

Complaint Description

Glen Morgan (Mon, 9 Sep 2019 at 2:32 PM)

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Lance Gurel, running for the Spokane Valley City Council, Position #3 has committed numerous violations of Washington State's campaign finance laws (RCW 42.17A).

1) Misuse of campaign funds for personal use (Violation of RCW 42.17A.445(2), WAC 390-16-238)

On at least two occasions campaign funds have been improperly used by this political campaign for the personal use and benefit of the candidate. In RCW 42.17A.445 (2), the law clearly states that campaign expenditures for the candidate or reimbursements can only be for campaign related expenses:

"Reimbursement for direct out-of-pocket election campaign and postelection campaign related expenses made by the individual."

Furthermore, WAC 390-16-238 provides even further more detailed guidance on this campaign finance issue. There are at least two examples as evidence of this. The first is the use of campaign funds to pay for a haircut of the candidate (See PDC Report # 100918583), an "in-kind" contribution of \$25 for a haircut to the candidate. This should not be reported on this candidates campaign documents, as it is something the candidate would purchase on their own regardless of whether they were running a campaign or not.

The second is the use of campaign funds to reimburse the candidate for purchasing pepper spray, (See PDC Report #100928567) presumably while the candidate is meeting constituents. While this candidate may only be planning to use chemical pepper spray on constituents dogs and pets (rather than on constituents with whom he politically disagrees), and he certainly has a right to carry pepper spray on his person at all times, it is certainly troubling to misuse political campaign funds to fund this expenditure. This is clearly an example of an expenditure which is more appropriate for the candidate to purchase for his own use and enjoyment. Claiming this is a legitimate campaign expenditure would be thin gruel for sure... At a minimum Candidate Gurel must reimburse this misuse of donor campaign funds.

2) Failure to accurately describe expense. (Violation of RCW 42.17A.240(6) & WAC 390-16-037, RCW 42.17A.235)

Gurel's campaign has failed to follow Washington State's Campaign Finance laws as they apply to the reporting of expenditures.

Here is an example of a failure to provide sufficient detail of expenditures (unambiguous violations of RCW 42.17A.240(6) and WAC 390-16-037 (see example B provided at WAC 390-16-037(3)):

For example, the expenditures reported on PDC Report # 100928567 failed to report adequate details about "radio advertising" with the "Clark Company" on 8/13/19.

3) Failure to identify sponsor of Campaign Facebook Page (Violation of RCW 42.17A.320)

This candidate has also failed to properly identify the sponsor of a campaign Facebook Page website which his campaign apparently runs. See here for direct link:
<https://www.facebook.com/VoteLanceGurel/>

Screen capture attached for current reference as well.

The PDC should conduct a thorough review of this campaign to identify other violations which may have been committed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Best Regards,

Glen Morgan

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

The public should not subsidize a candidate's decision to carry pepper spray and misuse political campaign contributions, and the public has a right to know who sponsors the candidate's Facebook Page, and how the candidate is spending advertising dollars

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.

see attached

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

The candidate and any officers in his campaign

Complaint Certification:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Lance Gurel For
Spokane Valley City

Lance Gurel

LANCE GUREL



for Spokane Valley
City Council Position 3

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