

# Mary Souza's Newsletter

October 21, 2013

## Three levels of Intimidation

Dear Newsletter Readers,

We're down to the nitty gritty, and I do mean gritty. It is outrageous for a citizen, any citizen, who has been questioning the actions of our local government to be the subject of intimidation efforts by city officials. Is it good governance to use the color of law for political gain? Well that's exactly what appears to be happening in CdA right now. Currently, the intimidation is targeted at me, but next time it might be you or someone else you know. The message from the control group is clear: "Play by our rules and don't question us, or we might come after you."

I'm here to tell you that I'm NOT backing down! For years I have stood up and represented the voice of the people. I have taken responsibility for everything I have said and written. But some in power have been angered by the truth of my words, and so, unable to attack the message, they attack the messenger.

This is not how government should treat private citizens. The people of CdA deserve far better. We deserve a government that respects citizens and allows open dialog on diverse issues, agree or disagree. One that realizes government's job is to *serve the people* not to control them. And one that will do away with government for only the elite few, and provide good, honest, respectful, fair government for everyone in our beautiful city.

(Please visit my Truth page on my web site at: [MaryforMayorCdA.com](http://MaryforMayorCdA.com), to read the real story on all the distortions thrown out by the Press.)

The second level of grit is the preposterous article by the Press last Thursday, targeting one of my campaign donors. By law, candidates are required to report the entity giving the donation, the address, the date and the amount of the donation. I did all of that, properly and on time. Then the Press came after me and would not stop. Last Monday I returned the donation because it was obvious the Press wanted to use it as a hammer to damage my campaign, even though I had done everything correctly. The donor then replaced his original contribution with a new check from his personal account, which lists his name and info so there would be no possible question about its source.

In spite of all this, the City Legal Dept. has now joined in the attack. They are conducting an "investigation", even though the original donation was returned and the donor has made his identity known to both the Press Editor and the City Attorney. The city attorney told me I have followed all the laws and have provided them with all the information they requested, but the "investigation" will continue until after the election. Not a surprise is it? The message from the control group is clear: "We'll publicly intimidate your donors so no one will give money to your campaign."

The third attempt at intimidation came in the form of a letter from local leaders of the Democrat party. They sent it out to who-knows-how-many people in town, and it's one of the worst, most divisive campaign letters I've ever seen. It blasts the opposite party by name, many times, using all kinds of negative labels like "extremists", "hard-core partisans", and then it claims that "partisan election tactics should not invade non-partisan elections". **This is absurd because their whole letter is partisan. They give no examples of partisan words or actions by any candidates in this election. Not one.**

The letter also didn't discuss even one local issue. Nothing of real importance to the people of CdA was included in their mailing, only a fully partisan rant about not having partisanship in this election (which doesn't have any but they seem to want people to think it does so they can stir up their base.)

**This is one of the most non-partisan elections ever held in CdA because it is about taking the control of our city away from the small group of mixed partisan people who have held it for many, many years, and returning it to the citizens of our community.** And it scares the power brokers. They will do anything to hold onto the reins of control. Their message to all Democrats is: "If you want to be in good standing with us, don't vote for anyone except those endorsed by the status quo power elites."

So, dear Readers, here's my question for you: Will you STAND STRONG with me? I've been speaking up for you for 12 years, and I'm asking you to stand with me now, for these last three weeks. We are so close to victory. Here's what you can do:

1. Push back against the lies and distortions by writing positive, supportive Letters to the Editor.
2. Contribute to my campaign to prove you are not afraid of their tactics. (address below)
3. Vote your conscience and refuse to be bullied into following any party line in this non-partisan election.

If you want City Council suggestions, I'm voting for Chris Fillios, Sharon Hebert and Noel Adam. They are all people I know and am sure are honest, independent thinkers who believe in good government for ALL the people of CdA. Please look closely at the other Council candidates before you cast your ballot, because we know Woody voted to deny us a public advisory vote on McEuen, Amy Evans was against it as well and is endorsed by our current Mayor Sandi Bloem, and Kiki Miller works for/with the Hagadone Corp and is strongly endorsed by Deanna Goodlander. These folks, along with my opponent, represent "more of the same" for our city.

You can also help by talking with your friends and neighbors. Please encourage them to vote, and to do so as soon as possible. The weather is great and it only takes a few minutes- the County Elections Dept. is open for voting right now, every work day, Monday - Friday from 8am-5pm at 1808 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street / phone: 446-1030.

We CAN do this, people... if we do it together. Please spread the word.

Have a great week!

## Mary

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*Mary Souza lives in Coeur d'Alene and is running for Mayor. The election is Nov. 5, 2013. She is a former critical care nurse and nursing instructor and has owned a local business for the past 29 years. She was a CdA Planning and Zoning Commissioner for 6 years and Chair of the city's first Open Space Committee. Mary wrote a political column for the CdA Press for two years and, more recently, has sent a free, weekly email newsletter to offer information and opinion on local issues. To donate to her campaign, volunteer to help or sign up for her free email newsletter, please visit [www.maryformayorcda.com](http://www.maryformayorcda.com)*

To donate: P.O. Box 506, CdA, ID 83816

To volunteer: email [maryformayorcda@gmail.com](mailto:maryformayorcda@gmail.com) or call [208-651-2495](tel:208-651-2495)