

From: [Gloria Bram](#)
To: agencypro2008@fec.gov
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Stephen Gura, Deputy Associate General Counsel, or Mark Shonkwiler, Assistant General Counsel,

As a treasurer of a county party, and an accountant for the past 40 years, I thought I was capable of handling the reporting and record keeping requirements for a Congressional candidate. I was wrong and my efforts to learn were severely hampered by the east/west time differential and the unwieldy reporting program.

There is no training or assistance located on the west coast. Due to a disability, I am limited to working only 3-4 hours in the afternoon. Training over the phone, I was frequently stopped in the middle by the FEC employee's requirement to quit work at 5 pm, 2 pm my time. I was also hampered at times by the employee's poor communication skills. They knew the program, but not how to best communicate in other areas.

The sample formats for transmitting data were poorly explained, the program was extremely convoluted and not user friendly. It shouldn't require a Master's degree in both Accounting and Systems Analysis to use it. And the experience required to use the program severely hampers the ability of new candidates with limited funds to run for public office.

These are the specific actions that would have allowed

me to do accurate and timely filings:

- 1. Having an online course for campaign treasurers, broken into sections for each type of transaction and available at will.**
- 2. Having a small group of FEC employees located in each time zone who are available to answer questions. They can be located in existing Federal offices or by renting storefront offices from January 1st until October 31st.**
- 3. Have an experienced campaign treasurer (or get a group of them to make their own suggestions) work with your programmers to simplify, streamline and make your reporting program more user friendly.**

Thank you,

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