

THE STATE OF MONTANA

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 RECEIVED 2024 MAY 02 04:10 PM COMMIS... Political Practices

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

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Dave Kesler III Complete Mailing Address P.O. Box 42 Philipsburg, MT 59858 Phone Numbers: Work 406-491-2650 Home 406-491-2650

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

Complete Name Stevensville, MT Mayor Bob Michalson Complete Mailing Address 206 Buck St Stevensville, MT 59870 Phone Numbers: Work 406-777-5271 Home N/A

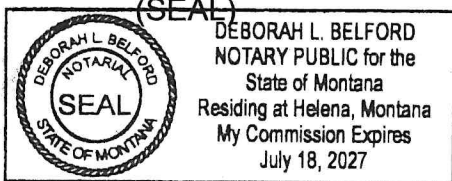
Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alledged violation.

Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Lewis & Clark

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

Signature of Complainant (Handwritten signature)



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of May, 2024.

Notary Public (Handwritten signature) Deborah L. Belford

My Commission Expires: 7/18/2027

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.

On April 25th, 2024, Mayor Bob Michelson of Stevensville, took it upon himself to Pardon Sue McCearry for her theft of the political signs and proceeded to shame Kim Dailey for reporting the signs stolen along with pictures and videos of the crime. See at attached documentation. As Mayor, Bob Michelson way overstepped his bounds in this action and disregarded the legal process. Please see the email sent from KeslerforMontana@gmail.com sent April 27, 2024 at 12:01am for the link to the video of the city counsel meeting in question. The Mayor's may be charged under MCA **13-35-204** (2) and **45-7-401** (a) (c) and in calling the Sheriff to his house to "discuss it", as he tells on the video (e)

Belford, Deborah

From: Dave Kesler <keslerformontana@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 12:01 AM
To: CPP Help
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Candidate campaign manager stealing opponent signs
Attachments: 6f7fe09f-5045-4d01-9ed3-3bb4f838f993.jpg; 3e4acb57-803f-4b24-a18f-f664a6ce30d8.jpg; 691075f9-65c9-4a68-9028-e2aa174502b5.jpg; 22b47f83-557e-4403-8fb6-8c8a164c54de.mp4

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

It has come to my attention that one of the campaign managers in the Bitterroot has been caught stealing campaign signs of candidates she doesn't like. I've attached a video of her returning one sign and placing it where it had not previously been. I've also attached the investigating officer's report, in which the campaign manager admits she has stolen more signs and refuses to disclose where they are. I have also included the Youtube link to the Mayor pardoning her for the theft. I believe the part of the video relevant to this complaint is around the 59:50 mark. The hypocrisy of saying the Pledge of Allegiance, ..."with liberty and justice for all." and then "pardoning" the perp and reprimanding the victim is atrocious! [.TOWN OF STEVENSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING \(youtube.com\) \[youtube.com\]](#)

I have known Kim Dailey personally for several years and have known her to be a lady of the highest, most impeccable integrity and honesty. Kim is one of the sweetest, kindest ladies you'd ever meet and did nothing willful or otherwise to instigate the theft and subversion of her 1st Amendment rights that she's fallen victim to.

Theft is a criminal offense and should have been dealt with as such, but in the spirit of current, corrupt, biased politics, the Mayor has pardoned the thief! Yes, it's petty-theft. Yes it's a small-time incident but if this is allowed to fly it casts an incredibly dark shadow on the integrity of your office and anyone who supports the Mayor's decision. In my mind this is a politician (his agent, acting on his behalf, as his employee/volunteer/manager) violating the 1st Amendment rights of another candidate, committing theft, withholding information from a police officer, and walking free at the expense of Montanans everywhere. Because of her narcissistic, blatant disregard for our rule of law, campaign laws/rules and common decency her actions prove to the public that politicians and their staff are, "above the law!" That's NOT the look we should be portraying!

I greatly appreciate your time and all the help I've received from your office and will respect your decisions in this matter but from my perspective as a first time candidate, if this is allowed to stand it leaves an incredibly ugly stain on the integrity we should be standing for and I will represent if I'm elected.

Sincerely,
Dave Kesler III
406-491-2650
PO Box 42
Philipsburg, Mt 59858
KeslerforMontana.com [keslerformontana.com]