# THE STATE OF MONTANA

Commissioner of Political Practices 1209 Eighth Avenue Post Office Box 202401 Helena, MT 59620-2401 Phone: 406-444-2942

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HAND DELIVERED

## Campaign Finance and Practices

## Complaint Form (08/17)



Type or print in ink all information on this form except for verification signature Person bringing complaint (Complainant): Complete Name Darin Gaub Complete Mailing Address PO Box 461, Helena, MT 59624 Phone Numbers: Work 678-718-5373 Home 678-718-5373 Person or organization against whom complaint is brought (Respondent): Complete Name Montana United, Montanans for Fair Taxation, Kyle McMurray, Scott Complete Mailing Address Sales, Randyn Gregg, Michelle Binkley Phone Numbers: Work \_\_\_\_ Home

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

detail the	facts of the alledged violation.
Verificat	ion by oath or affirmation
State of Montana, County of Lewis	+ Clark
Complaint is complete, true, and correct true, a	being duly sworn, state that the information in this ct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.  Signature of Complainant  Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of 2024
My Commission Expires: 9/22/2	Wotary Public 1

### 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.

The candidates and PACs noted in this complaint have colluded in independent expenditures.

### The Facts

- 1) There were campaign mailers that arrived in voter's mailboxes on or before 4/20/24. The mailers contained photos of the candidates McMurray, Sales, and Binkley individually with Greg Gianforte. These photos appear to be professional photos in which Gianforte is wearing very similar, if not exact, clothing in each photo shoot with each candidate.
- 2) The mailers were sent out by Montana United "MT United PAC': Treasurer, Smith, W; PO Box 81505 Billings MT 591018". This PAC is noted as "In Process" with MT COPP and has not filed as a PAC with their treasurer and accompanying details.
- 3) Campaign mailers take at a minimum 2 weeks (10 business days) to process from the time the creative layout is submitted to the printing company to the time the mailer arrives in mail boxes.
- 4) The date that the professional photos were first made public (social media) range from May 8th to May 10th (see Gregg and McMurray).
- 5) In the instance of McMurray, the photos then appeared only 9 business days later in a campaign mailer. (May 10th the photos appeared online and May 20th the mailer was in voter's mailboxes.) Considering that it often takes multiple days to develop the creative layout of mailers the only reasonable conclusion is that the professional photos were acquired by Montana United before May 10th and hence in coordination with the candidates who appeared in the photos.
- 6) Importantly, in the instance of McMurray, the photo in the Montanans United mailer is DIFFERENT than the photo used by the candidate on his Facebook page. The fact that the photos online are different than the photos in the mailer make it impossible that Montana United acquired the photo online through a publicly accessible mediums. The only way that McMurray and Montana United had access to the same

### Complaints must be:

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

complement of photos is through coordination with the independent expenditure.

- 6) In 2021, Montana United disbursed their end-of-campaign funds. One organization the funds were disbursed to was Montanans for Fair Taxation. A) Although Montanans for Fair Taxation has received multiple campaign funds at least since 2021 (see COPP), they have never filed with COPP. B) Through an online search the Treasurer of Montanans for Fair Taxation appears to be, or have been, Wendy Smith from Shepherd MT.
- 7) Multiple candidates including Binkley, McMurray, Sales, Gregg received on XX/XX \$450 contributions from Montanans for Fair Taxation. Montanans for Fair Taxation have been disbursing funds to candidates and evidently raising funds, but not reporting them in COPP.
- 8) The treasurer now for Montana United is now listed at "W. Smith". Since Montana United has also not been reporting to COPP, it can't be know for sure, but it's very likely that "W. Smith" is "Wendy Smith" the treasurer for Montanans for Fair Taxation, the same group that is also being allowed act illegally.

In summary, many candidates (McMurray, Sales, Binkley, Gregg, and possibly more) colluded with Montana United PAC for independent expenditures which benefited the candidates in question. PACs Montana United and Montanans for Fair Taxation have been allowed to act illegally by not registering with COPP and not reporting their income and expenses. It's almost certain that there has been dark money PAC to PAC transactions.



# Kyle McMurray Candidate for HD 77

So pleased to receive this endorsement of our campaign. Thanks again also for your endorsement Governor Gianforte.



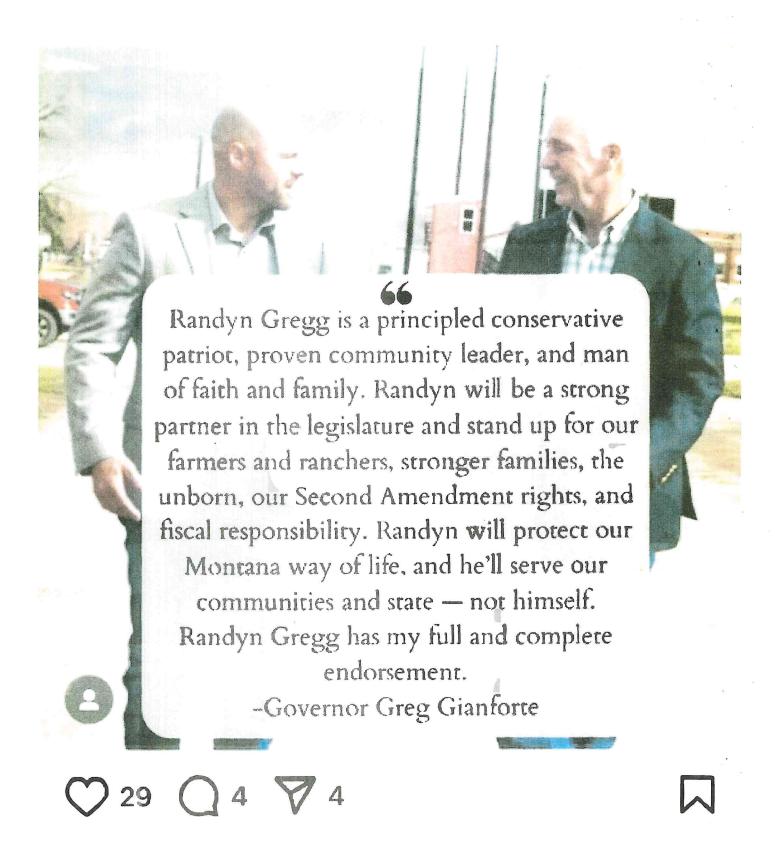
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Liked by randyngregg and others randynformt Absolutely honored to be endorsed by

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Candidate										
(2) Committee										
State of Montana		Entity	Election	Purpose	Platform	Quantity	Specific	Attachment	Date	Amount
		Burnt Timber Consulting, LLC PO Box 5315, Halena, MT 59604.	General	January & February Boo Kkeeping and Complian ce				O Z	02/08	800.00
		Barnt Timber Consulting, LLC PO Box 5315 Helena, MT 59604	General	Reimbursement for Hot el Room & 1099 Prep				No	03/12 /2021	5,48
		LIAPAC PO Box 5315, Helena, MT 59604	General	Contribution				O.	03/12 /2021	500.00
		Montana Republican State Central Cinte al Cinte PO Box 935, Helena, MT 59624	General	Contribution				No	01/29	2,500.00
		Montana Repubrican State Central Cinte al Cinte PO Box 935, Helena, MT 59 <u>6</u> 24	General	Contribution				No	03/12	572.44
		Montanans for fair Taxation PO Box 81513, Blings, MT 59108	General	Contribution				O.	03/12 /2021	286.00
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Expenditures Independen



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