

Peg Ieland replied Tues , 3 Dec 2019 at 3:01PM
to: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

Hi Tabatha,

I have reviewed Melissa Smith's response; my rebuttal is attached (and below for your convenience), with screen shots also attached. Thank you

After reflecting upon Melissa Smith's response to my complaint and doing some additional research, I must challenge the response.

First, I am empathic to her need for surgery and am happy to see from her focus on her campaign and her public appearances that it seems she has had a good recovery.

Second, there is no "confusion" about her write-in campaign or failure to file. There are only facts. She launched a campaign. She campaigned. She failed to file.

Her statement "I had surgery on my mind, not campaigning" does not align with the evidence.

According to the following Lacamas Magazine article dated October 9, 2019 Melissa Smith declared her candidacy that day and sat down for a 90 minute interview about her write-in campaign. Her quotes about Mayor Shannon Turk lacking leadership and all the reasons she had no confidence in the Mayor demonstrate great thought and focus on her campaign. This was exactly one week prior to her surgery.

<https://lacamasmagazine.com/2019/10/councilor-smith-no-confidence-in-city-leadership-runs-for-mayor-as-write-in.html>

On October 15th, the night before her surgery Melissa Smith posted the following on nextdoor.com. It demonstrates that despite surgery the next day, she was indeed focused on her campaign.

(see screen shot #1) https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=126885706

Later the same night on October 15th, Melissa Smith responded to this post on nextdoor.com. This demonstrates that despite her impending surgery she was indeed focused on her campaign.

(see screen shot #2) https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=126900710

Despite her statement in the above referenced Lacamas Magazine article that "I'm not going to do signs" blue and white Vote for Melissa Smith signs appeared all over Camas beginning approximately October 25th as documented in this nextdoor.com post. Again, this demonstrates that despite being in recovery from her neck surgery just 9 days prior she was focused enough on her campaign to buy and distribute signs that she originally wasn't going to use!

(see screen shot #3) https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=127974796&comment=305543675

Melissa also took the time to post on Facebook on October 15th, as well as including a follow up response which also indicates her intention to place signs.

(see screen shot

#4) <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10220167327196939&set=a.3375685354460&type=3&theater>

Last, but not least Melissa Smith has run for office in the City of Camas four times previously and she is well aware of the legal filing requirements upon candidates.

[City of Camas Government](#)

City of Camas Government

Super User

City of Camas Government, Council Member Melissa
Smith

Melissa Smith's response to my complaint seems like a cavalier "Ooops! My bad!" response as her excuse "I had surgery on my mind, not campaigning" does not align with the evidence. She chose her priorities and following the law was not one of them. In doing so, she violated the law and the rights of voters to access campaign information. Thank you.

Melissa Smith rebuttal.docx
14.7 KB

MS response 1.jpg
267.54 KB

MS response 2.jpg
299.82 KB

MS response 3.jpg
466.31 KB

MS response 4.jpg
131.85 KB

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<http://www.ci.camass.wa.us/aboutcouncil/melissasmith>

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Thank you.



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Melissa Smith, Forest Home Park



Camas Mayor

For Experienced Leadership - Please write my name in for Mayor. Note- I posted this as an "advertisement only" as I will not be able to answer any questions for a couple of weeks. I am having neck surgery in the morning. Hopefully people will have compassion and understanding regarding this. I will turn on the comments once I am able to respond. Do not judge others or make disparaging remarks unless you know what is going on in their life.



15 Oct · 41 neighborhoods in General



Thank



Comment



3

Discussion closed on 15 Oct. Learn more »

- Home
- NW Julia
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 - Documents
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Karen DeNoya, Lacamas North Camas

Camas Mayor - More 😞

Melissa Smith started a new post on this site three hours ago (see photo) and after receiving a sad face emoji or two, disabled commenting...meaning she wants to put her name out there and ask for your vote, but doesn't really want to engage with you good citizens of Camas. This current city council member who has served for a whopping 15 years and 11 months recently did an interview with Lacamas Magazine which you can read here:

<https://lacasmagazine.com/2019/10/councilor-smith-no-confidence-in-city-leadership-runs-for-mayor-as-write-in.html>



15 Oct · 53 neighborhoods in Recommendations

Thank Comment 2 7

Melissa Smith, Forest Home Park
 I turned it off before I posted as I am having neck surgery in the morning and thought it unfair to not be able to respond for a couple of weeks. Any comment to that?
 Edited 15 Oct Thank Reply 1



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though the mayor's position is a part-time position they still have a commitment to touch in on key issues. I want to get in there and stabilize the city and right the ship with full-time leadership."

So about half the interview was word for word from a previous article, right? Was Melissa reading her words from last year's interview during this year's interview? Did the blog just cut and paste from its archives? If so, why not disclose that it was recycled material rather than lead readers to think this was part of Melissa Smith's sudden awakening?

This does not appear organic. This does not appear genuine. This appears calculated.

Calculated to do what? Split the vote perhaps? Why ask? Barry McDonnell is a write-in candidate running for mayor. He has a lot of support throughout Camas. Melissa Smith did not appear to have her epiphany that she had no confidence in Mayor Turk until after Barry declared his intent to challenge the mayor. Consider the following quote in this October 23, 2019 article from the Camas Post Record: "I have name recognition, so that could detract from the other write-in candidate. We may split the vote," Smith said of McConnell."

<https://www.camaspostrecord.com/news/2019/oct/23/council-veteran-jumps-into-mayoral-race/>

Splitting the vote favors the incumbent. That bears repeating. Splitting the vote favors the incumbent. In this case, Mayor Shannon Turk. If Melissa Smith's lack of confidence in the mayor is truly unequivocal, why on earth would she risk splitting the vote if it meant Shannon Turk would be elected? Why not throw her name recognition and support to the new guy, no matter his lack of government experience and vow to work with him in the best interests of the citizens of Camas? Instead, she chose the tactic that favors Turk's election.

Also in her 90 minute "interview" with Lacamas Magazine, Melissa said "I'm not going to do signs. I'm going to use media, Facebook, and other social platforms to get the word out. Website is coming. This is truly grassroots." Yet, multiple google searches have produced no website results for her campaign, and blue and white "Melissa Smith, Vote for Leadership" signs have appeared all over Camas in the last couple of days. What's up with that?

Where's the leadership in any of this?

26 Oct · 53 neighborhoods in Recommendations



Melissa Smith updated her cover photo.



October 15 · 🌐

WRITE-IN

MELISSA SMITH

For MAYOR

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5 Comments 19 Shares



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Melissa Smith I will be putting signs out soon. If you support me, please feel free to share this sign on your FB page. I will be very grateful! Thank-you~❤️

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