

**From:** [Johnny Teague](#)  
**To:** [CELA](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FEC Complaint - MUR 7724  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 07, 2020 9:59:54 AM

**MUR 7724-Response**  
Church at the Cross &  
Dr. Mark Johnny Teague

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Good morning,

I appreciate the email and the notification of complaints against me and this campaign. I appreciate all concerns and do not take any of them lightly. I have never run for Congress before, so I am learning as I go. I have been diligent to follow all rules and regulations, but I definitely can make mistakes. For any that I do, I appreciate your guidance and will correct accordingly and immediately.

With regard to the complaint, I do pastor Church at the Cross and am the senior pastor. Though I am a candidate in this district, I am first and foremost a pastor in this community. I do not own the Church nor is it my business. I am an employee of the Church, even though that job description would read "senior pastor". I have felt that the Church cannot be put on hold while I run for office, nor should I quit seeking to fulfill the mission of the Church which is to seek and save those who are lost, to care for those who are sick, to counsel those who are hurting, and to meet the needs of those who are hungry and poor. I am active in the community as a pastor helping in the school district as well. It is because of these functions, that many in the Congressional district asked me to run. Unlike some I suppose who can table their employment during an election season, I need my job to pay our bills and to meet our family obligations, beyond this, I must fulfill my job duties while also running for office.

I realize that there is great concern for a pastor to run for office as opposed to a lawyer or an accountant for Shell, a computer programmer for IBM or a auto repair owner in Houston. But the truth is, being a pastor is no different. It just so happens to be my primary vocation. I can't run in secret and I do relate stories from the experience in my devotions to show life lessons to Church members, especially how to handle rejection, how people hurt just like they do, and how people can be gracious but they can also be mean. The life experience is what a pastor uses to illuminate the Scriptures he preaches. But, there is no combining of the two. Please feel free to review my Facebook pages to ensure that I am doing right - Johnny Mark Teague, Johnny Teague for Congress, Church at the Cross, HIS Crystal Memory Company, Living Your Way Out of a Mess. I will say that I do share my devotions on the first three sites. I am a Christian who believes that Christian values are what's needed in the scary times in which we live. Again, I will gladly follow your guidance and do what you feel is right and best.

We have always run television commercials through Fox26 when we have had the Church funds to do so. I do not time those commercials based on a campaign, but based on funds and the fluctuations of Church attendance. In February, we were blessed with a payment from a contractor who had robbed the Church of almost \$80,000. He paid us \$60,000 and our Finance Team chose to use those funds to pay for a new Church van, parking lot repairs, and to run Church advertisements. I did the commercial with their guidance as senior pastor. Please feel free to look on the Church at the Cross Facebook page to see the commercial in question. I have done my best to keep all Church business separate from campaign business.

With this said, if it is wrong to run Church commercials during the period of this campaign, I will gladly cease to do so. If sharing my devotions on the Johnny Teague for Congress Facebook page is wrong, I will stop this. I don't ever put anything on the Church Facebook page purposely that is campaign related. I never want an unfair advantage. I just have to juggle duties and it may appear that one may benefit the other. Please forgive me for this. I am a pastor so I work to grow the Church. I am a rancher, so I work to raise and sell our cows at the best price we can. I am a hay producer, so I constantly run ads to sell our hay. I am a very small business owner of HIS Crystal Memory Company, so I run small Facebook ads to help launch this business. I have written a book, "Living Your Way Out of a Mess", so I run Facebook ads to promote this. And, I am a candidate for Congress and I run Facebook ads to grow my exposure and familiarity with the voters.

Please accept this as my response, as well as the response from my treasurer James Poullard, and our Church trustee Keith Kornfuehrer. If you have any questions, feel free to email me and I will promptly respond. If you have any directives, I will promptly and gladly comply. Thank you for your patience with me!

His and yours,

Dr. Johnny Teague