

Complaint Description

Lethalwit (Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 11:26 AM)

According to the PDCs website, public agencies may not expend taxpayer equipment and resources on communications if those communications have the effect of aiding an election. That is, even if factual, if the selection of facts has the effect of aiding an election, that is prohibited. This taxpayer funded mailer from the North County EMS meets this threshold. Examples:

Stated: "Call volumes have increased 37% since 2013"

Unstated: The majority of those calls are for medical assistance, fulfilled by the aid car, which is the cheapest piece of equipment to operation.

Stated: "The one-percent increase is not keeping up with inflation, which is 3.2 percent for our area."

Unstated: The area also had a corresponding increase in new property ownership, adding new tax paying property owners to the overall budget.

Stated: "The fire levy rates fall as property value rises to limit the fire department to toughly the same amount of revenue per year..."

Unstated: The fire department budget has increased.

Therefore, by its selection of facts, North County Fire EMS has constructed a positive narrative which supports the levy, conveniently leaving out other facts running counter to that narrative.

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

At this time of writing the North County Fire EMS is passing. It's certainly a possibility this levy would not have passed without this mailer. Therefore, property owners are now paying an extra levy.

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

Mailers attached. Note these come straight from the North County Fire EMS, a taxpayer funded agency.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Fire cheif John Cermak, 425-789-8036, jcermak@northcountyfireems.com

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.