

C A M P A I G N F O R
ACCOUNTABILITY

April 8, 2019

By Fax: (412) 350-3311

The Honorable Stephen A. Zappala, Jr.
Allegheny County District Attorney
Room 303 Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

By First Class Mail:

The Honorable John P. DeFazio
Chair
Allegheny County Board of Elections
Allegheny County Office Building
542 Forbes Avenue, Suite 604
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

By Email: David.voye@alleghenycounty.us

David Voye
Director
Allegheny County Board of Elections
Allegheny County Office Building
542 Forbes Avenue, Suite 604
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Re: **Request for Investigation of Robert J. Kania, Jr., Gary Britcher, Kania Enterprises, Inc. and Americans Against Socialism for serious violations of the Commonwealth's Campaign Finance Reporting Law**

Dear District Attorney Zappala, Chair DeFazio and Director Voye:

Campaign for Accountability ("CfA"), a non-profit, non-partisan organization, respectfully requests that the Allegheny County Board of Elections and the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office investigate Robert J. Kania, Jr., Gary Britcher, Kania Enterprises, Inc. and Americans Against Socialism for multiple serious violations of the Commonwealth's Campaign Finance Reporting Law.

Background

On November 5, 2018, Pittsburgh radio station WESA (90.5 FM) reported that a political committee named Americans Against Socialism was waging a write-in campaign using a website, text messages, and yard signs to urge voters to write-in Dom Costa on election day to represent the 21st District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.¹ WESA reported that there was no political committee named Americans Against Socialism registered with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.² WESA also reported that the website for Americans Against Socialism had been registered in mid-October 2018 by Kania Enterprises, Inc.³ and that a PayPal page soliciting contributions to Americans Against Socialism⁴ directed contributors to make their contributions to rkania@kaniaenterprisesgroup.com. Robert J. Kania, Jr. is member of the board of directors of the Port Authority of Allegheny County⁵ and the president of Kania Enterprises, Inc.

In a December 20, 2018 follow-up,⁶ WESA reported that as of December 18, 2018, Americans Against Socialism still had not registered as a political committee with the Secretary of State and had not filed the required post-election report.⁷ WESA also interviewed Aspinwall Republican Gary Britcher who admitted that he and Robert J. Kania, Jr. had established Americans Against Socialism to oppose the election of Sara Innamorato. According to WESA, “Britcher said Kania had set up the website and text messages. Asked whether Kania would have been the person to file campaign-finance reports, Britcher said, ‘Yeah, I guess.’”⁸

Legal Violations

It appears self-evident that Robert J. Kania, Jr., Gary Britcher, Kania Enterprises, Inc. and Americans Against Socialism committed multiple serious violations of the Commonwealth’s Campaign Finance Reporting Law. The law defines the term “political committee” broadly to include “any committee, club, association or other group of persons which receives contributions or makes expenditures.”⁹ Any political committee that receives \$250 or more in contributions must register with the Secretary of the Commonwealth within twenty days of receiving that amount.¹⁰ Each political committee must have a treasurer and a bank account and that information must be reported to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.¹¹

¹ See Ex. A (Chris Potter, *In Closing Hours, Innamorato Faces Opposition – And Reports A Threat*, WESA (90.5 FM), Nov.5, 2018), available at <https://www.wesa.fm/post/closing-hours-innamorato-faces-opposition-and-reports-threat>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*; see also Ex. B (Registration lookup for Americans Against Socialism).

⁴ See Ex. C (Americans Against Socialism PayPal Donation Webpage).

⁵ See <http://www.portauthority.org/paac/CompanyInfoProjects/BoardofDirectors.aspx>.

⁶ See Ex. D (Lucy Perkins & Chris Potter, *One Month After Midterms, Anti-Innamorato Group Remains a Mystery*, WESA (90.5 FM), Dec. 20, 2018), available at <http://www.wesa.org/post/one-month-after-midterms-anti-innamorato-group-remains-mystery-main-content>.

⁷ 25 P.S. § 3246(e).

⁸ See Ex. D *supra* note 6.

