

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

Campaign Finance and Practices

Complaint Form (10/09)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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2014 OCT 27 AM 11:07

COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES

HAND DELIVERED

CERTIFIED MAIL

SIGNED/NOTARIZED

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

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Patrick O'Neill  
Complete Mailing Address 355 Trent Drive Dillon, MT 59725  
Phone Numbers: Work 406-925-1717 Home same

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

Complete Name Jay Hansen, incumbent candidate for Beaverhead Sheriff, Jed Fitch  
Beaverhead County Attorney  
Complete Mailing Address (Hansen)449 Laknar Ln. Dillon, MT 59725, (Fitch)2 S. Pacific #2  
Dillon MT 59725  
Phone Numbers: Work (s)406-683-3700 (ca)683-3758 Home n/a

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 BEAVERHEAD

I, Patrick F. O'Neill, being duly sworn, state that the information in this Complaint is complete, true, and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Patrick F. O'Neill

Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23 day of

OCTOBER 2014.

Notary Public



**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 certified mail.

October 23, 2014

**Attached Complaint for submission to the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices:**

In the race for Beaverhead County sheriff, the incumbent candidate, Sheriff Jay Hansen has abused his "color of authority" by printing advertisements using his title and the official titles of Under Sheriff, Deputies, Dispatchers, the County Attorney, Deputy County Attorney, Chaplin, Administrative Assistant, Detention Supervisor, Detention Officer, Dispatch Supervisor, Reserve Deputy and County Attorney Legal Assistant. These abuses have been both printed as letters to the editor in the local weekly newspaper "The Dillon Tribune" (attached copies) and as print advertisements both in the Dillon Tribune and "Dillonite Daily" (both attached). In addition, the Hansen campaign has run radio ads on KDBM-KBEV using the same language.

In a typical case where abuse of office is apparent, the normal route of procedure would call for me to approach my County Attorney for some review. In this case, we cannot approach the County Attorney (see attached letter to the editor from County Attorney in Dillon Tribune) because he is no longer objective in this race.

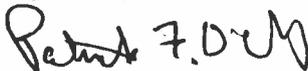
Attached are the statutes we have concern with and feel they have been violated by this candidate, Jay Hansen, along with infractions possibly committed by Jed Fitch, County Attorney (please review attached copy of Dillon Tribune and Dillonite Daily). You may also request an .mp3 copy of the similar ad run on KDBM-KBEV from the radio station. There may be statutes or laws we are not familiar with also violated. Please consider all actions taken by these candidates in this election.

There have been other second party complaints from residents of Beaverhead County regarding this election and actions of the above candidates due to fear and payback by these positions of authority. These individuals (county employees) are afraid to speak out at this time. This includes other residents and employees of Beaverhead County. The secrecy of ballots for these employees has been compromised when the undersheriff, in a squad meeting, requested all of the attending employees that the meeting would continue at the undersheriff's home to work on the letter that was submitted. By meeting and asking them who they support and whether or not the employees would sign the letter of support of one candidate, their boss perhaps.

Asking employees to sign the letter violates the secrecy of ballot ensured to citizens of Montana. (Article 5, Section One of the Montana Constitution).

I personally witnessed and heard three phone calls to a county employee from a supervisor, identified as the undersheriff, harassing him to come provide his signature to the letter of support for Sheriff Jay Hansen.

Respectfully submitted



Patrick O'Neill  
355 Trent Drive  
Dillon, Montana 59725  
406-925-1717

**TITLE 42 - THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  
CHAPTER 21 - CIVIL RIGHTS  
SUBCHAPTER I - GENERALLY**

**§ 1983. Civil action for deprivation of rights**

Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable. For the purposes of this section, any Act of Congress applicable exclusively to the District of Columbia shall be considered to be a statute of the District of Columbia.

(R.S. § 1979; Pub. L. 96-170, § 1, Dec. 29, 1979, 93 Stat. 1284; Pub. L. 104-317, title III, § 309(c), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3853.)

**Codification**

R.S. § 1979 derived from act Apr. 20, 1871, ch. 22, § 1, 17 Stat. 13.

Section was formerly classified to section 43 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

**Amendments**

1996—Pub. L. 104-317 inserted before period at end of first sentence “, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable”.

1979—Pub. L. 96-170 inserted “or the District of Columbia” after “Territory”, and provisions relating to Acts of Congress applicable solely to the District of Columbia.

**Effective Date of 1979 Amendment**

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-170 applicable with respect to any deprivation of rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws occurring after Dec. 29, 1979, see section 3 of Pub. L. 96-170, set out as a note under section 1343 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

**TITLE 18 - CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**  
**PART I - CRIMES**  
**CHAPTER 13 - CIVIL RIGHTS**

**§ 242. Deprivation of rights under color of law**

Whoever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, willfully subjects any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or to different punishments, pains, or penalties, on account of such person being an alien, or by reason of his color, or race, than are prescribed for the punishment of citizens, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and if bodily injury results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and if death results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both, or may be sentenced to death.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 696; Pub. L. 90–284, title I, § 103(b), Apr. 11, 1968, 82 Stat. 75; Pub. L. 100–690, title VII, § 7019, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4396; Pub. L. 103–322, title VI, § 60006(b), title XXXII, §§ 320103(b), 320201 (b), title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(H), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1970, 2109, 2113, 2147; Pub. L. 104–294, title VI, §§ 604(b)(14)(B), 607 (a), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3507, 3511.)

**Historical and Revision Notes**

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 52 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 20, 35 Stat. 1092).

Reference to persons causing or procuring was omitted as unnecessary in view of definition of “principal” in section 2 of this title.

A minor change was made in phraseology.

**Amendments**

1996—Pub. L. 104–294, § 607(a), substituted “any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District” for “any State, Territory, or District”.

Pub. L. 104–294, § 604(b)(14)(B), repealed Pub. L. 103–322, § 320103(b)(1). See 1994 Amendment note below.

1994—Pub. L. 103–322, § 330016(1)(H), substituted “shall be fined under this title” for “shall be fined not more than \$1,000” after “citizens.”

Pub. L. 103–322, § 320201(b), substituted “any person in any State” for “any inhabitant of any State” and “on account of such person” for “on account of such inhabitant”.

Pub. L. 103–322, § 320103(b)(2)–(5), substituted “bodily injury results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and if death results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both” for “bodily injury results shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and if death results shall be subject to imprisonment for any term of years or for life”.

Pub. L. 103–322, § 320103(b)(1), which provided for amendment identical to Pub. L. 103–322, § 330016(1)(H), above, was repealed by Pub. L. 104–294, § 604(b)(14)(B).

Pub. L. 103–322, § 60006(b), inserted before period at end “, or may be sentenced to death”.

1988—Pub. L. 100–690 inserted “and if bodily injury results shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both;” after “or both;”.

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*NB: This unofficial compilation of the U.S. Code is current as of Jan. 4, 2012 (see <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscpriint.html>).*

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1968—Pub. L. 90–284 provided for imprisonment for any term of years or for life when death results.

**Effective Date of 1996 Amendment**

Amendment by section 604(b)(14)(B) of Pub. L. 104–294 effective Sept. 13, 1994, see section 604(d) of Pub. L. 104–294, set out as a note under section 13 of this title.

**The  
CONSTITUTION  
of the  
STATE OF MONTANA**

**PREAMBLE**

We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.

**ARTICLE I  
COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES**

All provisions of the enabling act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676), as amended and of Ordinance No. 1, appended to the Constitution of the state of Montana and approved February 22, 1889, including the agreement and declaration that all lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States, continue in full force and effect until revoked by the consent of the United States and the people of Montana.

**ARTICLE II  
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS**

Section 1. **POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.** All political power is vested in and derived from the people. All government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Section 2. **SELF-GOVERNMENT.** The people have the exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state. They may alter or abolish the constitution and form of government whenever they deem it necessary.

Section 3. **INALIENABLE RIGHTS.** All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways. In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities.

Section 4. **INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY.** The dignity of the human being is inviolable. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws. Neither the state nor any person, firm, corporation, or institution shall discriminate against any person in the exercise of his civil or political rights on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.

Section 5. **FREEDOM OF RELIGION.** The state shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Section 6. **FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY.** The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, petition for redress or peaceably protest governmental action.

