

Date 1/24/2010

From: Ben Johnson - 447 Wells Ave N, Renton WA 98957

To: Phil Stutzman, Washington State PDC

RE: City of Renton campaigning via mailer enclosed in utility bill.

This is a followup to a previous letter sent on 1/12/2010.

While my previous complaint focused on errors of fact that are significant, I would like to elaborate on the most glaring problem of Renton's mailer.

Renton Proposition 1 deals exclusively with Renton annexing to the King County Rural Library District (KCLS) . The text of the ballot measure reads "Should the City of Renton be annexed to and be a part of the King County Library District?"

It is my opinion that the City of Renton desires to annex to KCLS.

A while back, the City of Renton came up with a Library Master Plan that would greatly increase the services, capability and costs of the Renton Library System. The plan included just about everything, and had the costs to match. This is pertinent to the issue, I'm not just rambling.

The beginning of the mailer compares and contrasts the current Renton Library System, with the current King County Library System. While I maintain my complaints about those facts, this is the direction of that an unbiased mailer should ,and does, take.

Towards the end of the mailer, it begins to discuss the costs of the two systems - but instead of discussing the costs between the current Renton Library System and KCLS, it compares a hypothetical case of the hypothetical costs of an expanded Renton Library System following the Renton Library Master Plan and KCLS.

Let me remind the astute reader (flattery will get you everywhere) that the ballot measure has noting to do with the Renton Library Master Plan.

By comparing the services of the current situation, and the costs of a hypothetical situation, it makes KCLS look like a bargain. I've been told that this is a classical straw-man argument.

I strongly feel that by cherry picking situations where KCLS looks good and not holding to one set of circumstance, and even using circumstances that don't pertain to Proposition 1, the City of Renton has used taxpayer funds for campaign purposes.

I understand that the PDC had received from Renton an opinion as to weather the mailer was campaign material and indicated to Renton that it wasn't. I would in now

way consider the PDC at fault for that opinion, as the PDC rightfully would assume that the mailer presented to it had its facts in order.

Specifically, the City of Renton did not inform the PDC that Proposition 1 dealt exclusively with annexing to King County and had nothing to do with following the Renton Library Master Plan.

By reading the mailer as submitted, the PDC would naturally assume that Proposition 1 was a choice between annexing to KCLS or following the Master Plan. This is not the case.

Thank you for your time. I ask for haste in a determination as time is of the essence. The election is coming in a few short days.

-Ben