalty is more appropriate for these assertions.

Exhibit B. Reporting of Debt

There are 3 categories in this section.

Those in the first category (highlighted in green) are just plain false and recklessly made. We paid them before we either received the service or used the venue, or they were monthly charges that would only be debt if they had been overdue, which they were not. I am not aware of a local political party ever finding a printer who would not require payment before anything was printed.

The second category was the reservation of caucus sites (no highlighting), which for us were all with school districts. These come mostly every 4 years, and to my mind have never been flagged by the PDC in previous years. In checking with the PDC, they did confirm that they probably should have been listed as debt. As these facilities were rented for what is largely a public function similar in character to an election, it does not rise to the level of deception or malicious intent.

The third category of instance (highlighted in yellow), of which there are 7, regards the reservation of facilities and of catering. We typically paid the bill the night of the event, so it did not occur to us to list it as debt. We paid our bills as we incurred them. In checking with the PDC, we now realize that as soon as you sign a contract, such as for a fundraising event, the law says we should list it as a debt. There was absolutely no intention to deceive.

We assert that, again, these instances do not rise to the level of an action by the Attorney General.

Exhibit C: Failure to Break Down Expenditures.

The majority of these items were reimbursements to members for items purchased for party activities. We should have dialed down further to include the vendors. While many were technically a violation, learning that they were purchased at Office Depot or Staples hardly qualifies as information that would rock the political world. Glen Morgan's submission of these violations is an insult to the AGs office and takes away from violations meriting AG consideration, and reveals the boilerplate nature of Morgan's complaints. These should only have been filed with the PDC.

Conclusion

As you can see, the majority of these accusations are of little consequence to the results of any involved election. None of them rise to the level of court action by the AG. They were all made as a result of human error or lack of knowledge. We believe the best action would be to refer this complaint to the PDC, where they could help us correct the errors and levy any fines and/or actions commiserate with the nature of the violations. They can also help us install systems that will prevent these errors, even in an environment where Treasurers will be even harder to get because of Glen Morgan's boilerplate complaints.

For context, in 2016, we contributed about \$5000 of direct contributions to candidates, \$10,000 for a campaign office and supplies, and spent about \$11,000 on a sample ballot. In 2017, we have contributed only \$1500 to candidates.

None of these errors were in bad faith. The fairest and most just action would be to refer this complaint to the PDC first for their action. We realize that an action by the Attorney General of referring this to the PDC is not considered an action, per the Supreme Court. We would pursue action by the PDC, and should Glen Walker proceed to trial, we will ask the court to honor whatever actions and fine the PDC would levy. At the very least, we ask that the Attorney General only file against violations that the office deems worthy of court action. We would of course pursue judgement with the PDC on any assertions for which the Office does not pursue court action.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wiley

Chair

Kitsap County Democrats