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Editorial: Bay Area election-chief candidate caught taking opponent's campaign sign. Inexcusable.

Vicki Gordon, one of four running for Contra Costa clerk-recorder, apologized but her explanation doesn't make sense



(Jose Carlos Fajardo/Bay Area News Group)

Vicki Gordon, one of four people vying for Contra Costa clerk-recorder, was caught Wednesday morning taking an opponent's sign from a Pleasant Hill property.



By **MERCURY NEWS & EAST BAY TIMES EDITORIAL BOARDS** |

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Sign thefts unfortunately are common during campaign seasons. But this might be the first accusation leveled at a candidate seeking to run the county elections office.

Vicki Gordon, one of four people vying for Contra Costa clerk-recorder, was caught Wednesday morning taking an opponent's campaign sign from a Pleasant Hill property.

The homeowner confronted Gordon, who apologized repeatedly and left the sign. Gordon says she thought the sign was improperly in the public right of way and she wanted to return it to the opponent before it was confiscated.

Gordon's explanation doesn't make sense. We've looked at a photo of the sign placement. It's hard to imagine anyone mistaking the location as being in the public right of way.

Police were still investigating Friday morning but, because the sign was left behind, charges aren't likely. Nevertheless, this was a horrible transgression, especially for a candidate seeking to run the county's election system.

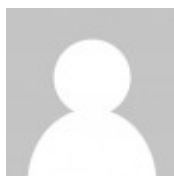
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