

BENJAMIN R. GRAYBILL RAPH GRAYBILL

300 4th Street North • PO Box 3586 Great Falls, Montana 59403 brg@silverstatelaw.net Telephone: (406) 452-8566 rgraybill@silverstatelay.net Toll-Free; (866) 452-8566 graybilllawfirm.com Toll-Free; (866) 452-8566

2022 OCT 21 P 4: 49

POLITICAL PRACTICES

October 21, 2022

Jeff Mangan Commissioner of Political Practice P.O. Box 202401 Helena, MT 59620-2401 Jeff.mangan@mt.gov

Re: Secretary of State v. ACLU of Montana, COPP-2022-CFP-021

Dear Commissioner Mangan:

This office represents the ACLU of Montana and the ACLU of Montana Foundation (together, "ACLU") in connection with Secretary of State v. ACLU of Montana, COPP-2022-CFP-021 ("Complaint").

The Complaint has no merit and should be dismissed. The ACLU did not, at any time, "mail or advise an applicant to mail a voter registration or absentee ballot application to any address other than the county election administrator's address in the applicant's county of residence." Section 13-35-604, MCA.

The ACLU has an established commitment to ensuring that indigenous communities in Montana are not excluded from the franchise. Consistent with this commitment, the ACLU of Montana Foundation sent two mailings to Montanans eligible to register to vote. The mailings advise recipients of the upcoming general election and urge recipients to register to vote. They include voter registration forms and blank envelopes.

The registration forms included in each mailing are clear:

Please place completed registration application and related documents in an envelope, affix postage, and send to your county Election Administrator office.

Registration Cards at 2 (emphasis added). Below this language, the registration forms list the mailing address for each county election administrator.

The ACLU cover letters contain the same instructions:

You can register to vote by filling out and returning the enclosed form via mail by October 11 or by returning it in person at your county elections office up through Election Day.

ACLU Letter 1 at 1; ACLU Letter 2 at 1 (emphasis added). Nothing in the mailings—not the registration forms, the cover letters, or the blank return envelopes—instructs applicants to send registration forms to the ACLU.

Commissioner Mangan October 21, 2022

I have attached complete copies of both mailings to this letter, including the outgoing envelopes, letters, blank return envelopes, and registration cards.

Because the mailings did not contravene the requirements of § 13-35-604, MCA, the Complaint should be dismissed.

In addition to dismissing the Complaint, you should assess fees against the Secretary.

The only basis for the Complaint appears to be an email the Secretary received from a county clerk on September 27, 2022. The Secretary does not appear to have undertaken any informal clarification or verification of the matters described in the clerk's email. She does not provide any follow up communications she had with the clerk, despite her statutory responsibilities for election administration. And the Secretary did not contact the ACLU for clarification before filing; if she had, she would quickly have learned that the ACLU's mailings are entirely consistent with Montana law.

Instead, the Secretary waited nearly a month to file her Complaint on the same day she filed complaints against the Montana Public Interest Research Group ("MontPIRG") and Forward Montana. The ACLU, MontPIRG, and Forward Montana all recently defeated the Secretary in a voting rights trial challenging a bevy of new voter suppression laws in Montana. It recently came to light that the Secretary was broadcasting voter registration information inconsistent with the Court's determination in that trial. The three groups presented the Secretary with this information and threatened to seek a Temporary Restraining Order to enforce the Court's order. Though the Secretary appears to have had the Big Horn County clerk's email for nearly a month, it was only on the heels of these developments in the voter suppression litigation that the Secretary filed her Complaint.

This office has previously admonished complainants who abuse the complaint process. Even meritless complaints that are quickly resolved expend taxpayer time and resources, and undermine the legitimacy of the process. The Secretary should be held to the same, or a higher, standard as other complainants.

The ACLU looks forward to your prompt resolution of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Raph Graybill

GRAYBILL LAW FIRM, P.C.

cc:

Austin James

austin.james@mt.gov



P.O. Box 1968 Missoula, MT 59806 IMPDRTANT DOCUMENTS



MONTANA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. If you do not provide all of the required information, your application to register to vote will not be complete. UNDER FEDERAL AND/OR STATE LAW ALL ELECTORS MUST PRESENT ID WHEN VOTING. Please type or print clearly using black or blue ink. COMPLETE FORM AND SUBMIT TO COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE.

