

58

Justice Dept. investigation of Rep. Mike Nearman's campaign finances nears conclusion

Gordon Friedman , Statesman Journal 8:39 p.m. PDT November 3, 2016



(Photo: Statesman Journal file)

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Rep. Mike Nearman is the subject of an active investigation into his campaign operations by the Oregon Department of Justice and a decision on the matter is imminent, a spokeswoman said Wednesday.

Nearman, a Republican lawmaker and candidate who represents portions of Benton, Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, came under investigation in 2014 for alleged campaign finance law violations.

The allegations were submitted to the Secretary of State's Office at that time by Sen. Brian Boquist, a Republican whose district overlaps with Nearman's. Boquist claimed in a 114-page complaint that Nearman and political groups supporting Nearman committed civil and criminal violations of campaign laws.

The Secretary of State's Office originally examined the allegations and found them to be minor, but passed them along to the DOJ. Initially, the DOJ said it had not found investigate. Only now is DOJ confirming

No wrongdoing found in investigation of Rep. Mike Nearman

Gordon Friedman, Statesman Journal 6:36 p.m. PDT November 4, 2016

The case was accidentally left open, officials confirmed.



(Photo: Statesman Journal file)

65 | 4
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The Oregon Department of Justice closed its investigation of Rep. Mike Nearman, R-Independence, on Friday, officials confirmed. No wrongdoing was found.

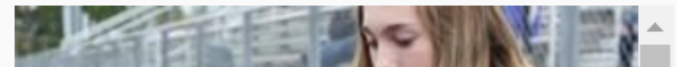
Justice spokeswoman Ellen Klem said in an email that the agency determined the investigation should have been closed previously, and was therefore closed Friday.

Another justice spokeswoman, Kristina Edmunson, had confirmed to the Statesman Journal multiple times that the investigation was active, with results imminent.

Edmunson had said results of the investigation would not be available before Tuesday's election. Klem apologized for that statement.

"This is an example of what I think is political behavior by the Justice Department,"

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“Changes state/”subdivision”
(undefined) laws regarding
English/other-language use
and requirements;
exceptions; authorizes
lawsuits”