

## Campaign office spat erupts

By **MICHAEL BECKER**, Journal-Advocate Editor  
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As the race for the 4th District seat enters the home stretch, there's a new twist.

Democrat Stan Matsunaka has written to Republican Marilyn Musgrave's campaign office, asking her to disclose lease information for her congressional office and her campaign office in Loveland, both of which are located in the same building. Matsunaka claims they are one and the same, as have two residents of the district who lodged a series of complaints.

Musgrave's campaign refutes the allegations, stating there are separate offices in Loveland, and separate leases for those offices.

Matsunaka's Oct. 27 request follows letters dated Oct. 26 sent to the U.S. Attorney John Suthers' office in Denver, Larimer County district attorney Stuart VanMeveren, and Rep. Joel Hefley, chairman of the House Ethics Committee. Those letters allege Musgrave's congressional and campaign offices are in fact one and the same - which, if true, would be a violation of House ethics rules and federal campaign laws.

The issue first emerged in August, when Musgrave sent out a letter endorsing district attorney candidate Bob Watson of Sterling before the Republican primary. The letter was designed to resemble Musgrave's congressional stationary, but it listed the suite number for her Loveland campaign office - 777 - rather than her Loveland congressional office, which is in suite 204.

Matsunaka's letter to Musgrave states that visits to the office building at 5401 Stone Creek Circle in Loveland indicate there is no suite 777 in that building.

### **Residents complain**

"In fact, when a potential volunteer for your campaign goes to your congressional office to inquire as to the location of suite 777, your staff directs them back outside, around to an unmarked side door, up a flight of stairs to an unmarked door which is your campaign headquarters," Matsunaka writes in his letter.

"The front door to your campaign office is also the back door to your congressional office," he asserts.

In the letters to Suthers, VanMeveren and Rep. Hefley, two 4th District residents point out that "contributions may not be solicited from a congressional office, nor may any other type of campaign activity be conducted from a congressional office."

The letters are signed by Robert Stack and Lesley Manning-Borchers, both of Greeley. According to the secretary of state's Web site, Stack contributed in 2002 to Democrat Pam Shaddock's campaign for the state House seat in District 48.

Stack said Thursday morning he did not want to comment on the letters, as he was waiting to hear back from all three officials.

A spokeswoman in VanMeveren's office said Thursday that the DA decided there wasn't enough information in the letter to proceed with an investigation.

The spokeswoman said the DA intended to ask for more information, but Stack and Manning-Borchers failed to put a return address or contact number in their letter to him.

Suthers' office confirmed they received the letter, but declined to comment further. Rep. Hefley's office had no comment on the matter.

For his part, Matsunaka wants Musgrave to publicly produce the leases for her Loveland congressional office in suite 204, and her campaign office in suite 777.

"Unfortunately, you cannot use congressional resources for campaign activity nor can you use campaign resources to pay for ... congressional office space," Matsunaka wrote in his letter. "Above all, you can neither solicit nor accept political contributions in a congressional office.

"This office belongs to the people, it is not your personal property to convert to whatever purpose you choose," he stated.

### **Allegations 'categorically untrue'**

Guy Short, Musgrave's campaign manager, called the allegations "categorically untrue." He said the congressional and campaign offices are in different locations, with separate leases and phone lines.

He said there are no signs for the campaign office in the building, at the request of the owners.

"According to our lease, they wouldn't let us put signage on the building," he said.

Short added there are two separate entrances, with the campaign office being accessed by a door to the side of the building.

A floor plan of the building indicates there is no suite 777 in the building, and several people who have visited Musgrave's Loveland campaign office say they were directed to a fire door, with an alarm, as the entrance to that office.

Suite 204 consists of several offices connected by a hallway. The floor plan also shows that Musgrave's campaign office can only be accessed from the fire door, or from the main door in her congressional office and down the hallway.

Ceri Anderson, managing broker for Group Real Estate, which owns the building, confirmed that Musgrave has separate leases for the congressional and campaign offices, and that her company did not allow Musgrave's campaign to put any signage in the building.

"It was something that was not congruent with the look of our building," she said.

Anderson also confirmed that Musgrave's campaign office is using a fire door with an alarm on it as the main entrance to that office, and that the only other access to the campaign office is through her congressional office's main entrance. The congressional and campaign offices are separated by a door, she said.

According to Anderson, Musgrave's office made arrangements with the post office to have suite 777 recognized as the address for her campaign office, as there is no such suite in the building.