

Commissioner of Political Practices 1209 Eighth Avenue Post Office Box 202401 Helena, MT 59620-2401 Phone: 406-444-2942 Fax : 406-444-1643 www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

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COMMISSIONER OF  
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### Campaign Finance and Practices

### Complaint Form (08/17)

Type or print in ink all information on this form except for verification signature

#### Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Greg Strandberg  
Complete Mailing Address 610 High Park Way, Apt A.  
Missoula, MT 59803  
Phone Numbers: Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home 406-241-9237

#### Person or organization against whom complaint is brought (Respondent):

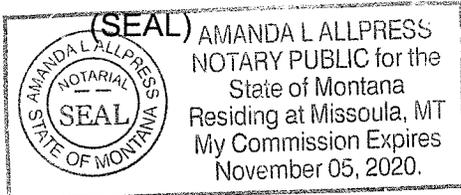
Complete Name Mike Cooney Campaign  
Complete Mailing Address Po Box 1825  
Helena, MT 59624  
Phone Numbers: Work ? Home \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alleged violation.**

### Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Missoula

I, Greg Strandberg, being duly sworn, state that the information in this Complaint is complete, true, and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Greg Strandberg  
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

[Signature]  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 11/05/2020

**Statement of facts:**

Describe in detail the alleged violation(s) and cite the statute or statutes you believe have been violated. Please attach copies of documentary evidence to support the facts alleged in your statement.

If the space provided below is insufficient, you may attach additional pages as necessary.

*See attached.*

**Complaints must be:**

- signed
- notarized
- delivered in person or by mail.

January 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This complaint deals with a lack of information on campaign expenditures per MCA 13-37-229, specifically:

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), the reports required under 13-37-225 through 13-37-227 from candidates, ballot issue committees, political party committees, and independent committees must disclose the following information concerning expenditures made:

(i) the full name, mailing address, occupation, and principal place of business, if any, of each person to whom expenditures have been made by the committee or candidate during the reporting period, including the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure and the total amount of expenditures made to each person;

(ii) the full name, mailing address, occupation, and principal place of business, if any, of each person to whom an expenditure for personal services, salaries, and reimbursed expenses has been made, including the amount, date, and purpose of that expenditure and the total amount of expenditures made to each person;

In the latest campaign finance report to come from Mike Cooney, there are three instances of ~~\$8,000~~ listed as an expenditure for:

*\$ 8,880*

“Campaign management consulting services including [sic] budget management, fundraising, travel, candidate staffing, day-to-day operations”

This does not provide voters and the common public with enough information, as per MCA 13-37-229. Here are the specifics I would like to see:

- I would like to know exactly how much the various “campaign management consulting services” cost, and what business/service those were purchased from.

- What exactly is “budget management” and how much does this cost? What company is this service coming from? Is that company located in Montana or out-of-state?
- The other statewide campaigns I have looked at have listed which companies they are getting “fundraising” consultations from, and how much this costs. They do not lump it into a large ‘catch-all’ like the Cooney campaign is doing, slapping a \$8,800 price tag on it.
- Where is the candidate travelling to, or is this the staff? What was the exact dollar amount for this trip, or was there more than one trip? I would like detailed information on this in the current report and in subsequent reports. The other campaigns do this.
- How much is “candidate staffing” costing? The other statewide campaigns that list staff list what they are paid in wages, and also what the campaign has to pay in payroll taxes for those employees. The Cooney campaign has failed to do this.
- What exactly is “day-to-day operations” and how much does this cost and what business is providing it?

As you can see, there are lots of generalities in the latest report from Cooney, but few specifics.

I hope you can look into this and give a ruling. My goal is for the Cooney campaign to give the people of Montana a bit more information on what they’re spending money on. It is the law.

Thanks,

  
Greg Strandberg