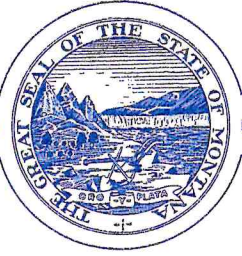


COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

CHRIS J. GALLUS
COMMISSIONER
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PO BOX 202401
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2401
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August 15, 2023

Charles Jeffrey Peterson Jr.
1322 RD 261
Glendive, MT 59330

Subject: Complaints received August 10, 2023; Peterson Jr. v. Glendive Unified Schools, via Rhett Coon, Facilities Director, COPP-2023-CFP-012 and Glendive Unified Schools via Stephen Schreibeis, Superintendent, COPP-2023-CFP-013

Charles,

This letter acknowledges the receipt of your formal complaints, received by this Office via U.S. Mail on August 10, 2023. Each signed and certified complaint alleges violation of Montana election law under Title 13, Chapters 35 and 37 of the Montana Code Annotated, and therefore falls under my jurisdiction as Commissioner of Political Practices. Each complaint also appears to conform to the basic requirements of 44.11.106 ARM. Consequently, I will accept each complaint as filed. Because each alleges violation of election law under Title 13, Chapters 35 and 37, over which I maintain appropriate jurisdiction, I am accepting each as a Campaign Finance and Practices (CFP) Complaint, despite their being filed on Ethics complaint forms.

Pursuant to the established process, a letter and copy of the complaint is being sent to the respondents listed above, requesting that they provide a written response to this office and retain pertinent records pending further investigation of this matter.

I will review any additional materials relevant to this complaint for any deficiencies pursuant to 44.11.106 ARM, law, and prior relevant COPP rulings, and reserve the right to dismiss the complaint upon this initial inquiry. If this occurs, I will notify you and provide a basis for the dismissal. Alternatively, upon this further review, I may determine that a formal investigation is warranted. If an investigation is conducted, a summary of facts and statement of findings will be prepared, and a copy will be sent to you. This generally involves a more extensive and time-consuming process, during which you may contact us for a status update. If violations are determined during this process, they are typically referred to the local county attorney. The local county attorney then determines whether they will prosecute the matter or refer it back to me. If returned to me, I will either work with the responding party to settle the matter or prosecute it within their local jurisdiction in district court.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris J. Gallus".

Chris Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices