

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

Campaign Finance and Practices

Complaint Form (08/17)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

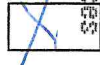
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Commissioner of Political Practices 2023 OCT 12 PM 04:24



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

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name

Danielle Tribble, Montana Republican Party

Complete Mailing Address

P.O. Box 935 Helena, MT 59624

Phone Numbers:

Work

406-924-3040

Home

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

Complete Name

Ryan Busse / Busse for Montana

Complete Mailing Address

P.O. Box 9537 Kalispell, MT 59907

Phone Numbers:

Work

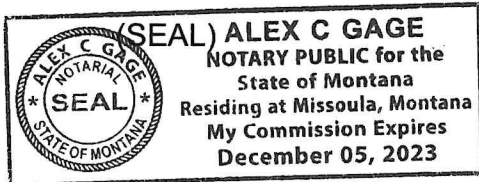
Home

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



Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of October, 2023.

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.

Please see attached document,

**Complaints must be:**

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

## Ryan Busse Complaint

### Background

On 10/5/23, Democrat candidate Ryan Busse filed his c5 report covering the period 9/15/23 - 9/30/23. candidate Busse failed to report multiple campaign expenditures made during this timeframe.

### Violations

1. 13-37-225 - Announcement Video – On 9/14/23, candidate Busse posted a 2 minute and 25 seconds long professional announcement video to his social media profiles including Twitter/X. Candidate Busse’s c5 report covering this period lists no expenditures, in-kind contributions or debts that would cover this expenditure.
2. 13-37-225 – Campaign Materials – On 9/29/23, candidate Busse posted an 8-second-long video on his Twitter/X profile which shows someone opening his campaign post office box revealing multiple campaign donation envelopes inside. Candidate Busse’s c5 report covering this period lists no expenditures, in-kind contributions or debts that would cover the production costs of these campaign materials. While it cannot be determined from the video, the envelopes appear to be return envelopes that were included in a direct mail fundraising package. Candidate Busse’s c5 report covering this period lists no expenditures, in-kind contributions or debts that would cover the expenditures for such direct mail fundraising.
3. 13-37-225 – Campaign Travel to Helena – On 9/24/23, candidate Busse posted a 1 minute 10-second-long video on his Twitter/X profile which shows him campaigning in Helena. Candidate Busse’s c5 report covering this period lists no expenditures, in-kind contributions or debts that would cover the cost of his travel to Helena to produce his campaign video.
4. 13-35-225 – Failure to include attribution – The video by candidate Busse referenced in violation #3 does not include the proper attribution required by this section.
5. 13-37-225 – Campaign Event in Helena – On 9/26/23, candidate Busse posted photos and text on his Twitter/X profile from what describes as “awesome packed house event in Helena last night”. Candidate Busse’s c5 report covering this period lists no expenditures, in-kind contributions or debts that would cover the costs of his associated with this event.

6. 13-37-225 – Campaign Travel to Billings – On 9/28/23, candidate Busse posted photos and text on his Twitter/X profile after making a campaign appearance on the Montana Talks

radio show. Candidate Busse’s c5 report covering this period lists no expenditures, in-kind contributions or debts that would cover the cost of his travel to Billings for this campaign event.

7. 13-37-225 – Campaign Event, Location unknown – on 9/15, candidate Busse posted photos and text on his Twitter/X profile from what describes as “great campaign event kick off”. Candidate Busse’s c5 report covering this period lists no expenditures, in-kind contributions or debts that would cover the costs associated with this event.

8. 13-37-231 – By committing the aforementioned violations, candidate Busse has violated this section.