⁹ 25 P.S. § 3241(h).

¹⁰ 25 P.S. § 3244(a).

¹¹ 25 P.S. §§ 3244(b)(2)&(7).

Americans Against Socialism clearly qualifies as a political committee under Pennsylvania law. Gary Britcher described the organization as a group of “private individuals who did not want to see Sara win.”¹² The organization undoubtedly received more than \$250 in monetary or in-kind contributions in order to pay for the creation of its website, the purchase and distribution of its yard signs, and the cost of its text message campaign urging voters to write-in Dom Costa.¹³ Britcher identified Robert J. Kania, Jr. as the treasurer of Americans Against Socialism¹⁴ and the organization’s PayPal account page stated that contributions were to be sent to kania@kaniaenterprisesgroup.com, Kania’s corporate e-mail address.¹⁵ None of this information was ever reported to the Secretary of the Commonwealth in violation of Pennsylvania law.¹⁶

Moreover, Robert J. Kania, Jr. and Americans Against Socialism never reported the organization’s expenditures to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The organization was apparently created in mid-October¹⁷ and was making expenditures at least until the day before the election on November 6, 2018.¹⁸ Accordingly, at the very least, Robert J. Kania, Jr. and Americans Against Socialism should have filed a post-election report with the Secretary of the Commonwealth by December 6, 2018.¹⁹ No such report was filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth as of December 18, 2018.²⁰

Finally, and most importantly, it is clear that both Robert J. Kania, Jr. and Kania Enterprises, Inc. violated the Commonwealth’s prohibition on corporate contributions and expenditures in Pennsylvania elections. It is illegal for any Pennsylvania corporation “to make a contribution or expenditure in connection with the election of any candidate or for any political purpose whatever” or for “any candidate, political committee, or other person to knowingly accept or receive any [such] contribution”²¹ It is also illegal “for any officer of any corporation . . . to consent to any contribution or expenditure by the corporation”²² Robert J. Kania, Jr., as the president of Kania Enterprises, Inc., clearly consented to corporate expenditures to pay for the creation and operation of Americans Against Socialism. The political committee’s website is registered to Kania Enterprises, Inc. and the organization’s PayPal account page stated that contributions were to be sent to Kania’s corporate e-mail address, kania@kaniaenterprisesgroup.com.

These are all serious violations of the Commonwealth’s Campaign Finance Reporting Law. Failing to register a political committee with the Secretary of the Commonwealth is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to one year in prison.²³ Failing to file an account of election expenses is also a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and imprisonment

¹² See Ex. D *supra* note 6.

¹³ *Id.*; see also Ex. A *supra* note 1.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ See Ex. C *supra* note 4.

¹⁶ 25 P.S. § 3244.

¹⁷ See Ex. B *supra* note 3.

¹⁸ See Ex. A *supra* note 1.

¹⁹ 25 P.S. § 3246(e).

²⁰ See Ex. D *supra* note 6.

²¹ 25 P.S. § 3253(a).

²² *Id.*

²³ 25 P.S. § 3550.

Mr. Stephen A. Zappala, Jr, Mr. John P. DeFazio and Mr. David Voye

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for up to two years.²⁴ A corporation that violates the prohibition on corporate contributions and expenditures in Pennsylvania elections may be fined up to \$10,000.²⁵ Any corporate officer who consents to the use of corporate funds to make a prohibited corporate contribution or expenditure is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to two years in prison.²⁶

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Campaign for Accountability respectfully requests that the Allegheny County Board of Elections and the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office initiate an investigation of Robert J. Kania, Jr., Gary Britcher, Kania Enterprises, Inc. and Americans Against Socialism for these multiple violations of the Commonwealth's Campaign Finance Reporting Law and impose sanctions appropriate to punish these individuals and entities for their actions and to deter others from so egregiously flouting the law designed to protect Pennsylvania elections.

Sincerely,



Alice C.C. Huling
Counsel

²⁴ 25 P.S. § 3545.

²⁵ 25 P.S. § 3543.

