



Ben Kalasho

October 29 at 1:16 PM · 🌐

My opponents have directed the city attorney to sue me for sending out newsletters from my city email! Basically restricting my communications with my constituents. 🙄

Look at this text between The San Diego Union-Tribune reporter Karen Beth Pearlman and myself.

See the media doesn't care about real issues, they want the tabloid Headlines. How can someone drain the swamp when it's this murky?

#DirtyPolitics

1:10 ↩



Karen >

Today 12:45 PM

Hi Ben, the city council will be sending a letter to the FPCC, the district attorney, the Attorney General's office about your misuse of City resources as part of your campaign. The city is also suing you for this. I am inviting you to weigh in. Thank you so much for considering.

Hey pal

How do you feel about Bill Wells and Gary Kendrick receiving \$20k in contributions from Waste Management while they'll be voting to renew their contract?

👍 🗨️ 🗑️ 32

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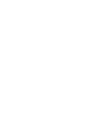


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Joseph R Fountain I was at LAFitness and an EDCo truck was picking up trash with a two man team. The spotter let the driver almost back into me while they were blocking a traffic lane in a parking lot. I called to report my concern and no one ever called me back. Not th... See More

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John Quinones So, it's okay to send out an email from your city account with a link to your campaign page, to city residents, during your campaign?

You honestly don't see the conflict of interest in that? If you can't see the issue with that, then your ability to di... See More

Like Reply 1d

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Ben Kalasho There is zero issue with that, none.

Like Reply 1d Edited



John Quinones Ben, So you'd be ok with other council members sending out campaign content from their city accounts?

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho Are you really asking me or trying to score points? Because I really believe in my argument and could share it with you if you're being honest

Like Reply 1d



John Quinones im being completely honest. 🙄

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho Ok, So the case City of San Jose v. Superior Court in 2017 made public request for records of public officials open to everyone.

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho Not only for public emails but private emails, texts, social media...etc

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho The problem is that private emails or texts or social media messages can easily be deleted and the general public could be lied to about records keeping. All except gov emails. Why? bc Gov emails can be accessed by the IT dept and can retrieve any sent/inbox/trash...etc

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho Ok so just keep that thought for a moment...

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho Now imagine you're elected already, for years and you've helped hundreds of people thru email communications, thru newsletters perhaps or general city info. We live in the electronic age, gone are the days of coffee clutches and meet and greets. Everything is thru a digital medium. And what better and transparent way than with an official email that since 2017 can be purely open.

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho As a side note... The city provides elected officials with business cards. (with city seal & everything official) so you see. It makes no difference. I could easily walk up to you and say: "John, here is my card let me know how I could help you" or I could say "John, here is my card, hope you vote for me".

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho So the argument is, the most transparent and honest way would be to use a city email due to City of San Jose v. Superior Court case with all it's provisions.

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho Questions so far John Quinones ?

Like Reply 1d Edited



John Quinones How do you justify sending emails to citizens whom you've never helped, communicated with, or spoke to? Basically using this database for your own personal gain. That has nothing to do with open Request for records. ... See More

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho The database is mine. It isn't from the city.

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho ... a better question to ask me is, how do I justify using business cards that a city gave me to ask for votes. B/c that's the only real monetary expense I didn't pay for.

Like Reply 1d Edited



John Quinones Ben, and does that court case you cited have anything to do with the city of El Cajon's laws?

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho That's not how it works, when a case like the one I cited goes to the Supreme Court is becomes CASE LAW. meaning the law as established by the outcome of former cases.

Like Reply 1d



John Quinones also, what are the rules on the books now for the CA Fair Political practices commission?

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho Good question, So the FPCC hasn't updated their rules on this yet since that case was just last year. However, even the old rules on that are simply Ethical Recommendations and not a thing to be fined for. But you see the nuance here?

Like Reply 1d



John Quinones So, it falls under existing laws?

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho All a city can do is apply for a TRO (temporary restraining order) forbidding the practice. And such direction is politically motivated like in this case. Clearly, the council and I don't get along. And they directed the city attorney to act. A 3 council vote can do anything. Right or wrong.

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho No, it doesn't fall under existing law. Because of changes of that new case law. Simply, the "old laws" as you say don't make sense anymore. It happens all the time, things get over turned and modified. It's like if tomorrow cars flew, and the police still wanted to enforce the 65 mph speed limit. We'd all be scratching our heads going, wait a minute, we need to go 100 mph to have a safer take-off..... for example

Like Reply 1d Edited



Ben Kalasho This is my argument, in short. But I genuinely feel that it's a fight worth having and a case worth pursuing. It will actually regulate a way more transparent outcome in political discourse.

Like Reply 1d



John Quinones it sounds like a stretch to associate a case regarding public request for records to, use of city resources for personal campaign. We'll see

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho but not just campaigning, that's like a nominal thing. I'm talking about monthly newsletters, weekly updates...etc... The idea that somehow campaigning is the line in the sand that shouldn't be crossed is missing the whole point. My mission, my goal is to be accessible with my constituents. To be a public servant in the modern era. I don't care about the campaigning part. It's a piece of a bigger puzzle.

Like Reply 1d Edited



Ben Kalasho Also, what "resource" are we talking about? It's literally just an email address. It costs \$10 a month.

Like Reply 1d



Daniel BetBadal Ben Kalasho - I was just going to mention that eblasts cost in terms of cents.

The database of email address. Since you cultivated it, then sending out an eblast to your constituents for your campaign to continue to serve them sounds perfectly reasonable.

Like Reply 1d Edited



Ben Kalasho I also paid for the E-blasts by the way. 🙄

Like Reply 1d



Daniel BetBadal Ben Kalasho - can you counter sue? 😊

Like Reply 1d



Ben Kalasho Daniel BetBadal I could. 🙄

Like Reply 1d



Ryan Orellana There are no swamps in Southern California 😊 President Trump is referring to Washington DC, which geographically is correct

Like Reply 1d Edited



Joseph R Fountain This is some good dialogue. Ben, I like how you are responding.

Like Reply 1d



Write a comment...

