

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

HAND DELIVERED



SIGNED/NOTARIZED



RECEIVED
PM0225/

2026 APR 22
COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES

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

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Eric Early
Complete Mailing Address P.O. Box 254
Stevensville, MT 59870
Phone Numbers: Work (310) 650-1913 Home (406) 625-3465

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

Complete Names and Mailing addresses:

Big Sky Fiscal Guardians: P.O. Box 4412, Helena, MT
Treasure State Stewards: P.O. Box 4145, Helena, MT
Conservatives4MT: P.O. Box 7843, Helena, MT
Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections: Helena, MT

Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alleged violation.

Verification by oath or affirmation

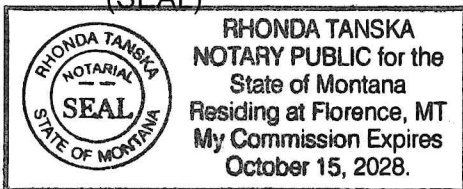
State of Montana, County of RAVALLI

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

Handwritten signature of Eric Early

Handwritten signature of Eric Early

Signature of Complainant



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17 day of April, 2026

Handwritten signature of Notary Public

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

Oct. 15, 2028

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.

See attached:

✓ **Formal Complaint Regarding Misclassification of Political Committees as Incidental Under Mont. Code Ann. § 13-1-101(29) and ARM 44.11.203 with Exhibits**

Complaints must be:

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

April 17, 2026

HAND DELIVERY

Commissioner of Political Practices
Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices
1209 Eighth Avenue
P.O. Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620-2401

Re: Formal Complaint Regarding Misclassification of Political Committees as Incidental Under Mont. Code Ann. § 13-1-101(29) and ARM 44.11.203

Dear Commissioner:

This complaint is filed pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 13-37-111 and ARM 44.11.106, requesting that the Commissioner of Political Practices investigate and reclassify four political committees that are improperly registered as incidental committees under Montana law. The complainant respectfully requests that the Commissioner exercise the authority granted under ARM 44.11.203(4) to determine that the primary purpose of these committees is to support or oppose candidates for election, and to order them to file and report as independent committees.

The committees at issue are: (1) Big Sky Fiscal Guardians (COPP registration dated 03/12/2026); (2) Treasure State Stewards (COPP registration dated 03/12/2026); (3) Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections (“MBASE,” originally registered for the 2000 election year); and (4) Conservatives4MT (registered 04/14/2022 as an Independent committee, which is now attempting to reclassify as Incidental and is operating as the hub of a network of purportedly incidental committees).

The evidence demonstrates that these entities share identical financial officers, banking infrastructure, and mailing addresses; that 100% of their reported expenditures are for candidate-specific election communications or transfers to other political committees in the network; and that they have no identifiable non-electoral purpose. The three incidental committees—Big Sky Fiscal Guardians, Treasure State Stewards, and MBASE—each report \$0.00 in receipts on their C-4 filings yet collectively made over \$94,000 in committee contributions to Conservatives4MT and spent thousands more on candidate-specific billboards and radio advertisements, running deeply negative balances. By operating as incidental committees, they avoid the full contributor disclosure required of independent committees, effectively shielding from public view the identity of donors whose money is being used for express candidate advocacy. Under ARM 44.11.203, a preponderance of the evidence establishes that the primary purpose of each is to support or oppose candidates, and incidental classification is improper.

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I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Montana Code Annotated § 13-1-101(29)(a) defines an “incidental committee” as “a political committee that is not specifically organized or operating for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot issues but that may incidentally become a political committee by receiving a contribution or making an expenditure.” The statute further provides that “the primary purpose is determined by the commissioner by rule and includes criteria such as the allocation of budget, staff, or members’ activity or the statement of purpose or goal of the person or individuals that form the committee.” MCA § 13-1-101(29)(b).

In contrast, an “independent committee” under MCA § 13-1-101(30) is “a political committee organized for the primary purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures that is not controlled either directly or indirectly by a candidate.”

Administrative Rule 44.11.203 provides the Commissioner’s framework for making the primary purpose determination. Under subsection (1), “primary purpose” refers to “the major, principal, or important goal, function, or reason for existence of a political committee.” Under subsection (4), if the Commissioner finds that “an organization’s primary purpose is to support or oppose a candidate or ballot issue, then that organization shall file and report as an independent committee ... and not as an incidental committee.” The Commissioner’s determination is based on a “preponderance of the evidence.” ARM 44.11.203(5).

The Commissioner may consider criteria including but not limited to: the allocation of budget to election-related activity; the history of the committee and the number of elections in which it has participated; receipt of contributions earmarked for candidates; the number and cost of reportable election expenditures; and coordination with candidates or other political committees. ARM 44.11.203(2)–(3).

II. THE COMMITTEES AND THEIR SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE

The following table summarizes the organizational overlap among the four committees at issue, drawn from their Statements of Organization (C-2), Secretary of State filings, and finance reports:

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Element	Conservatives4MT	Treasure State Stewards	Big Sky Fiscal Guardians	MBASE
Committee Type	Independent (seeking Incidental)	Incidental	Incidental	Incidental
Treasurer	Ross Fitzgerald	Ross Fitzgerald	Ross Fitzgerald	Ross Fitzgerald
Deputy Treasurer	Roger A. Hagan	Roger A. Hagan	Roger A. Hagan	Roger A. Hagan
Primary Bank	First Interstate Bank	First Interstate Bank	First Interstate Bank	First Interstate Bank
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 7843 Helena, MT	P.O. Box 4145 Helena, MT	P.O. Box 4412 Helena, MT	Helena, MT
Registration	04/14/2022	03/12/2026	03/12/2026	~2000

All four committees share the same treasurer (Ross Fitzgerald of Power, MT) and deputy treasurer (Roger Hagan of Great Falls, MT), use the same bank (First Interstate Bank), and maintain Helena post office box addresses. Roger Hagan is also the registered agent for MBASE with the Secretary of State and signed its annual report on 01/01/2026. Hagan signed the Secretary of State annual reports for both Treasure State Stewards and Big Sky Fiscal Guardians on 01/30/2026.

Additionally, director overlap connects these committees to the explicitly electoral entity Montanans for Election Reform Action Fund (MERAf), a 501(c)(4) whose stated purpose includes “advocating for electoral reforms that give Montana voters more choice in candidates for federal, state, and local primary and general elections.” Ted Kronebusch serves as a Director of both Treasure State Stewards and MERAf. Bruce Tutvedt serves as both the registered agent of Big Sky Fiscal Guardians and a Director of MERAf. Ross Fitzgerald is a Director of Big Sky Fiscal Guardians and treasurer of Conservatives4MT.

III. FUND FLOW AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

The Q1 2026 finance reports reveal a clear pattern: the three incidental committees—Big Sky Fiscal Guardians, Treasure State Stewards, and MBASE—each report \$0.00 in receipts on their C-4 filings, yet collectively spent over \$72,000 in expenditures during their first reporting period. Their spending consisted of two categories: (1) large committee contributions to Conservatives4MT, and (2) candidate-specific election communications (billboards and radio advertisements). Conservatives4MT, in turn, received these transfers as the bulk of its \$169,114.31 in total receipts. The fund flows are detailed below.

A. Conservatives4MT (C-6 Report, Q1 2026)

During the reporting period of 01/01/2026 through 03/25/2026, Conservatives4MT reported a beginning balance of \$38,421.00 and received \$169,114.31 in total receipts. Of this amount, \$94,000 came directly from the three purportedly incidental committees at issue in this complaint:

Source	Amount	Date	Classification on C-6
Big Sky Fiscal Guardians	\$22,000.00	03/09/2026	Incidental Cmte.
Treasure State Stewards	\$34,000.00	03/09/2026	Independent Cmte.
MBASE	\$38,000.00	03/09/2026	Incidental Cmte.
Trial Lawyers Legislative PAC	\$75,000.00	03/17/2026	Independent Cmte.
First Interstate Bank (interest)	\$114.31	Various	—

Notably, Conservatives4MT’s own C-6 report classifies its receipt from Treasure State Stewards as an “Independent Committee Contribution”—even though Treasure State Stewards registered with COPP as an incidental committee. This internal inconsistency suggests that even the receiving committee recognizes the electoral nature of the contributor. (Exhibit B: Conservatives4MT C-6 Report.)

Conservatives4MT’s own expenditures during this period totaled \$20,673.89, consisting of \$20,663.89 to Edge Marketing and Design for marketing services (social media, digital ads, radio, and direct mail) and a \$10.00 wire transfer fee. (Exhibit B.)

B. Big Sky Fiscal Guardians (C-4 Report, Q1 2026)

Big Sky Fiscal Guardians reported \$0.00 in receipts and \$34,519.42 in expenditures, resulting in a negative ending balance of (\$34,519.42). Despite reporting no incoming funds on its C-4, the committee made the following expenditures, all classified as “Expenditures: Independent”:

Recipient/Vendor	Amount	Purpose	Candidate Named
Conservatives4MT	\$22,000.00	Contribution to Incidental Committee	—
Fireweed Campaigns Inc.	\$4,656.00	Billboard design and placement (3 months)	Llew Jones
KSEN	\$3,720.00	Radio ads (248 ads on KSEN/KZIN)	Llew Jones

Uplift	\$4,143.42	Display advertising, billboard design and advertising (3 months)	Susan Geise
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Every dollar of Big Sky Fiscal Guardians’ spending was either a committee contribution to Conservatives4MT or a candidate-specific election communication—billboards and radio advertisements naming specific candidates (Llew Jones and Susan Geise). There is no non-electoral expenditure of any kind. (Exhibit C: Big Sky Fiscal Guardians C-4 Report.)

Fireweed Campaigns Inc., one of the vendors receiving payments from Big Sky Fiscal Guardians, is a Helena-based political consulting firm (PO Box 87, Helena, MT 59624) whose principal, Lauren Caldwell, serves as Political Director of the Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE). According to the Western Futures Fund Inc. Form 990, Fireweed Campaigns received \$107,500 in compensation for “project management” services. The use of a dedicated political campaign services firm underscores the electoral nature of this committee’s operations. (Exhibit K: Western Futures Fund Form 990, Independent Contractors.)

C. Treasure State Stewards (C-4 Report, Q1 2026)

Treasure State Stewards reported \$0.00 in receipts and \$38,143.42 in expenditures, resulting in a negative ending balance of (\$38,143.42). Its expenditures, also classified as “Expenditures: Independent,” are:

Recipient/Vendor	Amount	Purpose	Candidate Named
Conservatives4MT	\$34,000.00	Donation to Conservatives4MT	—
Uplift	\$4,143.42	Display advertising, billboard design and advertising (3 months)	Llew Jones

The same pattern is evident: a large committee contribution to Conservatives4MT (\$34,000) and candidate-specific billboard advertising for Llew Jones (\$4,143.42). The committee’s sole non-transfer expenditure is an election communication. (Exhibit D: Treasure State Stewards C-4 Report.)

D. Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections

Mbase contributed \$38,000 to Conservatives4MT on 03/09/2026, as reflected on Conservatives4MT’s C-6 report. Its C-2 Statement of Organization is essentially incomplete: no treasurer is identified, no bank is listed, and no candidates or ballot issues are identified as supported or opposed. Despite this, the entity has been an active contributor to the Conservatives4MT network. Its SOS annual report lists Roger Hagan as its registered agent and

Other Officer, using the same 117 Gerber Road, Great Falls address that appears in filings for the other committees. Its very name—“Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections”—announces an electoral purpose on its face. (Exhibit E: MBASE C-2 Statement of Organization; Exhibit H: MBASE SOS Filing.)

IV. THE PASS-THROUGH DONOR-SHIELDING SCHEME

The most troubling aspect of this network is the use of incidental committee status to shield donor identities while funneling money into candidate-specific electoral activity. The following pattern is documented in the Q1 2026 filings:

Big Sky Fiscal Guardians: \$0 reported receipts → \$22,000 to Conservatives4MT + \$12,519.42 in candidate ads

Treasure State Stewards: \$0 reported receipts → \$34,000 to Conservatives4MT + \$4,143.42 in candidate ads

MBASE: \$0 reported receipts → \$38,000 to Conservatives4MT

Each of these committees reports \$0.00 in receipts on its C-4 filing, yet collectively they spent over \$110,000. The source of their funds is entirely opaque from the public filings. This is not incidental electoral activity—it is a structured network in which purportedly incidental committees serve as pass-through vehicles, collecting money from undisclosed sources and directing it to an independent committee (Conservatives4MT) and to candidate-specific advertising, all while maintaining the lighter disclosure obligations afforded to incidental committees under MCA § 13-37-232.

The practical consequence of this structure is significant. Incidental committees filing C-4 reports are only required to disclose contributor information for funds earmarked for a specified candidate or solicited for election activity. MCA § 13-37-232(2), (7). By routing money through incidental committees, the network shields from public view the identity of donors whose contributions are being used for express candidate advocacy. This is precisely the circumvention of disclosure that the primary purpose test in ARM 44.11.203 was designed to prevent.

Furthermore, the fact that all three incidental committees report negative ending balances—(\$34,519.42) for Big Sky Fiscal Guardians and (\$38,143.42) for Treasure State Stewards—while reporting zero receipts raises serious questions about the completeness and accuracy of their C-4 filings. Either these committees received funds that are not reflected on their reports, or they are being funded through mechanisms that do not appear on C-4 disclosure forms. In either case, the public is denied the transparency that Montana’s campaign finance laws are designed to ensure.

V. APPLICATION OF ARM 44.11.203 FACTORS

A. Allocation of Budget to Electoral Activity

For Big Sky Fiscal Guardians and Treasure State Stewards, 100% of reported expenditures are either candidate-specific election communications or committee contributions to Conservatives4MT. Neither committee reports a single dollar of non-electoral spending. There is no charitable activity, no issue education, no public welfare program, and no business operation. The budget allocation factor overwhelmingly supports reclassification.

B. Statement of Purpose or Goal

The SOS filings for Big Sky Fiscal Guardians and Treasure State Stewards use boilerplate 501(c)(4) social welfare language. However, MBASE's name explicitly references "Elections," and the entire network's operational behavior demonstrates an exclusively electoral purpose. The Commissioner has authority under ARM 44.11.203(2) to look beyond pro forma statements of purpose to the actual conduct of the committee. Here, the conduct is unambiguous.

C. History and Number of Elections

Big Sky Fiscal Guardians and Treasure State Stewards were both registered on the same day (03/12/2026), just weeks before the filing deadline, and immediately began making candidate-specific expenditures and large committee contributions to Conservatives4MT. They were not pre-existing organizations that incidentally stumbled into electoral activity; they were created specifically and simultaneously to serve an electoral function. MBASE has existed since approximately 2000, but its C-2 is essentially incomplete, and its reactivation as a contributor of \$38,000 to Conservatives4MT in the 2026 cycle follows the same pattern.

D. Coordination with Candidates or Other Committees

The identical treasurer, deputy treasurer, and bank across all four committees establishes a level of operational integration that goes beyond mere coordination. These are not independent entities that happen to engage in similar activity—they are a unified financial operation controlled by the same individuals. ARM 44.11.203(3)(e) specifically instructs the Commissioner to consider "coordination with any candidates or other political committees."

E. Number and Cost of Reportable Election Expenditures

In their first reporting period alone, Big Sky Fiscal Guardians and Treasure State Stewards combined for over \$72,000 in expenditures, including approximately \$16,600 in direct candidate-specific advertising (billboards and radio ads naming Llew Jones and Susan Geise) and \$56,000 in committee contributions to Conservatives4MT. The scale and nature of these expenditures are inconsistent with incidental involvement in elections.

VI. REQUESTED RELIEF

The complainant respectfully requests that the Commissioner:

1. Reclassify Big Sky Fiscal Guardians from an incidental committee to an independent committee pursuant to ARM 44.11.203(4), and require it to file Form C-6 reports with full contributor disclosure going forward;

2. Reclassify Treasure State Stewards from an incidental committee to an independent committee pursuant to ARM 44.11.203(4), and require it to file Form C-6 reports with full contributor disclosure going forward;

3. Reclassify Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections from an incidental committee to an independent committee pursuant to ARM 44.11.203(4), and require it to file complete Form C-2 and C-6 reports;

4. Investigate the pass-through fund transfer pattern between the three incidental committees and Conservatives4MT to determine whether it constitutes a scheme to circumvent the disclosure requirements applicable to independent committees under Montana's campaign finance laws, and in particular, to determine the source of funds that enabled these committees to spend over \$110,000 collectively while reporting \$0.00 in receipts;

5. Deny any pending or future request by Conservatives4MT to reclassify from independent to incidental status, given that its entire operational history and current activity demonstrate that its primary purpose is supporting and opposing candidates;

6. Pending resolution of the classification questions raised herein, refrain from approving any further filings, expenditures, or transfers by these committees under their current or proposed Incidental classification until the primary purpose determination is complete;

7. Require amended reports from all committees to the extent that prior filings are incomplete, inaccurate, or inconsistent with the committee's proper classification; and

8. Take such further enforcement action as may be appropriate under MCA § 13-37-124 and § 13-37-128.

VII. CONCLUSION

Montana's campaign finance laws "protect the public's right to know who is paying to finance elections and how money is spent by campaigns." The incidental committee classification exists to accommodate entities whose primary purpose is non-electoral but who may occasionally participate in the political process. It was never intended to shelter networks of committees created by the same individuals, using the same bank, the same treasurer, and the same deputy treasurer, for the express purpose of funneling money to an independent committee

and funding candidate-specific billboards and radio advertisements—all while reporting zero receipts and maintaining negative balances that obscure the true source of their funds.

The evidence presented in this complaint establishes by a preponderance—indeed, by any reasonable standard—that Big Sky Fiscal Guardians, Treasure State Stewards, and Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections are operating for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing candidates for election. They should be classified and required to report as independent committees with full donor disclosure, as Montana law demands.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Early

P.O. Box 254
Stevensville, MT 59870
(c) (310) 650-1913
(h) (406) 625-3465
early@earlysullivan.com

EXHIBIT LIST

The following documents are submitted in support of this complaint:

Exhibit A: CERS Public Access Search Results — Conservatives4MT reclassification from Independent to Incidental (screenshot, April 12, 2026)

Exhibit B: Conservatives4MT C-6 Committee Finance Report (01/01/2026 – 03/25/2026)

Exhibit C: Big Sky Fiscal Guardians C-4 Incidental Committee Finance Report (03/09/2026 – 03/25/2026)

Exhibit D: Treasure State Stewards C-4 Incidental Committee Finance Report (03/09/2026 – 03/25/2026)

Exhibit E: Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections C-2 Statement of Organization

Exhibit F: MT Secretary of State Filing: Big Sky Fiscal Guardians (D1584486, filed 01/30/2026)

Exhibit G: MT Secretary of State Filing: Treasure State Stewards (D1586109, filed 01/30/2026)

Exhibit H: MT Secretary of State Filing: Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections

Exhibit I: MT Secretary of State Filing: Montanans for Election Reform Action Fund (D1377218, filed 04/07/2025)

Exhibit J: Three Committees — Shared Officers Analysis (annotated comparison)

Exhibit K: Western Futures Fund Inc. Form 990 — Independent Contractors (Fireweed Campaigns Inc.)

EXHIBIT A

CERS Public Access Search Results — Conservatives4MT reclassification from Independent to Incidental (screenshot, April 12, 2026)

Public Access Search Results Search results for candidates and committees.

Candidates **Committees**

Committee List

Display 5 records

Search:

Committee Name	Year	Status	Address	Committee Type
Conservatives4MT	2026	In Process	P. O. Box 7843, Helena, MT 59604	Incidental
Conservatives4MT		Amended	P.O. BOX 7843, HELENA, MT 59604	Independent

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

1

[View Registrations](#) [View Finance Reports](#) [New Search](#)

EXHIBIT B

Conservatives4MT C-6 Committee Finance Report (01/01/2026 – 03/25/2026)

Committee Finance Report (C-6)

Committee Information

Date Filed: 04/14/2022

Original Filing for: 01/01/2026 - 03/25/2026

Report Type: Periodic

Receive and File Date: 03/26/2026

Report Status: Filed

Conservatives4MT
P.O. BOX 7843 HELENA, MT 59604

Committee Type: Independent

Treasurer:
FITZGERALD, ROSS H
P. O. BOX 207 POWER, MT 59468

Bank Information:
FIRST INTERSTATE BANK
P.O. BOX 6013 HELENA, MT 59604

Summary Report

Cash Summary: Money Received and Spent

1. Cash in Bank - Balance from previous report		\$38,421.00
2. Receipts - Total Received and deposited this period	+	<u>\$169,114.31</u>
	Subtotal	\$207,535.31
3. Expenditures - Total paid out this period	-	<u>\$20,673.89</u>
4. Cash in Bank - Ending Balance this report		\$186,861.42

Loans

No entries found.

Fundraisers

No entries found.

Refunds, Etc ...

Entity	Election	Transaction Type	Date	Previous Trans?	Original Trans Date	Original Trans Total	Cash/Check Amount	Total to Date
First Interstate Bank 2601 10th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405	Primary	Interest Received	01/30/2026	No		0.00	59.08	114.31(P) 0.00(G)
First Interstate Bank 2601 10th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405	Primary	Interest Received	02/27/2026	No		0.00	55.23	114.31(P) 0.00(G)

Committee Contributions

Entity	Committee Type	Election	Date	In-Kind Description	In-Kind Value	Cash/Check Amount	Total to Date
Big Sky Fiscal Guardians P. O. BOX 4412, Helena, MT 59604	Incidental Committee Contributions	Primary	03/09/2026		0.00	22,000.00	22,000.00(P) 0.00(G)

Entity	Committee Type	Election	Date	In-Kind Description	In-Kind Value	Cash/Check Amount	Total to Date
MONTANA BUSINESS ADVOCATES FOR SENSIBLE ELECTIONS P. O. BOX 4221, Helena, MT 59604	Incidental Committee Contributions	Primary	03/09/2026		0.00	38,000.00	38,000.00(P) 0.00(G)
Treasure State Stewards P. O. BOX 4145, Helena, MT 59604	Independent Committee Contributions	Primary	03/09/2026		0.00	34,000.00	34,000.00(P) 0.00(G)
Trial Lawyers Legislative PAC PO Box 838, Helena, MT 59601	Independent Committee Contributions	Primary	03/17/2026		0.00	75,000.00	75,000.00(P) 0.00(G)

Individual Contributors (Total Contributions < \$50: \$0.00) (Primary Contributions < \$50: \$0.00) (General Contributions < \$50: \$0.00)

No entries found.

