

[Lindamclain](#) replied 2 months ago (Sat, 3 Dec, 2016 at 12:13 PM)

to : pdc@pdc.wa.gov , cc : topper@electtopper.com, campaign@electtopper.com, annettecleveland2012...

Jacob,

I apologize I have not responded to this until now. I would like to address the complaint from Ms. Karen Hengerer dated November 4, 2016.

Alishia Topper was in a race against another Democrat which became very competitive and contentious. My understanding is that she was told by the Clark County Democrats that they did not have space for her campaign at their headquarters. Ms. Topper then contacted Al Angelo Company which had a small space in one of their shopping centers. The space was not in a shape to really rent out, so they agreed, because bathrooms weren't working, etc., that a fair market value for the space would be \$1,000 in total until after the primary. Al Angelo Company gave her that as an in-kind donation which was reported to PDC.

After the primary, once work had been done to the space, the rent was then \$1,000 a month until after the general election. Ms. Topper was running for representative for the 49th legislative district in an open seat. Her democratic opponent had moved to the 49th from the 17th to also run for that seat as she had not been successful winning in the 17th district which is a much more conservative district. The other representative for the 49th, and the state senator for the 49th both endorsed Ms. Topper. Both Sharon Wylie and Annette Cleveland were running for re-election and did not have very competitive campaigns. In May, to boost Ms. Topper's campaign they had an open house announcing the new office space. This was a way to announce the support of both Ms. Wylie and Ms. Cleveland for the Alishia Topper campaign. Neither Ms. Wylie or Ms. Cleveland used the office space until after the primary was over. Both of their campaign managers worked out of their homes. I was treasurer for all three campaigns and had a post office box for them and did all of my work either from my accounting office or my home.

Once the primary was over they had agreed to split the cost of the office space for the general election. They each paid \$333 in rent expense from August through October and \$100 for the partial month of November. These payments were all reported as rent expense to the PDC. I believe the first month both Ms. Wylie and Ms. Cleveland reimbursed Ms. Topper for the rent. There was one month the \$333 check was sent directly to Al Angelo Company - but all payments were either direct or a reimbursement but reported by all three candidates. The Topper campaign reported as "other deposits" any reimbursements received from the other two candidates.

From Ms. Hengerer's complaint, it appears she was looking for an in-kind donation from Ms. Topper to the other two candidates, which as we both know would have been totally against campaign finance law. After the original \$1,000 in-kind which covered the first few months of rent for the office which was being used only by Ms. Topper, there were no additional in-kind - only "rent expense" reported correctly by all three candidates.

As I stated, this was a very contentious campaign and many from the 17th legislative district who knew the opposing candidate were very upset that Ms. Topper had decided to run. Not to mention the WEA who put \$450,000 into the race for Monica Stonier, the opposing candidate in this Democrat vs. Democrat race.

The campaign is over and Ms. Topper obviously could not overcome a campaign that had \$450,000 to spend against her. We are anxious to take care of this and close this out, including this open complaint.

I thought I would begin with this explanation before I go any further. I can provide check copies, copies of PDC reports or anything else you want. I just didn't want to take the time if it was not necessary. Please let me know what I can provide for you and I will do it as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Linda McLain

Treasurer for:

Elect Alishia Topper
Annette Cleveland for State Senate
Committee to Elect Sharon Wylie