

Lisa Mossie

October 5, 2017

Karley Sisler  
Director, Voter Services

RE: COMPLAINT \

Dear Ms. Sisler,

On July 20, 2017, Janice Kearney contacted Joshua Hannock of your office to request 2015 campaign finance reports for John Pearson, a 2015 Democratic Candidate for Upper Providence Township Supervisor. She was informed that there were no such reports on file. On August 29, 2017, I reiterated the request for these reports, and asked for evidence that Mr. Pearson had been fined for lack of filing if no such reports existed. I was informed by Mr. Hannock that if I wanted evidence of those fines, I should file a Right to Know Request with the county.

Today, October 5, 2017, I received the County's denial for my request. Upon receipt of this denial, I engaged an attorney who informed me that I should never have had to file an RTK request for records that are already open to the public.

The nature of my complaint is four-fold:

- Though Mr. Hannock would not allow himself to get "boxed in" to making a determination on whether John Pearson broke any campaign finance laws, my attorney has informed me that all candidates appearing on the ballot are responsible for filing campaign finance reports, especially when expenditures are over \$250. I am attaching photographic evidence of Mr. Pearson's 2015 election cycle expenditures exceeding \$250 in the form of a Upper Providence township-wide mail piece, the \$100 table rental at the 2015 Upper Providence Community Day, the custom printed balloons and chip clips he gave away on Community Day, and his yard signs, which were displayed all over the township. I regrettably do not have pictures of the five large vinyl yard signs he had placed in each voting district. It is my contention that Mr. Pearson must be fined for his failure to file at least three campaign finance reports in 2015.
- It is unclear as to how the County manages compliance with Campaign Finance laws. In 2011 I was fined for filing a late campaign finance report and my running mate was fined by Voter Services earlier this year. These fines are calculated on a per diem basis, so I am at a loss as to why there is apparently no record keeping system available to answer my rather straightforward request for proof that John Pearson was fined, and that he had, in fact, paid those fines. I would like an explanation as to how Voter Services can

determine that a fine is due, yet cannot provide records after the fact if a fine was levied or in fact, paid.

- Finally, I am deeply disturbed by Mr. Hannock's insistence that I file my request for this information as a Right to Know request, when my attorney has indicated that this was completely unnecessary as these records are already open to the public. Furthermore, if it is the County's position that no such records are kept, then why did Mr. Hannock, direct me repeatedly towards filing an RTK request to ask for records he, as the listed campaign finance specialist in your office, should be in charge of managing?
- As you are aware, John Pearson is once again a candidate for Upper Providence Township Supervisor. On September 19, 2017, Jim Saring from Montgomery County Republican Committee contacted you about Pearson's 2015 campaign finance reporting issue, and also inquired about primary election handouts and door hangers, providing you with copies of same, none of which contain the required "Paid for by" verbiage on them. To my knowledge, apart from the acknowledgement that a committee for Pearson, Higgins and Calci exists for the 2017 election cycle, Mr. Saring's other questions regarding these issues have been thus far ignored by your office.

I am attaching to this complaint the email chain with Joshua Hannock, my original right to know request, my 30 day letter from the County's open records officer, my denial letter from the county, and the photographic evidence of John Pearson's campaign expenditures exceeding \$250 in 2015. I am also attaching a pdf of the email from Jim Saring and the copies of the Upper Providence Democrat candidates election day handouts and door hangers. You should also be aware that I have also filed an appeal with the PA Open Records Office.

I find it very difficult to believe that the signing of a waiver of expense reporting simply absolves a candidate of reporting requirements when he has clearly spent more than \$250. The stonewalling and lack of response from this office, as evidenced by the attached is completely unacceptable and represents a glaring unequal treatment under the law between Upper Providence Republicans and Upper Providence Democrats.

I request a response with proposed resolutions to the aforementioned issues within one week of the date of this letter, or my attorney will contact the Election Board for resolutions to these disturbing issues.

Sincerely  
Lisa Mossie