

THE STATE OF MONTANA

Commissioner of Political Practices
1205 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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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 Rep. Bryce Bennett
Complete Mailing Address PO Box 9062
Missoula, MT 59807
Phone Numbers: Work 406-546-3629 Home 406-546-3629

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

Complete Name Vent Missoula - A Facebook Community Group
Complete Mailing Address Unknown
Phone Numbers: Work Unknown Home Unknown

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

(SEAL)



Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of

October, 2017

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

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.

Complaints must be:

- **signed**
- **notarized**
- **delivered in person.**

The Facebook Community page “Vent Missoula” has neglected to identify itself as an “incidental committee” to the Commissioner of Political Practices, and has not reported the expenditure it has made in efforts to affect the Missoula Mayoral election.

Montana Code Ann. § 13-1-101 defines an incidental committee as “a political committee that is not specifically organized or operating for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot issues but that may incidentally become a political committee by receiving a contribution or making an expenditure.” “Vent Missoula” describes itself as “a space for Missoulians to vent about anything Missoula” (See figure 1). However, since its creation on August 12, 2017, the page has consistently opposed John Engen and vocally supported Lisa Triepke for Mayor (see figure 2). Additionally, “Vent Missoula” has made at least one expenditure to Facebook to boost a post (see figure 3).

Montana Code Ann. § 13-37-232 details that incidental committees, such as “Vent Missoula,” must disclose expenditures to the Commissioner of Political Practices. As of October 24, 2017 no incidental committee with the name “Vent Missoula” has been registered with the Commissioner of Political Practices nor had any expenditures been disclosed. This is in clear violation of Montana state law as the person(s) responsible for funding the “Vent Missoula” page has made at least one expenditure of a political nature.

Due to the secretive nature of the “Vent Missoula” community page, it is impossible to tell which individual or organization is responsible for funding the expenditure made. Nonetheless, it is an undisclosed, and therefore illegal expenditure. Facebook must be compelled to reveal who is funding “Vent Missoula” expenditures, and therefore who is responsible for illegally spending money in the Missoula mayoral election.

Figure 1:



Figure 2:

-  Frank O'Connell Why would anyone be surprised at the rampant incompetence shown here? You've had 12 years of irresponsible leadership, both from the mayor & council, that's allowed this to go on. Question is, why do the citizens of Mizzou keep returning these fools to office?
September 15 at 5:34am
-  Vent Missoula Good question! The only thing the citizens of Missoula can do is stand-up & vote! If you have friends/family in Missoula, please tell them to vote or consider voting for Lisa Triepke! We need to start turning the barge to get Missoula on a better path.
September 15 at 5:11pm
-  Frank O'Connell Vent Missoula unfortunately, I own property in Mizzou, pay extremely high taxes for that privilege but cannot vote as I'm an Idaho resident. What I'd like to see is your city government transformed into at least half a decent city govt as what we have.. See More
September 15 at 7:15pm

Figure 3:

Kevin Noland, Diane Beck and John Herring like Vent Missoula. ...



Vent Missoula

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So now that our professional journalists have decided to make irrelevant personal details part of the election process, how about we have ourselves a good ol' PSA on the current Mayor? Did you know:

1. Our mayor managed to avoid a DUI despite a drunken fender bender in 2008 ? http://missoulian.com/news/local/missoula-mayor-engen-speaks-candidly-on-struggle-with-alcoholism-depression/article_e46cec52-c307-59b0-9fad-bfe16c743c8d.html
... Continue Reading

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