



March 16, 2018

Executive Board of the King County Democrats
P.O. Box 1832
Renton, WA 98057

Members of the Executive Board:

After attending the 37th LD's March meeting, where a resolution regarding the crisis with the King County Democrats leadership was considered, I feel compelled to join my voice with those requesting that the board swiftly resolve the questions surrounding Chair Bailey Stober's actions.

Over the past year, I collaborated with the Executive Director and the Chair to raise funds to support the important Burien City Council races, and to stand up to hate. We had strategy meetings about how we could support People of Color candidates and deepen engagement of People of Color. I looked forward to further collaboration this year to make a difference in critical races to retain our legislative majorities. On December 28th, I received an email from the Chair and Executive Director Natalia Koss Vallejo requesting a donation of \$7,500 from my campaign surplus funds to the King County Dems, and I had planned to make my contribution this February.

However, a process that allows the accused to continue to hold his position while under investigation does not appear fair, especially to the individuals raising serious concerns. A gracious and values based response to such serious concerns raised would have been to simply have the chair recuse himself from the current investigation and transfer his role and responsibilities to someone else until the investigation was completed.

Instead choosing to escalate the situation and refusing to provide responses to the financial issues raised causes me to lose confidence in the current leadership to protect the mission, democratic

values and financial health of the King County Democratic organization. I am left with many questions. Why under any circumstances would the Chair be able to fire an Executive Director without any consultation or engagement of the rest of the Executive Board? Why have the issues raised by the treasurer in November, and the issues raised in February by the finance committee received no written response from the Chair? In my review of the list of expenses, I see that some could be justified, but proper accounting and transparent communication with your financial officers is important.

Consequently, I will be withholding all contributions to the King County Democrats until this matter is resolved.

The King County Executive Board has the authority to make this right , and I ask you to act. From my reading, the King County Executive Board has a few options to explore and implement. At the Board meeting on March 19th the body could vote to determine and enunciate a clear process to resolve this matter -- swiftly and thoroughly and transparently. In the meantime, the Executive Board should also vote to suspend the current chair, if he does not choose to step down voluntarily, pending the outcome of that process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Saldaña". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Saldaña

