

## Sasha Linker

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**From:** Scott Kaufman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:08 AM  
**To:** CommAsst  
**Subject:** Public comment on case No. 15/003

Reject the proposed decision because it is misleading to the public to levy huge fines for unintentional and harmless filing errors by novice candidates who don't know all the requirements. The process is supposed to inform the public, not misinform the public. As the former opinion editor of the Orange County Register, and a politics reporter before that, I have seen how decisions like this are used to intimidate newcomers and veterans alike into quitting politics.

Susan Shelley has been nothing but transparent with the media throughout this process and always sought to fully inform the public. She is not concealing anything. But she will be labeled a violator of campaign finance laws for all time.

And, should she ever run again, you can be sure this decision will be used against her on mailers, doorhangers, and radio and television ads. Nowhere in those political hit pieces will it be mentioned that she "substantially complied" with the law.

A fair, equal and easy to access electoral system is fundamental to a stable democracy. The Byzantine complexity of our current system that requires an expensive professional political campaign treasurer seems nothing more than an incumbency protection tool.

I sometimes think of running for office myself but after following Susan's case so closely, I don't think I ever will.

Susan Shelley should not be punished for being a first-time candidate trying to make a difference in her community. The FPPC should reject this decision and instead turn its efforts to reforming itself.

Scott Kaufman

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