Section 7. **FREEDOM OF SPEECH, EXPRESSION, AND PRESS.** No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech or expression. Every person shall be free to speak or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty. In all suits and prosecutions for libel or slander the truth thereof may be given in evidence; and the jury, under the direction of the court, shall determine the law and the facts.

Section 8. **RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION.** The public has the right to expect governmental agencies to afford such reasonable opportunity for citizen participation in the operation of the agencies prior to the final decision as may be provided by law.

Section 9. **RIGHT TO KNOW.** No person shall be deprived of the right to examine documents or to observe the deliberations of all public bodies or agencies of state government and its subdivisions, except in cases in which the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

Section 10. **RIGHT OF PRIVACY.** The right of individual privacy is essential to the well-being of a free society and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest.

Section 11. **SEARCHES AND SEIZURES.** The people shall be secure in their persons, papers, homes and effects from unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrant to search any place, or seize any person or thing shall issue without describing the place to be searched or the person or thing to be seized, or without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation reduced to writing.

Section 12. **RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.** The right of any person to keep or bear arms in defense of his own home, person, and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but nothing herein contained shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.

Section 13. **RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE.** All elections shall be free and open, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Section 14. **ADULT RIGHTS.** A person 18 years of age or older is an adult for all purposes.

Section 15. **RIGHTS OF PERSONS NOT ADULTS.** The rights of persons under 18 years of age shall include, but not be limited to, all the fundamental rights of this Article unless specifically precluded by laws which enhance the protection of such persons.

Section 16. **THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.** Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and speedy remedy afforded for every injury of person, property, or character. No person shall be deprived of this full legal redress for injury incurred in employment for which another person may be liable except as to fellow employees and his immediate employer who hired him if such immediate employer provides coverage under the Workmen's Compensation Laws of this state. Right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or delay.

Section 17. **DUE PROCESS OF LAW.** No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

Section 18. **STATE SUBJECT TO SUIT.** The state, counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities shall have no immunity from suit for injury to a person or property. This provision shall apply only to causes of action arising after July 1, 1973.

Section 19. **HABEAS CORPUS.** The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended.

Section 20. **INITIATION OF PROCEEDINGS.** (1) Criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of any court inferior to the district court shall be prosecuted by complaint. All criminal actions in district court, except those on appeal, shall be prosecuted either by information, after examination and commitment by a magistrate or after leave granted by the court, or by indictment without such examination, commitment or leave.

(2) A grand jury shall consist of eleven persons, of whom eight must concur to find an indictment. A grand jury shall be drawn and summoned only at the discretion and order of the district judge.

Section 21. **BAIL.** All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses, when the proof is evident or the presumption great.

Section 22. **EXCESSIVE SANCTIONS.** Excessive bail shall not be required, or excessive fines imposed, or cruel and unusual punishments inflicted,

Section 23. DETENTION. No person shall be imprisoned for the purpose of securing his testimony in any criminal proceeding longer than may be necessary in order to take his deposition. If he can give security for his appearance at the time of trial, he shall be discharged upon giving the same; if he cannot give security, his deposition shall be taken in the manner provided by law, and in the presence of the accused and his counsel, or without their presence, if they shall fail to attend the examination after reasonable notice of the time and place thereof.

Section 24. RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person and by counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation; to meet the witnesses against him face to face; to have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed, subject to the right of the state to have a change of venue for any of the causes for which the defendant may obtain the same.

Section 25. SELF-INCRIMINATION AND DOUBLE JEOPARDY. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in a criminal proceeding. No person shall be again put in jeopardy for the same offense previously tried in any jurisdiction.

Section 26. TRIAL BY JURY. The right of trial by jury is secured to all and shall remain inviolate. But upon default of appearance or by consent of the parties expressed in such manner as the law may provide, all cases may be tried without a jury or before fewer than the number of jurors provided by law. In all civil actions, two-thirds of the jury may render a verdict, and a verdict so rendered shall have the same force and effect as if all had concurred therein. In all criminal actions, the verdict shall be unanimous.

Section 27. IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT. No person shall be imprisoned for debt except in the manner provided by law, upon refusal to deliver up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or in cases of tort, where there is strong presumption of fraud.

Section 28. RIGHTS OF THE CONVICTED. Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of prevention and reformation. Full rights are restored by termination of state supervision for any offense against the state.

