

Sasha Linker

From: Lydia Eltringham [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 06, 2019 5:25 PM
To: CommAsst
Subject: My comment on Case No 15/003

Gentlemen,

I read with great interest Susan Shelley's column in the Sunday October 6 Daily News. I understand the commissioners of FPPC are interested in expanding opportunities for the public to comment on items on the agenda. I truly hope that you are also interested in what our comments are.

I was appalled to read about the severity of penalties levied against Susan Shelley, G. Rick Marshall, Patty Lopez and Dan Schnur. From what I read these people had an honest desire to do something positive in politics, but were treated unfairly, based on intricate laws and legalese wording of the Political Reform Act. And fined large amounts of money that seems out of proportion to what their "violation" was.

And yet, the fine for the Bay Area Rapid Transit agency for spending public money to campaign for the \$3.5 billion bond known as Measure RR was only \$7,500, the commission fined the "Yes on Prop. 57, Californians and Governor Brown for Public Safety and Rehabilitation" committee only \$2,500 for failing to disclose in ads that the California Democratic Party was one of its top two contributors of \$50,000 or more, and only fined former Board of Equalization member Betty Yee \$2,082 when her 2014 campaign for state controller failed to file required reports for over \$68,000 in large contributions. Those contributions were large and yet the fines were small in proportion.

How is this fair? Someone is showing favoritism and it goes against my personal sense of ethics. How can Susan Shelley's proposed fine be \$12,500? This is for "late filing of campaign finance reports during a 90-day period in 2013" even though the FPPC acknowledged in writing that the campaign "substantially complied" with the law, and even though fines for the IDENTICAL late filings were already paid to the Secretary of State's Office in 2014. It seems to me that she is being penalized for trying to do something right.

I can't be at the upcoming meeting on October 17 but I want my voice to be heard. Your commission needs to treat all violations with an equal balance of fairness. No favoritism should be shown players that are already in the political system.

And for heavens sake, don't make the rules and regulations so complex and complicated that "only a professional political campaign treasurer can competently handle the complex compliance and reporting requirements for political activity" It seems to me that if some professional treasurers won't take on clients unless they also hire a specialized political attorney, because of the liability imposed on treasurers by the Political Reform Act there is something basically wrong with that Political Reform Act. Make the ACT do what it's supposed to do, not be there as a way to punish people who are genuinely trying to make a positive different in our political system.

I hope your commission dismisses that \$12,500 proposed penalty against Susan Shelley. (Case No. 15/003). I will be watching for news of the results of the meeting.

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