

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Whatcom GOP Responds to Partisan Attack by Local Democrats

The Whatcom County Republican Party was blindsided by an article in the July 31st edition of the Lynden Tribune regarding a Public Disclosure Commission complaint filed against the organization by the Whatcom County Democratic Central Committee.

“I was astounded to open the paper and see the article,” says Kathy Kershner, Whatcom GOP chair and candidate for the Whatcom County Council District 4 seat. “It was the first I had heard of a complaint. Not only had we not received a copy, we weren’t given the courtesy of responding to the allegations before they were printed. It was journalistically irresponsible for the Tribune to report on these allegations in the issue the week before the Primary without an opportunity for the Whatcom GOP to respond. The Tribune’s next issue won’t be published until Wednesday, Aug. 7 – a day after the Primary election.”

In addition to alleging financial misdeeds by the Whatcom GOP, Democrats attacked Kershner personally, claiming she was improperly reimbursed for expenditures and attempting to tie this alleged wrongdoing to her current run for County office.

“I take great offense to this attack on my personal integrity,” says Kershner. “Those expenses were legitimate and reimbursed according to PDC rules. The attempt by the Democrats to undermine voter confidence in my campaign for County Council with these allegations is despicable.”

Democrats allege that the Whatcom GOP reported auction donations on two different dates. However, the Whatcom GOP held its annual Lincoln Day fundraising dinner on April 6 and closed an online auction on April 30, easily explaining the reporting dates as accurate.

“We believe these allegations ultimately stem from Democrat’s irritation of our record-breaking fundraising efforts to date this year and the momentum our members have toward electing more commonsense leaders,” Kershner says.

“We take our responsibility very seriously to report Whatcom GOP finances accurately and according to the numerous PDC rules and requirements,” Kershner says. “I have complete confidence in my leadership team. Once we receive a formal copy of the complaint from the PDC, we will review it and look forward to demonstrating that we have complied with all PDC requirements.”