

October 14, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to voice our support of Susan Shelley, who has been targeted with an unfair and unreasonable fine, only because she wanted to run for political office.

We, Carole Medway and Paul Dowling, worked as volunteers for Susan Shelley's campaign when she ran against Matt Dababne in 2013. She ran her campaign on a shoestring and almost won against an opponent armed with seemingly unlimited funds. We wanted to be a part of Ms. Shelley's campaign, because we saw in her an unquestionable integrity that is sorely lacking in most politicians.

Having had Susan as a guest in our own home, we can testify that her public image is not inconsistent with her behind-the-scenes personality. We know from our personal experiences with Ms. Shelley that she does what is right to the utmost of her ability and always treats others with the greatest possible respect and fairness.

Ms. Shelley strove to follow the Fair Political Practices Commission rules in a timely manner. Yet she is not being treated fairly. The fact that Ms. Shelley is being levied a fine of \$12,500, for simply wanting to serve her community in Sacramento, boggles the mind. How could this be construed, in any reasonable way of looking at the matter, as Equal Protection under the law? And if Dan Schnur was confused enough to run afoul of the FPPC rules, after having served as its chair, just how unfair a system of rules must the FPPC Rulebook have evolved into?

When Ms. Shelley was originally deemed by the FPPC to have "substantially complied" with the law, how is it fair to change this original estimation to one that is suddenly highly punitive? Xavier Becerra has been quoted as saying, "The overriding purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974 . . . are to combat the pernicious influence of money in politics and government and to ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to participate in the political process. . . . [T]hese core purposes remain unchanged." In line with these purposes, Susan Shelley deserves to be treated with the greatest possible respect and fairness. True justice demands nothing less.

Sincerely,

Ms. Carole Medway & Dr. Paul Dowling