Section 29. EMINENT DOMAIN. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation to the full extent of the loss having been first made to or paid into court for the owner. In the event of litigation, just compensation shall include necessary expenses of litigation to be awarded by the court when the private property owner prevails.

Section 30. TREASON AND DESCENT OF ESTATES. Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort; no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on his confession in open court; no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the legislature; no conviction shall cause the loss of property to the relatives or heirs of the convicted. The estates of suicides shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death.

Section 31. EX POST FACTO, OBLIGATION OF CONTRACTS, AND IRREVOCABLE PRIVILEGES. No ex post facto law nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making any irrevocable grant of special privileges, franchises, or immunities, shall be passed by the legislature.

Section 32. CIVILIAN CONTROL OF THE MILITARY. The military shall always be in strict subordination to the civil power; no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, except in the manner provided by law.

Section 33. IMPORTATION OF ARMED PERSONS. No armed person or persons or armed body of men shall be brought into this state for the preservation of the peace, or the suppression of domestic violence, except upon the application of the legislature, or of the governor when the legislature cannot be convened,

Section 34. UNENUMERATED RIGHTS. The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny, impair, or disparage others retained by the people.

Section 35. SERVICEMEN, SERVICEWOMEN, AND VETERANS. The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature.

### ARTICLE III GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Section 1. SEPARATION OF POWERS. The power of the government of this state is divided into three distinct branches-legislative, executive, and judicial. No person or persons charged with the exercise of power properly belonging to one branch shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted.

Section 2. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT. The seat of government shall be in Helena, except during periods of emergency resulting from disasters or enemy attack. The legislature may enact laws to insure the continuity of government during a period of emergency without regard for other provisions of the constitution. They shall be effective only during the period of emergency that affects a particular office or governmental operation.

Section 3. OATH OF OFFICE. Members of the legislature and all executive, ministerial and judicial officers, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before they enter upon the duties of their offices: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity (so help me God)." No other oath, declaration, or test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust.

Section 4. INITIATIVE. (1) The people may enact laws by initiative on all matters except appropriations of money and local or special laws.

(2) Initiative petitions must contain the full text of the proposed measure, shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts and the total number of signers must be at least five percent of the total qualified electors of the state. Petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state at least three months prior to the election at which the measure will be voted upon.

(3) The sufficiency of the initiative petition shall not be questioned after the election is held.

Section 5. REFERENDUM. (1) The people may approve or reject by referendum any act of the legislature except an appropriation of money. A referendum shall be held either upon order by the legislature or upon petition signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts. The total number of signers must be at least five percent of the qualified electors of the state. A referendum petition shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than six months after adjournment of the legislature which passed the act.

(2) An act referred to the people is in effect until suspended by petitions signed by at least 15 percent of the qualified electors in a majority of the legislative representative districts. If so suspended the act shall become operative only after it is approved at an election, the result of which has been determined and declared as provided by law.

Section 6. ELECTIONS. The people shall vote on initiative and referendum measures at the general election unless the legislature orders a special election

Section 7. NUMBER OF ELECTORS. The number of qualified electors required in each legislative representative district and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

Section 8. PROHIBITION. The provisions of this Article do not apply to CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, Article XIV.

Section 9. GAMBLING. All forms of gambling, lotteries, and gift enterprises are prohibited.

## ARTICLE IV SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. **BALLOT.** All elections by the people shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. **QUALIFIED ELECTOR.** Any citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.

Section 3. **ELECTIONS.** The legislature shall provide by law the requirements for residence, registration, absentee voting, and administration of elections. It may provide for a system of poll booth registration, and shall insure the purity of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process.

Section 4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.** Any qualified elector is eligible to any public office except as otherwise provided in this constitution. The legislature may provide additional qualifications but no person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to hold office until his final discharge from state supervision.

Section 5. **RESULT OF ELECTIONS.** In all elections held by the people, the person or persons receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Section 6. **PRIVILEGE FROM ARREST.** A qualified elector is privileged from arrest at polling places and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace.

## ARTICLE V THE LEGISLATURE

Section 1. **POWER AND STRUCTURE.** The legislative power is vested in a legislature consisting of a senate and a house of representatives. The people reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum.

