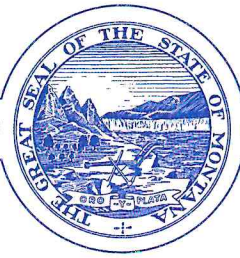


COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

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May 31, 2024

Hon. Austin Knudsen
Attn: Jake Eaton
P.O. Box 81274
Billings, MT 59108

Mr. Logan Olson
9 Wilson Street
Flaxville, MT 59222

Ms. Shiela Hogan
303 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Attorney General Knudsen, Mr. Logan Olson, and Ms. Shiela Hogan,

On May 8, 2024, two complaints were filed with this office by Ms. Hogan, naming as alleged violators, Attorney General, Austin Knudsen, and Mr. Logan Olson. I determined these complaints met the basic initial requirements of Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 44.11.106 and subsequently, on May 15, 2024, I accepted these complaints for further review. I notified the complainant and both respondents of my decision and additionally requested that Attorney General Knudsen and Mr. Olson provide responses to the complaints on or before May 23, 2024. Mr. Olson requested and was granted an extension to file his response by May 29, 2024.

I received a written response from Attorney General Knudsen through his campaign "Austin for Montana" on May 20, 2024. Mr. Olson provided a response on May 28, 2024. Both responses requested dismissal of the complaint based on ARM 44.11.106(2)(b)(iii) which requires that complaints shall contain references to each specific statute alleged to be violated. Upon further review, I determined that the initial complaint cited to some, but not all, statutes or rules alleged to be violated and that additional information regarding Mr. Olson's time working under the Student Practice Rule was necessary to determine how best to resolve these matters. Therefore, in accordance with the discretion provided to me by ARM 44.11.106(4), I sent communications to the parties on May 29, 2024, that I was requesting additional information under the aforementioned rule. Both Mr. Olson and Ms. Hogan provided the additional information before the noon deadline on May 31, 2024.

Additionally, I determined that the submitted complaints were appropriate for determination by a declaratory ruling. Therefore, concurrently with my requests for additional information, I invited the complainant and both parties to petition COPP for such an action in accordance with ARM 44.11.102(1) and ARM 1.3.226 et seq.

On May 31, 2024, Ms. Hogan's response also included a request for these issues to be determined by declaratory ruling. Accordingly, I will proceed by deciding if all issues should be resolved by declaratory ruling or if some are more readily determined by the conventional complaint process.

My first determination will be whether or not Mr. Olson is qualified to run for Attorney General. Based on the information currently before me, it is likely that I will be able to make that determination by June 3, 2024. I will certainly make every effort to do so.

At that time, I will also determine the most appropriate course of action regarding the remaining issues.

Best of my regards,



Chris J. Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices