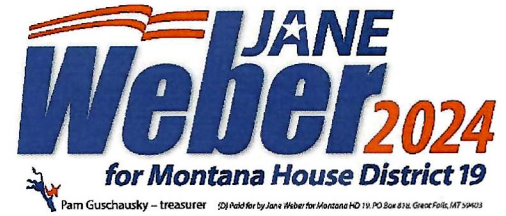




Weber for HD 19
PO Box 818
Great Falls, MT 59403
www.weberforhd19.com
weberforhd19@gmail.com



March 5, 2024

TO: Chris Gallus, Commissioner of Political Practices
PO Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620-2401
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

FR: Jane Weber
Weber for HD 19
PO Box 818
Great Falls, MT 59403

RE: Dodd v. Weber, COPP-2024-CFP-002

Dear Commissioner Gallus,

I appreciate receiving Scott Cook's email on March 4th including page two of Ms. Dodd's complaint which clarifies the alleged violation. Without that page, our campaign could only assume the nature of Ms. Dodd's complaint.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to describe the process the Weber for HD 19 campaign has used when tracking contributions and making expenditures. The following outlines the steps taken in chronological sequence:

In July 2023, I filed for HD 19 with the COPP. On July 12, 2023, I received an email from the COPP office confirming the filing had been approved (see attachment). At the time of my filing with the COPP, Sandor Hopkins had also filed as a Democrat candidate in HD19, thus creating a primary challenger.

Pam Guschausky, campaign treasurer, was advised to establish a "primary" account for contributions and instructed that the account would be converted to a "general" account after the primary election. For this reason, only one account was established for the Weber for HD19 campaign.

No contributors categorized their donations for the primary or general elections. All contributions have been deposited into the "primary" account with the intent of converting the balance to a "general" account after the June 2024 primary. No single contributor donated more

than the \$450 maximum amount for ONE campaign. Again, as advised by the COPP office, all funds were deposited in a single “primary” account with the knowledge that all unexpended funds would be rolled into a “general” account after the June 2024 primary.

On January 30, 2024 Scott Cook and I had a telephone conversation about two items: 1) clarification whether the billboard purchases were properly reported as a 2023 expense; and 2) what actions to take if Sandor Hopkins exited the HD 19 race. Regarding the billboards, I confirmed with Mr. Cook on that phone call that the billboard purchases were made in September 2023, and I explained why these purchases needed to be made well in advance of the general election. Regarding Mr. Hopkins potential move to another HD candidacy, Mr. Cook advised that Treasurer, Pam Guschausky, not change any reporting until after the March 11, 2024 filing deadline, as another Democratic candidate could still file and create a primary election race. On his advice, Pam Guschausky planned to call Mr. Cook on March 12, 2024 for guidance.

In early February 2024, Mr. Hopkins became a Democrat candidate in HD23; therefore eliminating a primary in HD19.

On February 23, 2024, I received an email with the attached complaint - *Dodd v. Weber, COPP-2024-CFP-002*.

On Tuesday, February 27, 2024, I called Scott Cook and asked if he could clarify the alleged complaint, as the materials did not articulate a specific alleged violation. Mr. Cook politely explained that he could not address my question and that I needed to respond to the complaint provided.

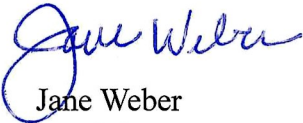
On Monday, March 4 2024, Mr. Cook sent an email message explaining that his original email had not included page 2 of the complainant’s submission (see attached email). This additional page clarified the complainant’s issue so that it could be properly addressed.

Our treasurer has made thorough reports of all donations and expenditures. We await your advice on how to proceed with this matter to satisfy the complainant’s issue and meet the requirements of the COPP.

Until we receive a ruling on the matter of this complaint, we will delay a purchase needed for the general election. The vendor has informed us that a delay will likely cause the price to increase substantially. Therefore, we respectfully request a quick decision and advice on this complaint.

Thank you for your consideration and we await your direction.

Sincerely,



Jane Weber

Candidate for HD 19

cc: Treasurer, Pam Guschausky

Attachments (2):

- Email from COPP (ccphelp@mt.gov) confirming campaign filing had been approved by COPP, dated 7/12/2023;
- Email from Scott Cook noting omission of page 2 from the Dodd v. Weber complaint

From: <cpphelp@mt.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 8:27 AM
Subject: Campaign Filing Notice
To: <WeberforHD19@gmail.com>

NOTICE: The following campaign filing has been approved by the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices. Please carefully review the below information for accuracy:

Candidate Name: Weber, Jane A
Address: PO Box 818, Great Falls, MT 59403
Campaign Year: 2024
Office Sought: House District No. 19
Phone: (406) 781-8800
Access ID: 22-2433 (Read more about access IDs [here](#))

If any of the information in a Statement of Candidate changes, the candidate must file an amended form providing the new information within five days after the change occurs ([13-37-204, MCA, 44.11.303\(2\), ARM](#)).

All candidates are required to file campaign finance reports in the [Campaign Electronic Reporting System \(CERS\)](#). Reference the [Candidate Campaign Finance Resources and Guides webpage](#) for report info and guides to navigating CERS. Find information about campaign finance report due dates [here](#).

Follow the COPP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for report reminders and compliance tips!

Statement of Candidate (C1 or C1-A)

Candidate Information:

Candidate Name: Weber, Jane A
Mailing Address: PO Box 818, Great Falls, MT 59403
Physical Address: 701 4th Avenue North Great Falls, MT 59401
Home Phone: (406) 781-0741
Alternate Phone: (406) 781-8800
Campaign Email Address: WeberforHD19@gmail.com

Election Year: 2024

Candidate Type: State District
Office Sought: House District No. 19
Residence County: Cascade
Political Party: Democratic
Reporting Status:

Bank Name: Russell Country Federal Credit Union
Bank Address: 810 1st Avenue South Great Falls, MT 59403

Campaign Treasurer Information:

Treasurer Name: Guschausky, Pam
Mailing Address: 1523 1st Avenue South Great Falls, MT 59401
Physical Address: 1523 1st Avenue South Great Falls, MT 59401
Home Phone: (406) 781-1114
Alternate Phone: (406) 781-1114
Home or Person Email Address: guschauskypg@gmail.com

Deputy Treasurer Information:

RE: [EXTERNAL] Weber for HD19 Inbox x



→ Cook, Scott

8:45 AM (5 hours ago) ☆ 😊 ↶ ⋮

to Pam, me

Pam,


In reviewing the *Dodd v. Weber* matter, it appears that a page from the original Complaint (page 2) was inadvertently omitted from the copy sent to yourselves and posted to COPP's website. I apologize for that error, and am re-sending the Complaint so you may see it in its entirety.

Scott Cook
Compliance Specialist 3/Public Records Officer
Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices
(406) 444-4627
SCook3@mt.gov

From: Pam Guschausky <guschauskypg@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 1:53 PM
To: Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov>
Cc: Jane Weber <weberforhd19@gmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Weber for HD19

Hi Scott

I was wondering if Jim Weber and I could call you Monday morning around 10:00 for a conference call as we have some questions regarding Jane Weber's campaign. I am Jane's treasurer and Jim has many duties. Please let us know if that will work or if not what time is better. Thanks so much.
Pam

 Virus-free. www.avg.com [avg.com]

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail 