Expenditures

Entity	Election	Purpose	Platform	Quantity	Specific Services	Attachment	Date	Amount
Edge Marketing and Design 1301 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601	Primary	Marketing Services - social media services, direct mail, radio	Radio (SD19), Digital Ads (SD09/SD19), Direct mail (SD09)	Varies over time		No	03/24/2026	20,663.89
First Interstate Bank 2601 10th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405	Primary	Wire transfer fee	First Interstate Bank			No	03/17/2026	10.00

Expenditures: Independent

No entries found.

Debts

No entries found.

Payments Only

No entries found.

Attachments

No entries found.

Committee Finance Report (C-4)

Committee Information

Date Filed: 03/12/2026

Original Filing for: 03/09/2026 - 03/25/2026

Report Type: Initial

Receive and File Date: 03/27/2026

Report Status: Pending-Amended

Amended Date: 04/07/2026

Big Sky Fiscal Guardians
P. O. BOX 4412 Helena, MT 59604

Election Year: 2026

Committee Type: Incidental

Treasurer:

Fitzgerald, Ross
P. O. Box 207 Power, MT 59468

Bank Information:

First Interstate Bank
P. O. Box 30918 Billings, MT 59116

Summary Report

Cash Summary: Money Received and Spent

1. Cash in Bank - Balance from previous report		\$0.00
2. Receipts - Total Received and deposited this period	+	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Subtotal	\$0.00
3. Expenditures - Total paid out this period	-	<u>\$34,519.42</u>
4. Cash in Bank - Ending Balance this report		(\$34,519.42)

Fundraisers

No entries found.

Refunds, Etc ...

No entries found.

Committee Contributions

No entries found.

Individual Contributors (Total Contributions < \$50: \$0.00) (Primary Contributions < \$50: \$0.00) (General Contributions < \$50: \$0.00)

No entries found.

Expenditures

No entries found.

Expenditures: Independent

Entity	Election	Purpose	Candidate/Issue	Platform	Quantity	Specific Services	Attachment	Date	Amount
Conservatives4MT PO Box 7843, Helena, MT 59604	Primary	Contribution to Incidental Committee					No	03/09/2026	22,000.00
Fireweed Campaigns PO Box 87, Helena, MT 59624	Primary	Billboard design and placement	Llew Jones	Billboard	3 months		No	03/09/2026	4,656.00
KSEN 830 Oilfield Avenue, Shelby, MT 59474	Primary	Radio ads	Llew Jones	KSEN/KZIN Radio	248 ads		No	03/09/2026	3,720.00
Uplift 2140 Shattuck Ave Ste 1101, Berkeley, CA 94704	Primary	Display Advertising	Susan Giese	Billboard	3 months	Billboard design and advertising	No	03/09/2026	4,143.42

Debts

No entries found.

Payments Only

No entries found.

Attachments

No entries found.

EXHIBIT D

Treasure State Stewards C-4 Incidental Committee Finance Report (03/09/2026 – 03/25/2026)

Committee Finance Report (C-4)

Committee Information

Date Filed: 03/12/2026

Amended Filing for: 03/09/2026 - 03/25/2026

Report Type: Initial

Receive and File Date: 03/26/2026

Report Status: Pending-Amended

Amended Date: 04/07/2026

Treasure State Stewards
P. O. BOX 4145 Helena, MT 59604

Election Year: 2026
Committee Type: Incidental

Treasurer:
Fitzgerald, Ross
P. O. Box 207 Power, MT 59468

Bank Information:
First Interstate Bank
P. O. Box 30918 Billings, MT 59116

Summary Report

Cash Summary: Money Received and Spent

1. Cash in Bank - Balance from previous report		\$0.00
2. Receipts - Total Received and deposited this period	+	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Subtotal	\$0.00
3. Expenditures - Total paid out this period	-	<u>\$38,143.42</u>
4. Cash in Bank - Ending Balance this report		(\$38,143.42)

Fundraisers

No entries found.

Refunds, Etc ...

No entries found.

Committee Contributions

No entries found.

Individual Contributors (Total Contributions < \$50: \$0.00) (Primary Contributions < \$50: \$0.00) (General Contributions < \$50: \$0.00)

No entries found.

Expenditures

No entries found.

Expenditures: Independent

Entity	Election	Purpose	Candidate/Issue	Platform	Quantity	Specific Services	Attachment	Date	Amount
Conservatives4MT PO Box 7843, Helena, MT 59604	Primary	Donation to Conservatives4MT					No	03/09/2026	34,000.00
Uplift 2140 Shattuck Ave Ste 1101, Berkeley, CA 94704	Primary	Display advertising	Llew Jones	Billboard	3 months	Billboard design and advertising	No	03/09/2026	4,143.42

Debts

No entries found.

Payments Only

No entries found.

Attachments

No entries found.

EXHIBIT E

Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections C-2 Statement of Organization



STATE OF MONTANA
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

STATE OF MONTANA
-FILED-
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 File Number: 16892261
 Date Filed: 1/1/2026 2:57:05 PM

Business Type			
Business Type	Domestic Non-Profit Corporation		
Business Sub-Type	Public Benefit Corporation without members		
Business Name			
Name of Business Entity	MONTANA BUSINESS ADVOCATES FOR SENSIBLE ELECTIONS		
The file number of this entity on the records of the Montana Secretary of State is	D271823		
Country of Organization	United States		
State of Organization	Montana		
Annual Report Year	2026		
Business Purpose	PUBLIC-GENERAL		
Business Mailing Address of Principal Office			
Address	P. O. BOX 4221 HELENA, MT 59604		
Business Physical Address of Principal Office			
Address	None		
The registered agent on record is:			
Registered Agent	ROGER A HAGAN Non-Commercial Registered Agent Agent Number RA00108635 Email Address Website Physical Address 117 GERBER ROAD GREAT FALLS, MT 59405 Mailing Address 117 GERBER ROAD GREAT FALLS, MT 59405		
Select the Type of Change			
Select one if a registered agent change is needed:			
Directors			
Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary MacLaren	P. O. BOX 4184 HELENA, MT 59406	Director	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Johnson	P. O. BOX 4184 HELENA, MT 59604	Director	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse O'Hara	117 Gerber Rd Great Falls, MT 59405	Director	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Anderson	P. O. BOX 4184 HELENA, MT 59604	Director	
Officers			
Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address

B1525-3490 01/01/2026 2:57 PM Received by MT Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen

EXHIBIT F

MT Secretary of State Filing: Big Sky Fiscal Guardians (D1584486, filed 01/30/2026)




STATE OF MONTANA
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

STATE OF MONTANA
-FILED-
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 File Number: 17032583
 Date Filed: 1/30/2026 5:10:00 PM

Business Type			
Business Type	Domestic Non-Profit Corporation		
Business Sub-Type	Public Benefit Corporation without members		
Business Name			
Name of Business Entity	Big Sky Fiscal Guardians		
The file number of this entity on the records of the Montana Secretary of State is	D1584486		
Country of Organization	United States		
State of Organization	Montana		
Annual Report Year	2026		
Business Purpose	operated exclusively for social welfare within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(4)		
Business Mailing Address of Principal Office			
Address	ROGER A. HAGAN PO BOX 4412 HELENA, MT 59604		
Business Physical Address of Principal Office			
Address	None		
The registered agent on record is:			
Registered Agent	BRUCE P TUTVEDT Non-Commercial Registered Agent Agent Number RA00120248 Email Address tutvedtfarm@gmail.com Website Physical Address 1333 CHURCH DR KALISPELL, MT 59901 Mailing Address 1333 CHURCH DR KALISPELL, MT 59901-6949		
Select the Type of Change			
Select one if a registered agent change is needed:			
Directors			
Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address
+ KEN JOHNSON	23073 SOLLID ROAD CONRAD, MT 59425	Director	desertclaim@3rivers.net
+ ROSS FITZGERALD	4025 FOX HOLLOW DRIVE HELENA, MT 59602	Director	rhfitz@3rivers.net
+ BRUCE TUTVEDT	1333 CHURCH DRIVE KALISPELL, MT 59901	Director	brucetutvedt@gmail.com
Officers			
Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address

B1509-123 / 01/30/2026 5:10 PM Received by MT Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen

 Roger A Hagan	117 GERBER ROAD GREAT FALLS, MT 59401	Other Officer	rahagan@msn.com
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Declarations

- I understand that the information I enter into the online system is public information and will appear online and on copy requests exactly as I key it into the system.
- I have been authorized by the business entity to file this document online.
- I, HEREBY SWEAR AND/OR AFFIRM, under penalty of law, including criminal prosecution, that the facts contained in this document are true. I certify that I am signing this document as the person(s) whose signature is required, or as an agent of the person(s) whose signature is required, who has authorized me to place his/her signature on this document.

Signature

<i>Self</i>	<i>ROGER A HAGAN</i>	<i>01/30/2026</i>
Signer's Capacity	Sign Here	Date

Position	Other Officer
----------	---------------

Daytime Contact

Phone Number	(406) 459-0773
Email	rahagan@msn.com

EXHIBIT G

MT Secretary of State Filing: Treasure State Stewards (D1586109, filed 01/30/2026)



STATE OF MONTANA
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

STATE OF MONTANA
-FILED-
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 File Number: 17032377
 Date Filed: 1/30/2026 4:25:34 PM

