

As the treasurer for the Bill Fishburn campaign for Port Commissioner, I am denying the complaint of Glen Morgan that there were habitual and willful violations of public disclosure requirements.

The complaint provides a chart of 30 alleged violations.

You will note that the alleged violations numbered 1 through 8 all concern C4s "reported" on 11/29/17. These C4s were reported on time. I believe that the source of this problem is that I made a correction to an early C4, likely May, and then updated the remaining C4's so that they would reflect the correct cumulative amounts. This may have been an error on my part due to a misunderstanding of how ORCA works; it appeared to me that the later C4's did not automatically self-correct. My goal was actually to increase transparency by reviewing the records and making sure I had accounted for everything.

In all, 16 out of the 30 complaints concern the C4's and I believe these all relate to corrections rather than the original timely filings.

In regard to eight out of the 14 C3's listed in the complaint: Five are reported as being 1 day late. One is 2 days late. One is seven days late, and one is eight days late. I will not deny that I filed some reports slightly late, because it seems probable. I regret the errors but they were neither habitual nor willful.

Of the remaining 6 C3's: I do have some recollection of finding a record or two, during a review of the accounts, from early in the campaign, that I had failed to process correctly. This is what triggered the wave of C4 corrections. I also recall finding a missed check in the bottom of a box of materials I took to a fundraiser. If requested, I will take the time to track down the rest of the C3s and do my best to explain how they wound up on Mr. Morgan's list.

In this campaign I served as a volunteer. I went through the training, and asked questions of the PDC frequently throughout the campaign. I have served as campaign treasurer one other time, many years ago. In the intervening period, it is clear to me that elections have become much more complicated, especially with internet services and the use of social media. It is important that citizens continue to volunteer to serve as campaign treasurer for candidates and initiatives that they support. I appreciate the responsiveness of the PDC and support its goals, and hope that it continues to help volunteers through this sometimes complicated or opaque process.

Helen Wheatley
Treasurer, Bill Fishburn for Port of Olympia