²⁶ *Id.*

EXHIBIT A

In Closing Hours, Innamorato Faces Opposition – And Reports A Threat

By [CHRIS POTTER \(/PEOPLE/CHRIS-POTTER\)](#) • NOV 5, 2018

🐦 [Tweet \(http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fybng2qmn&text=In%20Closing%20Hours%2C%20Innamora)

[url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fybng2qmn&text=In%20Closing%20Hours%2C%20Innamora](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fybng2qmn&text=In%20Closing%20Hours%2C%20Innamora)



(http://www.wesa.fm/sites/wesa/files/styles/x_large/public/201811/againstsocialismsign.jpg)

One of the signs backing a write-in effort for Dom Costa

With no rival on Tuesday's ballot, Sara Innamorato may have expected a quiet finish to her campaign to represent State House District 21. Instead, she's been targeted by a write-in campaign -- and a death threat.

Innamorato said the campaign received an emailed threat last Saturday – the same day as a mass shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill. She said she reported it to authorities.

As a result of the threat, she said, "I'm not knocking doors on my own, or staying at my house." The timing of the threat added to anxiety in her campaign she said. "I don't know if any of us are OK."

Allegheny County Police Superintendent Coleman McDonough confirmed an investigation was ongoing.

"It appeared to be based on some political differences with the candidate," he said of the threat. Such cases were not always easy to pursue where politicians are involved, he said, because "there is a fine line between First Amendment rights and a threat. But we are treating it as a crime at this time."

McDonough said such cases were not uncommon around the nation. "I don't recall any here in the last couple years," he said. "But things are getting more divisive every day."

Innamorato's troubles began after she recorded a Drinking Partners podcast (<http://epicastnetwork.com/drinking-partners-184-summer-lee-sara-innamorato>) in late September. A member of the Democratic Socialists of America, she beat longtime incumbent Dom Costa in the 21st District, which includes north-of-the-Allegheny-River suburbs as well as city neighborhoods such as Lawrenceville.

During the podcast, she characterized her district as "93 percent white" and as being "white working class, poor folk, who are racist, because it's so much easier for them to look to their side and say, 'I'm going to blame that person.'"

A clip of Innamorato's remarks became the subject of TV news (<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2018/10/26/pennsylvania-democratic-socialist-candidate-constituents-racist/>) reports (<https://www.wpxi.com/news/top-stories/political-candidate-innamorato-s-remarks-about-racist-constituents-spur-backlash/860553596>), but Innamorato said the quote was taken out of context. "It's not how I feel. From the beginning of this campaign, I've talked about my experience growing up in that district, and about the kindness of neighborhood who helped me through the instability of growing up."

Her point, she said, was that white working class voters “are being exploited from all sides,” by economic and political elites who play on racial tensions to distract them from issues of economic injustice. “Racism exists everywhere,” she said. “My job is to represent everyone, and to not shy away from tough conversations.”

Innamorato suspects the threat surfaced after the story percolated into right-wing online media. McDonough said he couldn’t confirm that.

The clip reportedly became the basis for a campaign to write in the name of Dom Costa, who Innamorato beat in the May primary, on the Nov. 6 ballot. Costa told KDKA-TV that he was not part of the effort, which has been waged on a number of platforms, including phone texts and signs. Costa did not respond to a voicemail message Monday afternoon.

At least some of those messages appear to be sponsored by “Americans Against Socialism.” It’s unclear where the group receives its funding. There is no political action committee registered in that name in Pennsylvania, and it’s unclear that there is a connection between the effort and a federal political action committee registered under the same name in New York State.

A webpage carrying that brand and similar messaging (<http://americansagainstsocialism.org>) appears to have been registered in mid-October by Kania Enterprises, a local consulting firm. A PayPal page soliciting donations (https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=tNw4aCjAlHKAQHj02fnGc_uC_vQjqmqYPvBGyp09WLjOp3_UQ3SsRaTJ7UkDKs9RaJTxR) identifies the firm, whose employees have supported Republican candidates (<https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=&cycle=&state=&zip=&employ=Kania+Enterprises&cand=>). But no one at the company responded to calls or emails sent for comment Monday.

