

Tanya Mercier

added a private note

Mon, 11 Sep 2023 at 9:29 AM

Merged from ticket [142041](#)

Subject: Re: PDC - Martin, Kathleen: Alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.235, .240, and .445 for failure to timely and accurately disclose contribution and expenditure information and misuse of campaign funds for personal use. (AUG'23, EY'21)

Description:

External Email

Hello,

I, Jeanne Legault, treasurer, and Kate Martin, candidate, are providing our response to the below-listed complaint:

Case # 141651

Allow me to preface our response by explaining what the circumstances were by which I became the treasurer of record following Kate Martin's campaign. The SEEC often recommends a couple of treasurers to candidates who are having difficulty closing out their campaigns and balancing to zero. Many new candidates decide they will be their own treasurers, without realizing the enormity of the task. This was the case with Kate Martin. She DID file her initial reports in a timely fashion. Following the election, the SEEC asked me to help her re-file her reports, because there were some filing errors etc and she was unable to balance to zero. Kate Martin and I met on several occasions and worked through each report, insuring that it balanced with her bank and that everything was included in the report. In this particular case, I was assured by the SEEC that a detailed accounting, after the fact of the election, wasn't required. They just wanted accurate figures. So, while normally, I would have reported the details that Glen Morgan accused us of "withholding as LAWBREAKERS," in this case, the object was to close out the account in as timely a fashion as possible. The campaign was over, so details, for example, of how many yard signs were purchased, was no longer important, nor did this lack of information at this point, harm any of the other candidates in the race.

I am extremely offended by the language used in this complaint. I have known Kate Martin for years, I know her to be a person of great integrity and as her treasurer, and working her closely on these reports, I know she made every effort to provide me with all the information she had. There was no "LAWBREAKING!" An unintentional omission by a candidate who is not trained as a treasurer, should not be construed as a malevolent and purposeful breaking of the law. This complaint is so unprofessional and personally directed, I find it utterly inappropriate.

In response to Complaint #1:

I have explained above that there was no attempt whatsoever on the candidate's part to conceal anything! I have also responded above as to why these reports were filed the following year, per the request of the SEEC. Please feel free to contact Polly Grow at the SEEC if you would like confirmation of this. (206-615-1248).

In reponse to Complaint #2

Please see above preface for explanation of why further details were not provided.

In response to Complaint #3

In cases where I am not sure about the proper use of campaign funds, I always run it by the SEEC (for city campaigns). I questioned whether the purchase of the Economist, given the candidate's explanation ("if I am going to be a City Council candidate, I should learn more about world affairs etc). I asked the SEEC if it was okay and I was told that it was legitimate expense.

Regarding campaign meetings, again, more details would have been provided, had I been the treasurer of record during the campaign. However, in the aftermath, I was told not to worry about obtaining all the details. The candidate met with Dick Faulkenbury regarding political strategy. I have re-checked with the SEEC yesterday to confirm that this was a legitimate expense, and I was assured that it was. (How does the complainant know what took place at that meeting anyway? He claims it was a personal experience - I didn't realize he was a fly on the wall at the time!)

I appreciate the PDC taking the time to hear the real circumstances of these reports. Feel free to contact me, should you have any further questions. (Jeanne - 206-601-24480

Submitted by yours truly,

Jeanne Legault & Kate Martin