

Dear Clerk Weathers,

Since you unfortunately feel it is proper to communicate with on-line blogs about your office investigating organizations and companies before informing those entities that are being investigated, I have become aware of you asking the Secretary of State's office to investigate the Reagan Republicans Victory Fund – Municipal and The Strategy Group.

I am curious why a single vendor and a single organization has been singled out for investigation by your office. Savvy Marketing for years have provided products and services for candidates as well as advocacy for organizations and your office has not investigated. I wonder if Savvy's working for sitting City Council Members and preferred candidates and The Strategy Group's working for the opposition to your bosses has motivated an uneven enforcement of the law.

You and the City's selective investigations of various organizations demonstrates that the city is again using its power to silence any opposition. Two years ago the Mayor and City Administrator threatened our organization with a lawsuit, the entire City Council condemned us in a newspaper guest editorial and you threatened me with city attorney's all for a less than \$300 flyer. We complied to your demands and filed even though we were under the \$100 per candidate threshold. During that same 2009 election the state Real Estate PAC donated \$1000 each to the incumbent city council candidates and the PAC was not even required to file a public disclosure with the city. Yet Reagan Republicans spent under \$300 and merited an investigation.

This year the council's hand-picked successor George Sayler received \$1000 dollars from the Coeur d'Alene tribe (who was not required by your office to file a public disclosure report) and spent over \$4000 with Savvy Marketing with no investigation. Certain campaigns and the Washington State Employees Union PAC (which like the RRVF created a separate municipal PAC but only after the fact) were also given no punishment for a dramatically late filing of in-kind contributions. At the same time you required the Reagan Republican Victory Fund to form a separate political committee and file to conform to your interpretation of the law (which was contradicted in discussions with the Secretary of State's office) and now in following your directives exactly, you instigate an inquisition by the Secretary of State Office.

I am also curious who brought the complaint to your attention. Since the main attacks on our organizations in the media come from City Councilman Mike Kennedy I suspect you, as a highly-paid employee of the city council, are acting under his direction. I hope the Secretary of State's office will investigate the chief elections official of Coeur d'Alene using her office to benefit preferred candidates and organizations and maliciously harassing opposing candidate and organizations.

Sincerely

Jeff Ward

Jeff Ward
President, Kootenai County Reagan Republicans
208-457-2717
jward@reaganrepublicans.net