15-679
MIT

Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J.St. Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814-0886

July 29, 2015

To the Board of Directors,

I am paying this penalty in protest, as I feel this amount is outrageous and is in excess of the legal finance laws established in the State of California.

Yes there are rules established by this board, not made or enforceable by the people of this state, that I feel are excessive for fines in not meeting filing deadlines.

I also feel there is a difference of a 10 or 20 % Fine for missing a deadline however a 500% fine is way over the limit. And paying the fine to the State twice is way out of line. Paying over 100% once to the Secretary of State is bad enough, but then paying the same amount to the State's General Fund as well, is way over the limit.

I respect your duties and responsibilities, but I also feel this board has been granted excessive powers to make elections laws outside the scope of their responsibilities and only approved by your body. This process is granted to this body by the Governor, not the people that live in this state. We the people have continued to lose control of our rights as citizens of this State. We have allowed the government to make over 1000 new laws annually which gives the state legislature a purpose to be in business.

The local government does not control its own business as the state laws set forth; require us to follow the Municipal Government rules as a Municipality. But if you are a Charter City the rules change for those Cities who took the steps to bypass State government control.

All I am asking for, are for the procedures to support the individuals that take the pledge to support their city's needs, deserves as an elected official, to get due respect as the funding of said officials, is very limited to do a job that is really a full time job, as we are required to be on call 24 hours a day.

To charge a $50 annual fee to supposedly manage the financial structure for said candidate's completion of a form 410 or 460 is a sad state of affairs, when actually the Secretary of State does not do anything to manage the process of having a bank account. The elected or Candidates always have to file the Form 460 twice a year and summit them through their City Clerk as long as they have a bank account and then if no account, they then file a form 470, which is not a process done by the State.

Thank you for allowing me to file this protest.

Respectfully,

Ben Johnson
Councilmember
City of Pittsburg
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