Innamorato says she is less worried about the effect of a write-in campaign on her own candidacy, but more concerned that charges of socialism will rebound on other Democrats. Lindsey Williams, who is a DSA member, has been running in a state Senate district that overlays much of Innamorato’s district. Williams’ rival, Jeremy Shaffer, has been labeling her as a socialist (<http://www.wesa.fm/post/north-hills-state-senate-race-features-campaign-drama-sharp-policy-differences>). That race, too, has been shaped by unusual financial activity (<http://www.wesa.fm/post/dark-money-playing-role-north-hills-senate-race-and-contests-statewide>).

As for the "socialist" label, Innamorato shrugs. "America has elements of both capitalism and socialism," she said, citing programs like Medicare in particular. "If you simply say you're against socialism, it means opposing a lot of programs that are very popular."

TAGS: [SARA INNAMORATO \(/TERM/SARA-INNAMORATO\)](#)

[LOCAL STORIES \(/TERM/LOCAL-STORIES\)](#) [DOM COSTA \(/TERM/DOM-COSTA\)](#)

[ELECTION 2018 \(/TERM/ELECTION-2018\)](#)

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[url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fybng2qmn&text=In%20Closing%20Hours%2C%20Innamorato](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fybng2qmn&text=In%20Closing%20Hours%2C%20Innamorato)

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EXHIBIT B

简体中文 English Français Русский Español العربية Portuguese

ICANN WHOIS

americansagainstsocialism.org

Lookup

By submitting any personal data, I agree that the personal data will be processed in accordance with the ICANN [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to abide by the website [Terms of Service](#).

Showing results for: AMERICANSAGAINSTSOCIALISM.ORG

Original Query: americansagainstsocialism.org

Contact Information

Registrant Contact

Name:
Organization: KANIA Enterprises
Mailing Address: , Pennsylvania US
Phone:
Ext:
Fax:
Fax Ext:
Email:

Admin Contact

Name:
Organization:
Mailing Address: ,
Phone:
Ext:
Fax:
Fax Ext:
Email:

Tech Contact

Name:
Organization:
Mailing Address: ,
Phone:
Ext:
Fax:
Fax Ext:
Email:

Registrar

WHOIS Server: whois.godaddy.com
URL: <http://www.whois.godaddy.com>
Registrar: GoDaddy.com, LLC
IANA ID: 146
Abuse Contact Email:
abuse@godaddy.com
Abuse Contact Phone:
+1.4806242505

Status

Domain
Status:clientDeleteProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited>
Domain
Status:clientRenewProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited>
Domain
Status:clientTransferProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>
Domain
Status:clientUpdateProhibited

<https://icann.org/epp#clientUpdateProhibited>

Important Dates

Updated Date: 2018-12-12
Created Date: 2018-10-12
Registry Expiry Date: 2019-10-12

Name Servers

NS63.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
NS64.DOMAINCONTROL.COM

Raw WHOIS Record

Domain Name: AMERICANSAGAINSTSOCIALISM.ORG
Registry Domain ID: D402200000007940024-LROR
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.godaddy.com
Registrar URL: <http://www.whois.godaddy.com>
Updated Date: 2018-12-12T03:47:50Z
Creation Date: 2018-10-12T17:20:28Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2019-10-12T17:20:28Z
Registrar Registration Expiration Date:
Registrar: GoDaddy.com, LLC
Registrar IANA ID: 146
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: abuse@godaddy.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.4806242505
Reseller:
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited>
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited>
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>
Domain Status: clientUpdateProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientUpdateProhibited>
Registrant Organization: KANIA Enterprises
Registrant State/Province: Pennsylvania
Registrant Country: US
Name Server: NS63.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
Name Server: NS64.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
DNSSEC: unsigned
URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form
<https://www.icann.org/wicf/>
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2019-02-27T18:48:43Z <<<

