

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES (COPP)

In re: SAVAGE v. CARLINO	COPP-2025-CFP-006 ORDER OF DISMISSAL
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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 9, 2025, Jennifer Savage of Missoula, MT, filed a campaign practices complaint against Daniel Carlino. At that time, Ms. Savage and Mr. Carlino were candidates for City Councilman, Ward 6 in Missoula. The complaint met the requirements of Admin. R. Mont. (ARM) 44.11.106 and alleged violations of statutes which fall under my jurisdiction as Commissioner of Political Practices. Therefore, I accepted it as filed and requested a response from Mr. Carlino. Mr. Carlino timely filed a response and COPP subsequently conducted an investigation in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. (MCA) § 13-37-111.

In this matter, the Commissioner issued a Partial Dismissal, Finding of Facts Sufficient to Support Violation, and Order of Corrective Action (Decision). The decision determined the particular violations alleged by Ms. Savage, along with some incidental findings, were not justified for prosecution. However, prosecution of an additional violation for failure to timely report a debt in compliance with MCA § 13-37-229, was found to be justified for prosecution and will be referred to the Missoula County Attorney. Regarding a second violation, accepting an unlawful corporate contribution in violation of MCA § 13-35-227, the Commissioner stated this violation would be dismissed if Mr. Carlino took corrective action on or before November 3, 2025.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The Decision in this matter required Mr. Carlino to refund the value an in-kind contribution received from MapleBridge Strategies. On October 27, 2025, immediately after receiving the Commissioner's Decision in this matter, Mr. Carlino provided evidence he had refunded MapleBridge \$450 – the value of the unlawful contribution.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioner has determined that all corrective action has been satisfactorily completed by Mr. Carlino. Consequently, while any remaining violations deemed justifiable for prosecution will now be referred to the Missoula County Attorney, any violation for accepting an unlawful in-kind corporate contribution as discussed in the decision is fully dismissed.

Dated, this 17th day of December, 2025.



Chris J. Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices
State of Montana