

Deputy.krebs

replied to

"PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

(Thu, 8 Nov 2018 at 9:47 AM)

This event is the League of Women's Voters candidate forums. Because of the geography of the county, there are 3 different forums on each of the main islands, San Juan, Orcas and Lopez islands. During all three of these forums the Sheriff's Office, which is the only law enforcement in the county, was present. Deputy Gross and Sgt Crowe were both in attendance at the Orcas Island forum, which is the forum in question. Sgt Crowe stayed for most of the forum and Deputy Gross for just over 30 minutes. Neither were there at my insistence nor did I arrive or leave with them. Their being in attendance was neither in violation of state law nor county police. None of them posed any questions nor did they answer any questions that I am aware of. If any of my deputies did answer questions, as they often do throughout an election season, they are answered with general answers about the office and how it is going. At the beginning of the election season the county puts out to all employees that it is a campaign violation to advocate for any particular candidate while on duty. .

A question was asked during the forums about the San Juan County Sheriff's Guild endorsing me for re-election. My opponent made numerous statements throughout this election, including at the forums, that the employees of the guild were afraid to not endorse me and that they were beholden to me as the Sheriff because I withhold promotions and advancement opportunities. My response was that his answer was ludicrous. I explained at all three forums that things at the Sheriff's Office were going very well and I encouraged everyone to reach out to the deputies from time to time and ask them how things were going in the Sheriff's Office. I also encouraged them to do that not just during election time but all the time. From day one 4 years ago when I was elected, I encouraged people to speak with the deputies of the Sheriff's Office and have continued to do so to this day. At one of the forums (I am not sure if it was Orcas or Lopez) I said "You all know the deputies working for you. They come to your homes, they come into your restaurants and businesses and you see them in line at the grocery stores. Ask them how things are going. In fact I encourage you to always do that. You will really see how things are running. In any business if you want to see how things are going, you ask the employees. Don't go ask the CEO, they will tell you what they want you to hear, but ask the employees, the ones doing the work, and they will really tell you what is going on." This is a message I have said all along at all the forums and all the talks I gave, not just during the election circuit, but when I speak with the various community groups over the last 4 years.

At no time did I advocate anyone speak to the Deputies as representatives of me. I advocate they speak to my deputies as representatives of themselves and how they feel about how things are going. As public servants, it is vital the public communicate with law enforcement and have confidence that they are being heard and to have confidence that things are actually going well. If there are problems then they would also voice those concerns as well. This creates transparency in government and in my office.

Ron