Section 2. **SIZE.** The size of the legislature shall be provided by law, but the senate shall not have more than 50 or fewer than 40 members and the house shall not have more than 100 or fewer than 80 members.

Section 3. **ELECTION AND TERMS.** A member of the house of representatives shall be elected for a term of two years and a member of the senate for a term of four years each to begin on a date provided by law. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years.

Section 4. **QUALIFICATIONS.** A candidate for the legislature shall be a resident of the state for at least one year next preceding the general election. For six months next preceding the general election, he shall be a resident of the county if it contains one or more districts or of the district if it contains all or parts of more than one county.

Section 5. **COMPENSATION.** Each member of the legislature shall receive compensation for his services and allowances provided by law. No legislature may fix its own compensation.

Section 6. **SESSIONS.** The legislature shall be a continuous body for two-year periods beginning when newly elected members take office. Any business, bill, or resolution pending at adjournment of a session shall carry over with the same status to any other session of the legislature during the biennium. The legislature shall meet at least once a year in regular session of not more than 60 legislative days. Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session. The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of a majority of the members.

Section 7. **VACANCIES.** A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by special election for the unexpired term unless otherwise provided by law.

To the editor,

I am writing in support of Frank Kluesner for Beaverhead County Sheriff in the November elections.

I taught Frank in elementary and followed him throughout high school. Later Frank joined the Lima Fire Department /Ambulance and earned his EMT. He took on the job of training captain for the Department. Frank excelled in each position of responsibility because he wanted to be of service to his community.

What qualifies Frank to be the sheriff of Beaverhead County? He has proven to me that all the citizens in Beaverhead County are of equal importance. For 23 years he has provided law enforcement for the areas of Beaverhead County and has done the job with the professionalism that citizen's should expect. Each community, valley, and most importantly, each citizen should receive equal protection from the Sheriff's Office. He will work to stay in touch with the citizens of Beaverhead County.

A peace officer needs the ability to listen to concerns from citizens and come to a resolution to the problem. Listening to a citizen's concerns is the first step in solving or controlling a situation or making the hard decision to end the situation. Frank has been successful on a daily basis resolving problems.

I believe Beaverhead County needs a sheriff who is proactive rather than reactive which will lessen the impact to situations ranging from drinking problems with our youth to hard core

Beaverhead County Sheriff on November 4th.

Bob Estill  
Lima

## Voting for Hansen

To the editor,

As the Beaverhead County Attorney these past six-plus years, I have had the distinct opportunity of working closely with Sheriff Jay Hansen. Jay's attention to detail, wealth of experience, and commitment to public service make him a tremendous asset to the County.

Overseeing a department as large as the Sheriff's Office, Jail, and Dispatch, while staying within a tight budget year in and year out, requires a keen, sharp pencilled management style. Jay takes these responsibilities in stride.

The cases my office prosecutes, enforcing the law and maintaining public safety, require a strong, thorough, and consistent Sheriff's Office. Jay Hansen has proven his ability to provide this for the citizens of Beaverhead County. We are fortunate to have him as our Sheriff, and I am glad he is running for another term.

I strongly encourage you to vote Jay Hansen for Sheriff this November.

Jed C. Fitch  
Dillon

Montana is considering changing the right-to-know law for hunters, because:



Pennsylvania added 1,300 manufacturing jobs in March alone. This isn't a coincidence. Oil and natural gas exploration is fueling a jobs boom.

But if some activists get their way, those jobs could disappear. Citing bogus claims, these activists want to turn back the clock on advances in drilling technology. They want to turn the energy boom into a bust.

The stakes are high. Employment in the oil and gas sector has jumped by 40 percent since 2007, compared to a sluggish 1 percent in other private-sector employment. The rapid growth of energy jobs is revitalizing communities across the nation.

In states rich with natural gas and oil, new pathways to the middle class are opening up. More energy exploration means an increased demand for rig workers and welders, geologists and engineers. The average oil and gas industry worker earns nearly \$97,000 yearly, more than double the average American wage.

The oil and gas boom is also boosting hiring in other sectors

creating jobs for truck drivers. In all, the gas and oil sector can jobs.

At the hearing called hydraulic fracturing injects large amounts of water into wells under pressure to release oil and gas.

Fracking has created vast new reserves. Fracking uses too much scarce freshwater sources. Both claim of both independent experts (EPA).