Business Type																			
Business Type	Domestic Non-Profit Corporation																		
Business Sub-Type	Public Benefit Corporation without members																		
Business Name																			
Name of Business Entity	Treasure State Stewards																		
The file number of this entity on the records of the Montana Secretary of State is	D1586109																		
Country of Organization	United States																		
State of Organization	Montana																		
Annual Report Year	2026																		
Business Purpose	Organized and operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare within the meaning of IRC §501(c)(4)																		
Business Mailing Address of Principal Office																			
Address	ROGER A. HAGAN P. O. BOX 4145 HELENA, MT 59604																		
Business Physical Address of Principal Office																			
Address	None																		
The registered agent on record is:																			
Registered Agent	Vondene Kopetski Non-Commercial Registered Agent Agent Number RA1586124 Email Address vondene@gmail.com Website Physical Address 7373 STONEHAVEN AVE MISSOULA, MT 59803-9631 Mailing Address 7373 STONEHAVEN AVE MISSOULA, MT 59803-9631																		
Select the Type of Change Select one if a registered agent change is needed:																			
Directors																			
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:30%;">Full Name</th> <th style="width:30%;">Business Mailing Address</th> <th style="width:15%;">Position</th> <th style="width:25%;">Email Address</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>+ TED KRONEBUSCH</td> <td>608 S DELAWARE ST CONRAD, MT 59425</td> <td>Director</td> <td>tedandlori@3rivers.net</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+ VONDENE KOPETSKI</td> <td>7373 STONEHAVEN AVE MISSOULA, MT 59803</td> <td>Director</td> <td>vondene@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+ ROSS FITZGERALD</td> <td>4025 FOX HOLLOW DRIVE HELENA, MT 59602</td> <td>Director</td> <td>rhfitz@3rivers.net</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address	+ TED KRONEBUSCH	608 S DELAWARE ST CONRAD, MT 59425	Director	tedandlori@3rivers.net	+ VONDENE KOPETSKI	7373 STONEHAVEN AVE MISSOULA, MT 59803	Director	vondene@gmail.com	+ ROSS FITZGERALD	4025 FOX HOLLOW DRIVE HELENA, MT 59602	Director	rhfitz@3rivers.net
Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address																
+ TED KRONEBUSCH	608 S DELAWARE ST CONRAD, MT 59425	Director	tedandlori@3rivers.net																
+ VONDENE KOPETSKI	7373 STONEHAVEN AVE MISSOULA, MT 59803	Director	vondene@gmail.com																
+ ROSS FITZGERALD	4025 FOX HOLLOW DRIVE HELENA, MT 59602	Director	rhfitz@3rivers.net																
Officers																			
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:25%;">Full Name</th> <th style="width:30%;">Business Mailing Address</th> <th style="width:20%;">Position</th> <th style="width:25%;">Email Address</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address												
Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address																

RL309-059 / 01/30/2026 4:25 PM Received by MT Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen

+ Roger A Hagan	117 GERBER ROAD GREAT FALLS, MT 59405	Other Officer	rahagan@msn.com
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Declarations

- I understand that the information I enter into the online system is public information and will appear online and on copy requests exactly as I key it into the system.
- I have been authorized by the business entity to file this document online.
- I, HEREBY SWEAR AND/OR AFFIRM, under penalty of law, including criminal prosecution, that the facts contained in this document are true. I certify that I am signing this document as the person(s) whose signature is required, or as an agent of the person(s) whose signature is required, who has authorized me to place his/her signature on this document.

Signature

<i>Self</i>	<i>ROGER A HAGAN</i>	<i>01/30/2026</i>
Signer's Capacity	Sign Here	Date

Position	Other Officer
----------	---------------

Daytime Contact	
Phone Number	(406) 459-0773
Email	rahagan@msn.com

EXHIBIT H

MT Secretary of State Filing: Montana Business Advocates for Sensible Elections

Statement of Organization (C2)

Committee Information

Committee Name: MONTANA BUSINESS ADVOCATES FOR SENSIBLE ELECTIONS
Mailing Address: P. O. BOX 4221 Helena, MT 59604
Physical Address:
Committee Type: Incidental
Incorporated: N
Received Date:
Election Year: 2000
Current Status: In Process
Amended Date:

Committee Treasurer Information

Treasurer Full Name:
Mailing Address:
Physical Address:
Home Phone:
Alternate Phone:
Home or Personal Email Address:

Deputy Treasurer Information

Committee Account Information

Primary Bank:
Primary Address:
Secondary Bank:
Secondary Address:

Additional Officer Information

Purpose of Committee and/or Name(s) of Candidate(s) or Ballot Issue(s) Supported or Opposed

<u>Candidate/Issues</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Issue Status</u>
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EXHIBIT I

MT Secretary of State Filing: Montanans for Election Reform Action Fund (D1377218, filed
04/07/2025)



STATE OF MONTANA
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

STATE OF MONTANA
-FILED-
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 File Number: 16648649
 Date Filed: 4/7/2025 3:52:28 PM

Business Type			
Business Type	Domestic Non-Profit Corporation		
Business Sub-Type	Public Benefit Corporation without members		
Business Name			
Annual Report Year	2025		
Name of Business Entity	Montanans for Election Reform Action Fund		
Montana File Number	D1377218		
Country of Organization	United States		
State of Organization	Montana		
Business Purpose	The purpose of the Corporation is to promote social welfare within the meaning of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law) (hereinafter, "Code § 501(c)(4)")., , This includes but is not limited to (1) advocating for electoral reforms that give Montana voters more choice in candidates for federal, state, and local primary and general elections and, (2) opposing any legislative or constitutional changes that make it more difficult for Montana voters to choose their preferred candidates.		
Business Mailing Address of Principal Office			
Address	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624		
Business Physical Address of Principal Office			
Address	None		
The registered agent on record is:			
Registered Agent	MORRISON LAW FIRM, PLLC Non-Commercial Registered Agent Agent Number RA1387507 Email Address sean@treasurestatetax.com Website Physical Address 111 N LAST CHANCE GULCH 3B HELENA, MT 59601 Mailing Address 111 N LAST CHANCE GULCH 3B HELENA, MT 59601		
Directors			
Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address
Bruce Grubbs	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Director	
Ted Kronebusch	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Director	

B1436-6473 04/07/2025 3:52 PM Received by MT Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen

Bruce Tutvedt	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Director	
Frank Garner	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Director	
Doug Campbell	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Director	
Tom Jacobson	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Director	
Mary Sexton	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Director	

Officers

Full Name	Business Mailing Address	Position	Email Address
Bruce Tutvedt	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	President	
Doug Campbell	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Secretary	
Doug Campbell	P.O. BOX 315 HELENA, MT 59624	Treasurer	

Declarations

- I confirm I have reviewed the information set forth in this Annual Report and that all information is correct and factual.
- I have been authorized by the business entity to file this document online.
- I, HEREBY SWEAR AND/OR AFFIRM, under penalty of law, including criminal prosecution, that the facts contained in this document are true. I certify that I am signing this document as the person(s) whose signature is required, or as an agent of the person(s) whose signature is required, who has authorized me to place his/her signature on this document.

