

File a Formal Complaint - Eric Geary

[Geary4yakimacountycommissioner](#) reported 23 minutes ago (Tue, 9 Aug at 8:16 AM) via Portal Meta

This is a formal complaint directed towards candidate Mike Leita currently seeking re-election in Yakima County. Under RCW 42.17A.555, (summarized) it is illegal for an Auditor or County employee to render campaign activity assistance to any candidate. In May 2016 (deadline), candidate statements and photos were required to be submitted and received. Upon receipt the County Auditor's Office posted the Voter's Guide on the Yakima County website for the public to review. From May to July 15, 2016, the Voter's Guide indicated that no photo was submitted for Mike Leita. However, the morning that ballots become available Mike Leita now has a photo. A photo that does not meet the written requirements published to all candidates (photo had to have been taken within the past 5 years), violating RCW 29A.32.230. Consulting with County Auditor Charles Ross, he advised that Mike Leita failed to submit a photo utilizing the published rules, and instead just told the Auditor to go into his personal employee file and select a photo for him; employing the Auditor, the Auditor's Office staff, and equipment to render campaign assistance in the form of searching, selection, and submission of his candidate photo. Additionally, when the photo was released, it was the only one that now appears different then all the other candidates (black & white); demonstrating that the candidate or a Auditor staff member possibly had time to review all other candidate photos already released within the published Voter's Guide, and select one that would stand out; causing potential voters to be drawn to his section over others. The above actions are illegal and unethical, and we request that full enforcement action be taken.