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7 Mailing Address	S;(required if differs fr	om residence address)	City		State	Zip Code
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Date	Senate	House	Precinct / Split	Ward	School	04/2021

Please place completed registration application and related documents in an envelope, affix postage, and send to your county Election Administrator office.

County	Election Administrator Address		County	Election Administrator Address		
Beaverhead	2 S Pacific St No 3	Dillon MT 59725	McCone	Box 199	Circle MT 59215	
Big Hom	PO Box 908	Hardin MT 59034	Meagher	Box 309	White Sulphur Springs MT 59645	
Blaine	PO Box 278	Chinook MT 59523	Mineral	Box 550	Superior MT 59872	
Broadwater	515 Broadway St	Townsend MT 59644	Missoula	140 N Russell St	Missoula MT 59801	
Carbon	PO Box 887	Red Lodge MT 59068	Musselshell	506 Main	Roundup MT 59072	
Carter	Box 315	Ekalaka MT 59324	Park	414 E Callender St	Livingston MT 59047	
Cascade	Box 2305	Great Falls MT 59403	Petroleum	Box 226	Winnett MT 59087	
Chouteau	Box 459	Fort Benton MT 59442	Phillips	Box 360	Malta MT 59538	
Custer	1010 Main	Miles City MT 59301	Pondera	20 4th Ave SW	Conrad MT 59425	
Daniels	Box 247	Scobey MT 59263	Powder River	Box 200	Broadus MT 59317	
Dawson	207 West Bell	Glendive MT 59330	Powell	409 Missouri	Deer Lodge MT 59722	
Deer Lodge	800 Main	Anaconda MT 59711	Prairie	Box 125	Terry MT 59349	
Fallon	Box 846	Baker MT 59313	Ravalli	215 S 4th St Ste C	Hamilton MT 59840	
Fergus	712 W Main	Lewistown MT 59457	Richland	201 W Main	Sidney MT 59270	
Flathead	290 B North Main	Kalispell MT 59901	Roosevelt	400 2nd Ave S	Wolf Point MT 59201	
Gallatin	310 W Main Rm 210	Bozeman MT 59715	Rosebud	Box 47	Forsyth MT 59327	
Garfield	Box 7	Jordan MT 59337	Sanders	Box 519	Thompson Falls MT 59873	
Glacier	512 E Main	Cut Bank MT 59427	Sheridan	100 W Laurel Ave	Plentywood MT 59254	
Golden Valley	PO Box 10	Ryegate MT 59074	Silver Bow	155 W Granite Rm	Butte MT 59701	
Granite	Box 925	Philipsburg MT 59858	Stillwater	208 Box 149	Columbus MT 59019	
Hill	315 4th St	Havre MT 59501	Sweet Grass	Box 888	Big Timber MT 59011	
Jefferson	Box H	Boulder MT 59632	Teton	Box 610	Choteau MT 59422	
Judith Basin	Box 427	Stanford MT 59479	Toole	226 1st St S	Shelby MT 59474	
Lake	106 4th Ave E	Polson MT 59860	Treasure	Box 392	Hysham MT 59038	
Lewis & Clark	316 N Park Ave Rm 168	Helena MT 59623	Valley	501 Court Sq Box 2		
Liberty	Box 459	Chester MT 59522	Wheatland	Box 1903	Harlowton MT 59036	
Lincoln	512 California	Libby MT 59923	Wibaux	PO Box 199	Wibaux MT 59353	
Madison	Box 366	Virginia City MT 59755	Yellowstone	Box 35002	Billings MT 59107	

August 1, 2022



VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION ENCLOSED. THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL BALLOT.

Dear Neighbor,

November's upcoming election is one of the most important in our lives. You've heard that before, but in a few weeks your vote will determine the future of our families and communities.

Indigenous people in Montana have the power to shape that future. You can register to vote by filling out and returning the enclosed form via mail by October 11 or by returning it in person at your county elections office up through Election Day. To ensure your voice is heard and your vote is counted, return your registration form as soon as possible.

That's why we have included a voter registration form with this letter. Completing this form and voting are critical ways to support one another, including our families, communities, and nations. If you need to register to vote, fill out the form and return it in the enclosed envelope.

Not sure if you're registered? You can check your status on the My Voter Page at govotemt.com or call your county elections office. The number is listed on the back of this letter. When you check your status, also make sure that your residence and mailing addresses are up to date.

You should submit a voter registration form if:

- ☒ You're not registered, but you're eligible to vote in Montana;
- ☑ My Voter Page could not match your information to a voter record;
- ĭ Your voting status on My Voter Page is *Inactive*; or
- Your name, residence address, or mailing address has changed.

(Over, please)



For too long, Indigenous voices have been ignored and silenced when it comes to elections. Now is our time to make our votes count. The challenges facing our communities require us to take action.

Registering to vote and voting are ways to make sure Indigenous voices are heard. Casting your ballot helps to enhance our communities, protect our culture and lands, increase access to quality education, and provide a better future for the next generations.

If you have questions or want more information on how or where to vote, please call your county elections office.

Thank you,

Sharen Kickingwoman, Blackfeet A'anii

Indigenous Justice Program Manager, ACLU of Montana Foundation

P.S. If you are already a registered voter, share this form with a friend or family member who might need to register.

COUNTY	ELECTIONS OFFICE PHONE NUMBER	COUNTY	ELECTIONS OFFICE PHONE NUMBER
Big Horn	406-665-9704	Rosebud	406-346-7551
Blaine	406-357-3240	Roosevelt	406-653-6250
Daniels	406-487-5561	Sanders	406-827-6922
Glacier - Main Office Glacier - Browning Office	406-873-3609 406-873-3600 ext. 9096	Sheridan	406-765-3403
Lake	406-883-7268	Valley	406-228-6226
Pondera	406-271-4000		



This mailing has been paid for by ACLU of Montana Foundation. ACLU of Montana Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Box 1968 Missoula, MT 59806 www.aclumontana.org. ACLU of Montana Foundation is not affiliated with any government agency or state/local election office.

Place Stamp Here



P.O. Box 1968 Missoula, MT 59806 MAKE YOUR WOTE COUNT



MONTANA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. If you do not provide all of the required information, your application to register to vote will not be complete. UNDER FEDERAL AND/OR STATE LAW ALL ELECTORS MUST PRESENT ID WHEN VOTING. Please type or print clearly using black or blue ink. COMPLETE FORM AND SUBMIT TO COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE.

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1 Check all that apply:	stration	Change 🔲	Address Chan	ge 🔲 Signature U	pdate	
2 Are you a citizen of the United States Will you be at least 18 years of age or Will you be a Montana resident for at	or before the next elleast 30 days before t	the next electio		s No S		
If you checked "No" in response t		tions, do not			TO # / I S E	
3 Last Name*	First Name*		M	iddle Name (Optional)	Suffix (Jr., Sr., Etc.)	
4 Date of Birth* / / month day year	Contact Phone	Number (Option	nal) Email Address (Optional)			
5 Select one of the following identification Montana driver's license or Monta The last 4 digits of my Social Secu I am unable to provide my Montan SSN. I am presenting an original v Military ID card, a tribal photo ID OR I Photo ID with my name (including	na state ID card num irity Number (SSN) a driver's license nur ersion (in person) or card, a United State	mber, Montana attaching a rea es passport, or a school distric	state ID card radable copy (by a Montana con	number, or the last four y mail) of the following incealed carry permit.		
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THE AFFIRMATION ON THIS APPLICATION FOR VOTER RE	GISTRATION MUST BE SIGNE	D BY THE APPLICANT	- FAILURE TO DO S	O WILL PREVENT APPLICATION F	ROM BEING PROCESSED.	
For county use only Date Senate Ho	use Prec	inct/Split	Ward	School		
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August 1, 2022



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That's why we have included a voter registration form with this letter. Completing this form and voting are critical ways to support one another, including our families, communities, and nations. If you need to register to vote, fill out the form and return it in the enclosed envelope.

You can register to vote by filling out and returning the enclosed form via mail by October 11 or by returning it in person at your county elections office up through Election Day. To ensure your voice is heard and your vote is counted, return your registration form as soon as possible.

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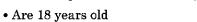
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- ☑ Your voting status on My Voter Page is *Inactive*; or
- ĭ Your name, residence address, or mailing address has changed.

(Over, please)

VOTE!

You are eligible to vote in MT if you:



- Have lived in MT for 30 days
- Are a U.S. citizen

Polls close at 8 pm on Nov. 8

Your Vote. Your Voice. Your Right.

Go to www.voteinMT.org for a full list of your rights.

ACLU
AMERICANCIVILLIDERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION
Montana

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Indigenous Justice Program Manager, ACLU of Montana Foundation

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