Signature

Self

Signer's Capacity

Allison Dale-Riddle

Sign Here

04/07/2025

Date

Position

Authorized Agent

Daytime Contact

Phone Number

(406) 437-1301

Email

allison_dale2004@yahoo.com

RECEIVED BY MT SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTI JACOBSEN

Three Committees - Shared Officers Analysis (Conservatives4MT / Big Sky FG / Treasure State)

1 Big Sky Fiscal Guardians — Incidental — Registered 03/12/2026 — Active

Committee Registration View

Committee Information

Committee Name:	Big Sky Fiscal Guardians	Physical Address:	
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 4112 Helena, MT 59604	Incorporated:	Y
Committee Type:	Incidental	Expiry Year:	2026
Revised Date:	03/12/2026	Amended Date:	
Current Status:	Active		

Committee Treasurer Information

Treasurer Full Name:	Fitzgerald, Ross	Physical Address:	
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 207 Power, MT 59408	Alternate Phone:	
Home Phone:	(406) 788-1443		
Home or Personal Email Address:	rhftz@3rivers.net		

Deputy Treasurer Information

Deputy Treasurer Full Name:	Hagan, Roger A	Physical Address:	333 1ST AVENUE NORTH, SUITE #01 Great Falls, MT 59401
Mailing Address:	117 GERBER ROAD Great Falls, MT 59403	Alternate Phone:	
Home Phone:	(406) 459-0773		
Home or Personal Email Address:	rahagan@msn.com		

Committee Account Information

Primary Bank:	First Interstate Bank	Primary Address:	P.O. Box 3018 Billings, MT 59116
Secondary Bank:		Secondary Address:	

2 Conservatives4MT — Independent — Registered 04/14/2022 — Amended

Committee Registration View

Committee Information

Committee Name:	Conservatives4MT	Physical Address:	4533 POTTSVILLE DRIVE HELENA, MT 59602
Mailing Address:	P.O. BOX 7843 HELENA, MT 59604	Incorporated:	N
Committee Type:	Independent	Expiry Year:	
Revised Date:	04/14/2022	Amended Date:	04/01/2024
Current Status:	Amended		

Committee Treasurer Information

Treasurer Full Name:	FITZGERALD, ROSS F	Physical Address:	
Mailing Address:	P.O. BOX 207 POWER, MT 59408	Alternate Phone:	
Home Phone:	(406) 788-1443		
Home or Personal Email Address:	rhftz@3rivers.net		

Deputy Treasurer Information

Deputy Treasurer Full Name:	HAGAN, ROGER A	Physical Address:	
Mailing Address:	117 Gerber Rd Great Falls, MT 59403	Alternate Phone:	
Home Phone:	(406) 459-0773		
Home or Personal Email Address:	rahagan@msn.com		

Committee Account Information

Primary Bank:	FIRST INTERSTATE BANK	Primary Address:	PO BOX 6913 HELENA, MT 59604
Secondary Bank:		Secondary Address:	

3 Treasure State Stewards — Incidental — Registered 03/12/2026 — Active

Committee Registration View

Committee Information

Committee Name:	Treasure State Stewards	Physical Address:	
Mailing Address:	P.O. BOX 4112 HELENA, MT 59604	Incorporated:	Y
Committee Type:	Incidental	Expiry Year:	2026
Revised Date:	03/12/2026	Amended Date:	
Current Status:	Active		

Committee Treasurer Information

Treasurer Full Name:	Fitzgerald, Ross	Physical Address:	
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 207 Power, MT 59408	Alternate Phone:	
Home Phone:	(406) 788-1443		
Home or Personal Email Address:	rhftz@3rivers.net		

Deputy Treasurer Information

Deputy Treasurer Full Name:	Hagan, Roger A	Physical Address:	333 1ST AVENUE NORTH, SUITE #01 Great Falls, MT 59401
Mailing Address:	117 GERBER ROAD Great Falls, MT 59403	Alternate Phone:	
Home Phone:	(406) 459-0773		
Home or Personal Email Address:	rahagan@msn.com		

Committee Account Information

Primary Bank:	First Interstate Bank	Primary Address:	P.O. Box 2018 Billings, MT 59116
Secondary Bank:		Secondary Address:	

- ☐ = Identical personnel and banking across all three committees
- Treasurer: Fitzgerald, Ross — P.O. Box 207 Power, MT 59408 — (406) 788-1443 — rhftz@3rivers.net
- Deputy Treasurer: Hagan, Roger A — 117 Gerber Rd Great Falls, MT 59403 — (406) 459-0773 — rahagan@msn.com
- Primary Bank: First Interstate Bank (Billings branch for #1 & #3, Helena branch for #2)
- All three committees registered to Helena P.O. Boxes — two registered on the same day (03/12/2026)

EXHIBIT K

Western Futures Fund Inc. Form 990 — Independent Contractors (Fireweed Campaigns Inc.)



Select a schedule Form 990

individual	4	No
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person	5	No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
ASCEND DIGITAL STRATEGIES LLC 4840 PEARL EAST CIRCLE SUITE 210E BOULDER, CO 80301	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	225,215
CERILLION N4 PARTNERS LLC 1326 5TH AVENUE 334 SEATTLE, WA 98101	ADVERTISING	137,824
FIREWEED CAMPAIGNS INC PO BOX 87 HELENA, MT 59624	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	107,500

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization 3

Form 990 (2024)