For more information on Whois status codes, please visit <https://icann.org/epp>

Access to Public Interest Registry WHOIS information is provided to assist persons in determining the contents of a domain name registration record in the Public Interest Registry registry database. The data in this record is provided by Public Interest Registry for informational purposes only, and Public Interest Registry does not guarantee its accuracy. This service is intended only for query-based access. You agree that you will use this data only for lawful purposes and that, under no circumstances will you use this data to (a) allow, enable, or otherwise support the transmission by e-mail, telephone, or facsimile of mass unsolicited, commercial advertising or solicitations to entities other than the data recipient's own existing customers; or (b) enable high volume, automated, electronic processes that send queries or data to the systems of Registry Operator, a Registrar, or Afilias except as reasonably necessary to register domain names or modify existing registrations. All rights reserved. Public Interest Registry reserves the right to modify these terms at any time. By submitting this query, you agree to abide by this policy.

The Registrar of Record identified in this output may have an RDDS service that can be queried for additional information on how to contact the Registrant, Admin, or Tech contact of the queried domain name.

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[WHOIS Compliance FAQs](#)

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EXHIBIT C

Donate to
rkania@kaniaenterprisesgroup.com

Purpose: Americans Against Socialism

\$0.00
USD

☐ Make this a monthly donation [?](#)

 Write a note (Optional)

Have a PayPal account? [Log in](#)

Donate with a debit or credit card

United States 

Card number

Expires

Security code

First name

Last name

Billing address

Street address

Apt., ste., bldg. (optional)

City

EXHIBIT D



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 - [Food & Drink](#)
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- [Series & Podcasts](#)
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 - [The Confluence](#)
 - [Criminal Injustice](#)
 - [Dividing Lines](#)
 - [Education Forums](#)
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 - [Keystone Crossroads](#)
 - [Pittsburgh Tech Report](#)
 - [StateImpact PA](#)
 - [Still Working](#)
- [Schedule](#)
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One Month After Midterms, Anti-Innamorato Group Remains A Mystery

By [Lucy Perkins](#) & [Chris Potter](#) • Dec 20, 2018
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• [View Slideshow 1 of 4](#)

One of the signs encouraging voters to write in Dom Costa, paid for by the group Americans Against Socialism.

A week before the Nov. 6 midterm election, Friendship resident Eric Stoller got a text message he wasn't expecting.

"Write in Dom Costa for General Assembly," it read. "Vote Against Socialism! Hear what Socialist Sara thinks of you."

"I was not happy," said Stoller, who along with his wife received the same message multiple times. The couple had voted for Democrat Sara Innamorato in her primary win over incumbent state Rep. Dom Costa in the May primary. Innamorato had been backed by the local chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America for the 21st District, which includes a swath of Pittsburgh's East End and some northern suburbs across the Allegheny River.

“She was the official candidate of the party,” Stoller said.

Stoller also couldn’t figure out who contacted them, or how.

More than a month later, the money behind the last-ditch effort to stop Innamorato remains murky. The one group publicly associated with it, Americans Against Socialism, has not filed paperwork typically required under the state’s election law. And the man who appears to be a key figure behind the group, businessman and Port Authority of Allegheny County board treasurer Robert Kania, declined requests for an interview.

The texts Stoller received echoed political yard signs seen in the district. They too encouraged voters to “Vote against Socialism! Write in: Dom Costa,” and were labeled “paid for by Americans Against Socialism.” A website, americansagainstsocialism.org, made a similar appeal, also linking to an online video which excerpted a podcast in which Innamorato [seemed to disparage the racial attitudes of working-class voters](#). (Innamorato says she was trying to discuss how racial divisions were exploited by economic interests.) The texts Stoller received linked to the same YouTube video.



Robert Kania's portrait outside the Port Authority boardroom.
Credit Lucy Perkins / 90.5 WESA

A Paypal page linked to the site provided the email address rkania@kaniaenterprisesgroup.com, and site registration data available online named the page’s registrant as Kania Enterprises. Kania is listed as the firm’s president on other campaign-finance reports, and is a frequent donor to Republican causes.

WESA approached Kania after a Dec. 7 meeting of the Port Authority board to discuss the group. He declined to speak at the time, later saying in an email that the board is “nonpolitical. We work together as a board to achieve the mission of the Authority, it is not an appropriate place for any board member to discuss their political activities.”

He said he would “consider [WESA’s] request” for an interview, but did not respond to follow-up requests, which included a list of questions about the entity’s actions and finances.

After WESA had taken screen captures of americansagainstsocialism.org, the site was taken down.

Elections officials said that as of Dec. 18, Americans Against Socialism had filed neither registration nor financial disclosure forms with the Department of State.

A group with a similar name was established as a federal “super PAC” in Long Beach, N.Y. in August. But it’s not clear that it has any relationship to the effort in Pittsburgh. The New York entity has not filed financial reports and did not reply to requests for comment.

Even if a group is a federal super PAC, and even if it spends independently of a candidate’s own campaign, Department of State spokeswoman Wanda Murren said state law requires it to follow the same reporting laws as other committees. Those rules oblige groups to register as a political committees within the state if they spend more than \$250. Any group that spent at least that much in the days prior to the election would be required to file a 30-day post-election report due Dec. 6

And under state law, “no committee can operate without a chairperson and a treasurer,” said Republican attorney Ron Hicks. He also added that PACs need a designated bank account. “Those are the requirements to set up a committee ... it’s not something that’s onerous to do.”

Hicks said typically, when a PAC doesn’t register with the state, a complaint is filed with the Secretary of State or the Allegheny County Board of Elections. Those offices can conduct an investigation to assess civil and potential criminal penalties.

“If you don’t file an expense account, ‘any candidate or treasurer of a political committee, who shall fail to file an account of primary or election expenses shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,’” said attorney Cliff Levine, an attorney for state Democrats, reading from Pennsylvania's campaign finance law.

The lack of disclosure makes it hard to track the actions of Americans Against Socialism, or how much money it spent. But campaign professionals say cell phone numbers can be acquired from third-party vendors. And while federal law bars the sending of automated texts, pre-formatted texts can be sent manually with a few clicks.

Gary Britcher, an Aspinwall Republican who told WESA he was involved with the write-in effort, described it as the work of a handful of “private individuals who did not want to see Sara win.”

Some 3,584 write-in ballots were cast in the district — a sizable number — and Costa received slightly fewer than 3,000 of them. That was well short of the nearly 20,000 votes Innamorato received.

Britcher said Costa played no part in the effort, and that the write-in tally was notable, given that “we were running without a candidate. It made things pretty difficult.” (Costa did not respond to a request for comment, but has previously said he was not part of a write-in effort.) Britcher said Kania had set up the website and text messages.

Asked whether Kania would have been the person to file campaign-finance reports, Britcher said, “Yeah, I guess. Why do you ask? We’re not a political organization ... I’m just a resident who thought that Dom Costa would be a better person than Sara Innamorato. We’re not a political action group or any of this other nonsense.”

Britcher said he wasn’t sure whether the group would remain active. “I’m very anxious to go in and find out her plans for the 21st District: How is she going to do the kind of things that Dom Costa used to do? There is a good chance we will follow her very closely.”

Like Kania, Costa serves on the Port Authority board. The two chatted amiably and left the December board meeting together.

Kania was appointed to the board by Gov. Tom Corbett in 2013. Board members serve four-year terms, and while Kania’s term ended in 2017, Gov. Tom Wolf has neither replaced nor reappointed him.

“After being appointed by the previous administration, Mr. Kania has been continuing to serve in an expired term as candidates are evaluated for the full term,” said Wolf’s spokesman JJ Abbott in a statement.

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who appoints most of the other board members, declined comment through a spokeswoman. But Innamorato said the Port Authority itself is the kind of public service that Democratic Socialists support.

“I don’t know anything about the person behind this campaign,” she said. But she said it would be “very ironic that someone who is serving in something that I would consider is a vital public asset — something that is definitely more socialist than capitalist — would be someone who is running against that.”

“When we all run for office, we have to file paperwork,” she said. Not doing so, she said, “to me, it’s not fair. It’s not fair to the people who are doing the work and filing the paperwork, and it’s not fair to the citizens who live in Pennsylvania.”

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