Fracking represents a consumption. Even car emissions are less than that!

## GUEST OPINION

# IN THE MAIL

### THE VIEW OF OUR READERS

**Editors note** - Next week will be the last week we will publish letters relating to the Nov. 4 General Election. Since Oct. 29 is the last publication before the election, that date will be reserved for rebuttal letters from candidates. No support letters will be published on Nov. 29. Please keep letters under 400 words.

## Department Supports Hansen

To the editor,

We the undersigned employees of the Beaverhead County Sheriff's Department and County Attorney's office would like to publicly endorse and support Sheriff Jay Hansen in the upcoming Sheriff's election. We would ask that you join us in voting to re-elect and retain Sheriff Jay Hansen.

Undersheriff Bill Knox, Dispatch Supervisor Jan Craft, Detention Supervisor Butch Girard, Sergeant Deputy Dan Mulkey, Dispatcher Jack Wiggins, Detention Officer Fred Kamps, Deputy David Sullivan, Dispatcher Sadie Caltrider, Detention Officer Javier Negron, Deputy Scott Kessel, Chaplain Dale Stewart, County Attorney Jed Fitch, Deputy Joel Bingen, Reserve Deputy Matthew Caltrider, Deputy County Attorney Mike Gee, Administrative Assistant Kari Towery, County Attorney Legal Assistant Amy Ward, Reserve

## Favors Kluesner

To the editor,

I am writing in support of Frank Kluesner for Beaverhead County Sheriff in the November elections.

I taught Frank in elementary and followed him throughout high school. Later Frank joined the Lima Fire Department/Ambulance and earned



*John [Signature]*

drug problems. We need a sheriff with a methodical and precise decision-making process. I feel Frank Kluesner is a leader who makes sound financial decisions, has good communication with other officers and the citizens of Beaverhead County. Please vote for Frank Kluesner for Beaverhead County Sheriff on Nov. 4.

## Voting for H

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**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT and  
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EMPLOYEES SUPPORT**

**JAY HANSEN**

We the undersigned employees of the Beaverhead County Sheriff's department and County Attorney's office would like to publicly endorse and support Sheriff Jay Hansen in the upcoming Sheriff's election. We would ask that you join us in voting to re-elect and retain Sheriff Jay Hansen.

**Undersheriff Bill Knox  
Dispatch Supervisor Jan Craft  
Detention Supervisor Butch Girard  
Sergeant Deputy Dan Mulkey  
Dispatcher Jack Wiggins  
Detention Officer Fred Kamps  
Deputy David Sullivan  
Dispatcher Sadie Caltrider  
Detention Officer Javier Negron  
Deputy Scott Kessel  
Chaplin Dale Stewart  
County Attorney Jed Fitch  
Deputy Joel Bingen  
Reserve Deputy Matthew Caltrider  
Deputy County Attorney Mike Gee  
Administrative Assistant Kari Towery  
County Attorney Legal Assistant Amy Ward**

**VOTE  JAY HANSEN**

Paid for by Jay Hansen for Sheriff 449 Laknar Lane Dillon MT

# **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT and COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES SUPPORT**

## **JAY HANSEN**

**We the undersigned employees of the Beaverhead County Sheriff's department and County Attorney's office would like to publicly endorse and support Sheriff Jay Hansen in the upcoming Sheriff's election. We would ask that you join us in voting to re-elect and retain Sheriff Jay Hansen.**

**Undersheriff Bill Knox**

**Detention Supervisor Butch Girard**

**Sergeant Deputy Dan Mulkey**

**Detention Officer Fred Kamps**

**Deputy Scott Kessel**

**Detention Officer Javier Negrón**

**Deputy David Sullivan**

**Dispatch Supervisor Jan Craft**

**Deputy Joel Bingen**

**Dispatcher Sadie Caltrider**

**Dispatcher Jack Wiggins**

**County Attorney Jed Fitch**

**Chaplin Dale Stewart**

**Deputy County Attorney Mike Gee**

**Reserve Deputy Matthew Caltrider**

**County Attorney Legal Assistant Amy Ward**

**Administrative Assistant Kari Towery**

**VOTE**



**JAY HANSEN**

**Paid for by Jay Hansen for Sheriff 449 Laknar Lane Dillon MT**