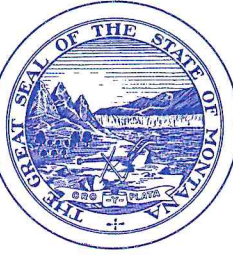


COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

CHRIS J. GALLUS
COMMISSIONER
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942
FAX (406) 444-1643

1209 EIGHTH AVENUE
PO BOX 202401
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2401
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

April 29, 2026

Eric Early
P.O. Box 254
Stevensville, MT 59870

Subject: Complaint received April 22, 2026; *Early v. Big Sky Fiscal Guardians, Treasure State Stewards, Conservatives4MT, and Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections.*
COPP-2026-CFP-004

Eric,

This letter acknowledges receipt of the formal Campaign Finance and Practices (CFP) Complaint you submitted, originally submitted to this office on April 27, 2026. The complaint alleges violations of Montana election law under my jurisdiction as Commissioner of Political Practices, and otherwise conforms to the basic requirements of 44.11.106 ARM. Consequently, I will accept the complaint as filed.

Pursuant to the established process, a letter and copy of the complaint will be sent to the named respondent or their representative/s, requesting that they provide a written response to this office and retain pertinent records pending further investigation of this matter. Mont. Code Ann. (MCA) § 13-37-132.

I will review any additional materials relevant to this complaint for any deficiencies pursuant to 44.11.106 ARM, law, and prior relevant COPP rulings, and reserve the right to dismiss the complaint upon this initial inquiry. If this occurs, I will notify you and provide a basis for the dismissal.

As this matter relates to Conservatives4MT, I am dismissing this portion of the complaint at this time. Conservatives4MT has properly registered with COPP as an independent committee, and has not made any request to be reclassified as an incidental committee.

As to the remaining respondents, upon further review I will determine either a dismissal or a formal investigation is warranted. MCA § 13-37-111. Following the completion of an investigation, a summary of facts and statement of findings will be prepared, and a copy will be sent to you. This generally involves a more extensive and time-consuming process, during which you may contact us for a status update. If violations are found to have occurred and prosecution is determined to be justified, this matter will be referred to the local county attorney. MCA § 13-35-124. The local county attorney then determines whether they will prosecute the matter or refer it back to me. If returned to me, I will either work with the responding party to settle the matter or prosecute it within their local jurisdiction in district court. MCA § 13-35-128.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris J. Gallus".

Chris J. Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices