

THE STATE OF MONTANA

Commissioner of Political
Practices 1209 Eighth Avenue
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www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

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Commissioner of
Political Practices
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Lobbying

Complaint Form (04/19)

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

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Charles Jeffrey Peterson Jr
Complete Mailing Address 1322 Rd 261, Glendive Montana 59330
Phone Numbers: Work _____ Home 406-941-1538

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

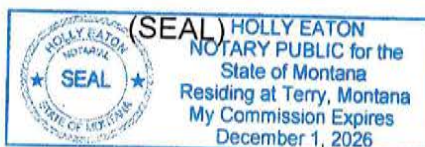
Complete Name GPS Advocates, Jamie McMillan
Complete Mailing Address 207 Hillcrest Ave, Glendive Montana 59330
Phone Numbers: Work _____ Home _____

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 Prairie

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



Charles Jeffrey Peterson Jr
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29 day of August, 2023.

Holly Eaton
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

**Lobbying
Complaint Form**

Page 2

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.

Jamie McMillan/GPS ADVOCATES formed the GPS ADVOCATES in June 2023 following the failure of the last school bond. She failed to register her Political Committee (ARM 44.11.203) Should have been used to determine the purpose of this committee, also under 13-1-101 (22) MCA.

Jamie McMillan/GPS ADVOCATES I Believe Violated 13-35-225 MCA, (1)(A)(B), (Exhibits (C)(D)(E) by printing and distribution of these Documents with no (Paid for by) in the Public Schools as well as during the July 4th City Parade and on the July 26th school walk through where Rhett Corn had the Flyers in hand and was on the table as we were encouraged to pick one up.

Jamie McMillan/GPS ADVOCATES Violated 13-1-101(6) & (7), MCA, 13-1-101(22), MCA, failed to file A (C-2) thus violating 13-37-201 MCA, Jamie McMillan/GPS ADVOCATES did not file a (C-6) report.

Jamie McMillan/GPS ADVOCATES violated 13-37-201, MCA (1)(2)(B)(3) Political Committee, Fund Raising Committee does not have a Campaign Treasure, Address or FULL NAME ON FILE WITH (cers) THE COPP, Jamie McMillan/GPS ADVOCATES under the Primary Purpose (ARM 44.11.203) once again failed to follow Proper Procedures in this Bond Cycle.

Jamie McMillanGPS ADVOCATES Violated 45-7-101 MCA, Bribery for a recipients vote, (EXIBITS (E)(E1)(F)) Sponsored an event VOTE & FLOAT August 8th election day for the bond, as the flyer states "Vote Yes for the bond August 8th" "Free Open Swim" from 7pm tp 9pm, Normal pool hours are Posted on (EXIBIT (E1) normal fee's for open swim are as follows, under 17 is \$5.00 and over 18 is \$7.00. swimming instructions are from 5pm to 6pm

Jamie McMillan/GPS ADVOCATES provided a list of all supporters (EXIBIT (G)) no (C-4) (C-6)(A)(B)(C) (C-7)& (C-7E)was filed, violating 13-1-101 (22) MCA.

I have enclosed (EXIBIT (H)) to show Support of my Claims Against GPS ADVOCATES.

Complaints must be:

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

Exhibit (C)

SUPPORT STRONG SCHOOLS FOR A THRIVING COMMUNITY!

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND & LEVY

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- ✓ **Strong Schools, Thriving Community:** Investing in our schools means investing in our community's future. Quality education is the cornerstone of a thriving and prosperous community.
- ✓ **Student Success:** Our students deserve the best opportunities for success. Voting YES for the bond and levy ensures they have access to modern facilities, updated resources, and a safe learning environment.
- ✓ **Attracting Families and Businesses:** Strong schools are a magnet for families looking to settle in our community. When families see that we prioritize education, it enhances property values and attracts businesses, fostering economic growth.
- ✓ **Community Pride:** Our schools are the heart of our community. By supporting the bond and levy, we demonstrate our commitment to providing the best educational experience for our students and take pride in our community.
- ✓ **Preserving Property Values:** High-quality schools are a critical factor in maintaining property values. Investing in our schools ensures a positive impact on the overall value and desirability of our community.
- ✓ **Educational Opportunities:** Passage of the bond and levy guarantees the necessary funds for essential repairs, technology upgrades, and expanded educational programs. Our students deserve access to the resources needed for a well-rounded education.
- ✓ **Fiscal Responsibility:** While it may require an investment, supporting the bond and levy is a responsible use of funds. It ensures that repairs and improvements are made promptly and prevents costlier issues down the road.

✓ **VOTE YES
ON AUGUST 8TH**

for the High School District Bond and Levy!

**YOUR
SUPPORT
MATTERS!**

Spread the Word: Encourage your friends and neighbors to support our schools.

Get Involved: Join our advocacy group to actively support our schools to ensure a brighter future for our students and a stronger future for Glendive.

FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES *no paid for By*

TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE!

PROJECTS THAT WILL BE FUNDED BY THE \$8,000,000 HIGH SCHOOL BOND:

HVAC Replacement Project: Estimated Cost \$2,250,000

By supporting the bond you will be approving the replacement of the existing steam heat system with standard rooftop heating and cooling systems in combination with High-Efficiency EER Mini-Split Heat Pump Systems.

Electrical Upgrades and Repairs: Estimated Cost \$1,175,000

Your support of the bond means that critical safety upgrades and replacement of the lights throughout the auditorium and the replacement of the electrical panel, breakers, drops and a new ventilation system in the metal shop can occur.

Roof Replacement: Estimated Cost \$2,200,000

Original construction of DCHS was completed in 1963 and 1969. It was reroofed at approximately 30 years in 1998 and 2001. It is now 30 years later and half of the facility needs to be reroofed. By voting "yes" to the bond you are approving this project.

Fire Alarm: Estimated Cost \$250,000

In 2020, with previous Building Reserve Levy funding, DCHS was able to upgrade the obsolete Fire Control Panel to a new panel that is expandable, upgradable and non-proprietary. This panel should serve us for decades to come. Your support of the bond means that the rest of the system will be upgraded to include the wiring in of new heat and smoke detectors which will be able to tell us exactly where in the facility we are experiencing an activation when one occurs.

Access Control: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Access control is an essential part of any school's security infrastructure, but when it's constantly failing, it becomes a major liability. By voting "yes" to this bond you are approving the installation of an updated system that will provide enhanced security features, such as real-time monitoring, automated alerts and access logs that will help identify security breaches and prevent unauthorized access to our school building. With an updated access control system, we can provide a safer more secure environment for our students, staff and visitors.

Building Security – Exterior Doors and Entrances: Estimated Cost \$450,000

Upgrading and maintaining our building security system is crucial to creating a safe and secure environment for our students and staff. By voting "yes" to this bond you are approving the installation of new and more secure locks, upgrading the surveillance system and making necessary repairs and structural upgrades to exterior doors and entrances.

Technology Infrastructure: Estimated Cost \$600,000

Technology infrastructure needs have changed dramatically in the 30 years since our current system was designed. By supporting the bond you are approving the upgrade and modernization of the wiring, upgrading of the districts servers and backup system, replacement of outdated network switches and improvements to the access points of the school.

Oakland Complex Track and Turf Maintenance: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Maintaining a turf field and track is essential to ensuring their longevity and optimal performance. The rubberized track needs a structural spray applied to it and the football field requires professional grooming every 5 years. Your support of the bond means that this maintenance can be performed allowing the community and school use of the beautiful facility for years to come.

Gymnasium Bleachers Replacement: Estimated Cost \$350,000

By voting "yes" to the bond you are approving the replacement of our old gymnasium bleachers with new, safe and accessible ones that will meet the needs of our diverse student body and community.

Auditorium Seating: Estimated Cost \$275,000

The auditorium at our school has been a staple of our community for many years, hosting countless events and performances for students, families and community members, but the current seats are 54 years old, and it is no longer possible to get replacement parts for them. Your support of the bond means that new seating will be placed in the auditorium to ensure that the show can go on!

Flooring Replacement: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Replacing the flooring in the auditorium is not just a want, but a need. The worn and damaged flooring poses a safety hazard to those who use the auditorium. By supporting the bond you approving the installation of a new, durable flooring solution that will provide a safer and more visually appealing environment for school and community events.

For more information regarding the levy and bond, visit www.glendiveschools.com.

Exhibit (D)

DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sample Mill Levy Impact Analysis | Building Reserve Fund Levy & GO Bond Issue

Estimated Mill Levy Computation:	5 Year Building Reserve Levy	\$8,000,000 HS 15-Year Bond
Par Amount of the Bond:		\$8,000,000
Total Estimated Interest Over 15-Year Term of the Bonds (1):		\$3,561,250
Estimated Annual Levy on Tax Rolls:	\$400,000	\$770,750
Divided By: District's 2022/23 Mill Value:	\$22,497,441	\$22,497,441
EQUALS: Estimated Number of Mills Required:	17.78	34.26

Estimated Tax Increase for Individual RESIDENTIAL TAXPAYERS:

2022/23 Tax Year "MARKET VALUE" of Residential Property (2)	2022/23 Tax Year "TAXABLE VALUE" of Residential Property (2)	Estimated ANNUAL Tax (3)	Estimated MONTHLY Tax (3)	Estimated ANNUAL Tax (3)	Estimated MONTHLY Tax (3)
\$100,000	\$1,350	\$24.00	\$2.00	\$46.25	\$3.85
\$200,000	\$2,700	\$48.01	\$4.00	\$92.50	\$7.71
\$300,000	\$4,050	\$72.01	\$6.00	\$138.75	\$11.56

NOTE: All property owners (including farming and ranching operations, commercial businesses, home owners etc...) should use the following formula to calculate the estimated tax impact of the Bond issue. Look up the Property's "Taxable Value" from Personal Tax Statement or the following State website (<http://svc.mt.gov/dor/property/pre>) and use the following formula: "Taxable Value" X Mills/1,000 = Estimated Annual Tax Impact of the Levy/Bonds

- (1) Based on an estimated average coupon rate of 5.00% (and a true interest cost rate of approximately 4.00%) over 15 Years for sample purposes.
- (2) Based upon Class 4 residential property. The "Market Valuation" for tax purposes will be different than the valuation of most residential real property for resale purposes. To better calculate the estimated tax impact of the levy/bond issue, property owners should look up their exact taxable value as shown on their personal tax statement and use the formula shown above in grey.
- (3) Tax Impacts are based on property tax legislation adopted at the 2015 Legislative Session and the 2021 Department of Revenue reappraisal effective for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 tax years. Tax impact information varies every year depending on such factors as District Mill Value, method of calculating taxable valuation and actual debt service.

no paid for By

✓ VOTE YES ON AUGUST 8TH



The monthly cost of the bond and levy for a ranch that has 200 acres of irrigated farmland and 3,000 acres of grazing is like filling up your gas tank once a month, ensuring you have the fuel to get you where you need to go.



Supporting our schools with a \$5.85 monthly contribution (on a \$100,000 home) is comparable to treating yourself to a small pizza once a month – a delicious investment in our community's future!



The impact of the bond and levy on a \$200,000 home is akin to subscribing to a popular streaming service for just over \$11 a month. By choosing to support our schools, you're giving your family access to a world of educational opportunities.



For the price of a cup of coffee every week, you can help shape the future of our students. The cost of the bond and levy for a section of dryland farm and grazing land is less than the price of a specialty coffee drink once a week.



Supporting the bond and levy for a \$200,000 home is equivalent to purchasing a few books throughout the year. By investing in our schools, you're providing countless educational resources for our students' growth and development.

* Remember, these are just examples to demonstrate the affordable nature of supporting the bond and levy. We understand the importance of being mindful of your budget while striving for the best education for our students.

* We would like to acknowledge that assessing the precise impact on individual parcels of rural land presents challenges due to various factors such as productivity value, land use (grazing versus irrigation), and other variables unique to each property. Therefore, we encourage rural landowners to consult with local tax authorities or use the following website to obtain more precise information tailored to their individual situations. <https://sdc.mt.gov/dot/property/jvc>

**YOUR
SUPPORT
MATTERS!**

**VOTE YES
ON AUGUST 8TH**

for the High School District Bond and Levy!

FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES

No Paid for By

Exhibit(E)

✓ **VOTE YES ON AUGUST 8TH**

FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND & LEVY! FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES

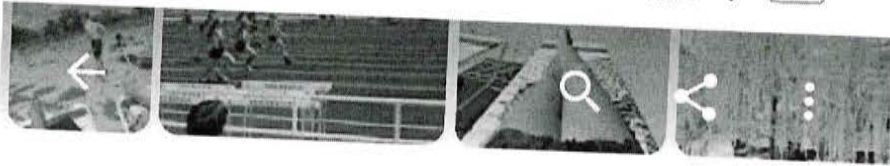
**VOTE &
FLOAT**

AUGUST 8TH FROM 7-9 PM

FREE, OPEN SWIM TO THE PUBLIC

Exhibit (E1)

6:48



Glendive Pool

3.6 ★★★★★ (58)

Public swimming pool in Glendive, Montana

OVERVIEW

REVIEWS

PHOTOS

ABOUT



CALL



DIRECTI...



SHARE



WEBSITE



Lloyd Square Park,
Glendive, MT 59330



Saturday

Closed

Sunday

Closed

Monday

1–4:45 PM

Tuesday

1–4:45 PM

Wednesday

1–4:45 PM

Thursday

1–4:45 PM

Friday

1–4:45 PM

AA



Q what time does th



ATTN: COPP

09/05/2023

Upon further investigation on the "Vote & Float" event held on 08/08/2023 at Llyod Square Park/POOL, the pool is normally not open to public swim from 1900 to 2100hrs.

If it was to be open how much would it cost? "Normal Cost"

If I was to hold a special event from 1900 to 2100 hrs if the pool is not normally open?
"Depending on availability of life guards"

How much would it cost to hold an after hours event? She stated the last event cost between \$250.00 to \$300.00, however there is a fee to hold special events.

EXhibit (E-2)

Exhibit(F)

12:16



Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture



← Back to All Events

Vote & Float

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Glendive City Pool
(map)

Google Calendar · ICS

Vote & Float Extravaganza!

August 8 is the day we've all been waiting for!
Join us for the ultimate community event:
'Vote & Float'!

Cast your vote for the HS Bond and Levy and

AA glendivechamber.com



12:16



Vote & Float Extravaganza!

August 8 is the day we've all been waiting for!
Join us for the ultimate community event:
'Vote & Float'!

Cast your vote for the HS Bond and Levy and
then head over to the city pool for the final
night of open swim! Let's make a splash for the
future of our schools while enjoying a
refreshing float in the pool.

It's the perfect opportunity for our town to
come together, exercise our civic duty, and have
a ton of fun!

Spread the word, invite your friends and
family, and let's make this a night to
remember! See you at the polls and the pool!

August 8

< Vote &
Float

August 9

Trivia in
the Park >

AA endivechamber.com



Exhibit (G)

10:52



Jul 12 · 🌐



We are overwhelmed with the support that we are receiving from the Glendive business community.

Thank you to:

Enchanted Room + Enchanted Living

Sugar Plum Fine Jewelry

Chelsea Crisafulli Photography

@Kiddie College Preschool and Daycare Center

Beaver Creek Brewery

@Schultz Electric

@Becky Blankenship-Titus

@Glendive Total Lawn Care

@Kirpatrick Tee Co.

BOSS Inc.

@Kevin R. McPherson, DDS - General Dentistry

Cobblestone Crafts & Embroidery

Tammie Johnson

LaDonna's School of Dance

Gust Hauf

Glendive Medical Center

@Yellowstone Waterers

@Con-Mat Supply

@Blue Nest Makery and Bakery

@Beer Jug Inc.



Write a comment...



10:52



GPS Advocates

Jul 12 · 🌐



@Beer Jug Inc.

Greater Glendive Community
Foundation

@Teal Dragonfly Creations

If you see these local business owners,
please thank them for their support.



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

👍❤️ 53

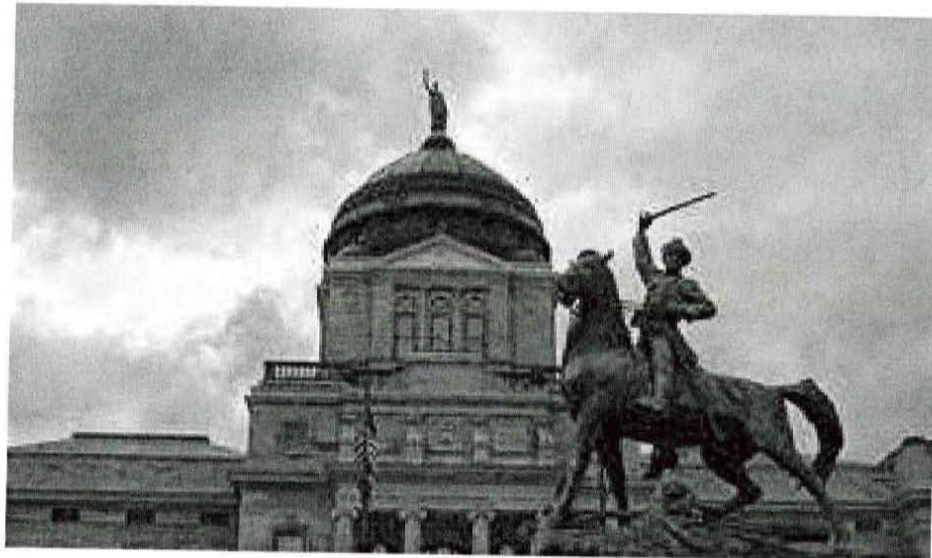


Write a comme...



Exhibit (H)

Accounting and Reporting Manual for Political Committees



Commissioner of Political Practices

1209 8th Ave.
PO Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620

Phone: 406-444-3919
Fax: 406-444-1643
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

Contact us via email: cpphelp@mt.gov
or cppcompliance@mt.gov

'Like' the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices Facebook
page for updates and follow us on Twitter:
<https://www.facebook.com/MontanaCOPP>
Twitter: @MontanaCOPP

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PART 1: POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Political Committee

“Political committee” means a combination of two or more individuals, or a “person other than an individual” (a corporation, association, firm, partnership, cooperative, committee, club, union, or other organization) who receives a contribution or makes an expenditure:

- a) To support or oppose a candidate, or a committee organized to support or oppose a candidate or petition for nomination;
- b) To support or oppose a ballot issue, or committee organized to support or oppose a ballot issue; or
- c) To prepare or disseminate an election communication, an electioneering communication, or an independent expenditure.

Political committees include ballot issue committees, incidental committees, independent committees and political party committees. A political committee is formed when a combination of two or more individuals or a person other than an individual makes an election communication, an electioneering communication, or an independent expenditure of \$250 or less of reportable election activity.

Naming your Committee

Political committees must name and identify themselves in a way that specifically identifies their economic, or special interest, or employer. For details, see 13-37-210, MCA and the interpretation and enforcement opinion on our website.

Types of Committees

Ballot issue committee

As the name implies, a ballot issue committee is organized to support or oppose a particular ballot issue, including “initiatives, referenda, proposed constitutional amendments, recall questions, school levy questions, bond issue questions, or a ballot question,” 13-1-101(6) and (7), MCA.

A statewide issue becomes a ballot issue “upon preparation and transmission by the Secretary of State of the form of the petition or referral to the person who submitted the proposed issue,” 13-1-101(6)(b), MCA. A local issue becomes a local ballot issue “upon certification by the proper official that the legal procedure necessary for its qualification and placement on the ballot has been completed”, 13-1-101(6)(b), MCA.

Both statewide and local ballot issue committees must file a Form C-2, Statement of Organization, with the COPP within five days after the issue becomes a ballot issue, 13-37-201, MCA. A ballot issue committee's initial Form C-6, Political Committee Finance Report must include all contributions received and expenditures made by the committee since its date of foundation to qualify the issue for the ballot, 13-37-226, MCA. See Footnote 1 on page 8 for special district exceptions.

As with other committees, a ballot issue committee must keep accurate records of contributions and expenditures, must comply with campaign finance and practices laws, and must file the appropriate finance report forms and disclosures.

Independent committee

An independent committee means a political committee organized for the primary purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures that are not controlled either directly or indirectly by a candidate and that does not coordinate with a candidate in conjunction with making expenditures except as within the contribution limits set in 13-37-216(1), MCA, and 13-1-101(23), MCA.

An independent committee is commonplace in campaign activities, both nationally and in the states. Frequently the committee is composed of employees of a common employer or members a particular profession or trade. These individuals contribute to their own committee for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates and/or issues that the committee agrees on. Most independent committees participate in elections year after year.

Political party committee

A political party committee is "a political committee formed by a political party organization and includes all county and city central committees", 13-1-101(31), MCA. In turn, a "political party organization" "means a political organization that was represented on the official ballot in either of the two most recent statewide general elections; or has met the petition requirements, as provided in Title 13, chapter 10, part 5", 13-1-101(32)(a) and (b). For the 2018 election cycle, the political party organizations that have qualified to be political party committees are the Republican, Libertarian, and Democratic Party committees.

These committees support candidates of their own party, oppose candidates of opposition parties, and support or oppose selected issues usually based on party platforms.

Political party committees are similar to independent committees in terms of their wide-ranging participation in campaigns; however, they are different in how they form and in their associational functions, which go beyond simply participating in elections.

Limitations on contributions from political party committees do not include a coordinated expenditure made solely by a political party committee for **personal services** by paid staff that benefits the associational interest of the political party as well as a candidate, ARM 44.11.401. The value of the paid personal services is reportable by the political party committee and the candidate benefitting on their campaign finance reports. See example addendum in Part 5 of this manual, to submit the addendum please email the spreadsheet to CPPHelp@mt.gov, which will then become searchable through the hard copy search system.

Example: the Montana Democratic Party hires interns to do literature drops for several candidates for the legislature. The Montana Democratic Party will have to report the amount of the paid personal services and report the value received by each candidate that benefitted from those services. The candidate will have to report the value as an in-kind contribution from the Montana Democratic Party as well. The personal services contributions do not count towards the aggregate political party contribution limit to a candidate.

Another important distinction of a political party committee is that it “may not contribute to a judicial candidate,” 13-35-231, MCA.

Incidental committee

An incidental committee is a political committee that is not specifically organized or operated for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot issues but may incidentally become a political committee by receiving a contribution or making an expenditure, 13-1-101(22), MCA.

Example: A local Ace Hardware has an interest in a ballot issue that could impact the owner’s ability to conduct business. The primary purpose of Ace Hardware is to sell home improvement supplies, not support or oppose ballot issues. Ace Hardware writes a check to the organized ballot issue committee that is opposing the issue on the ballot for \$1,000. In addition, the store owner decides that he will make some signs to put in his store window. By making these two expenditures, Ace Hardware incidentally became involved in a local election making it qualify as an incidental committee. Ace Hardware is required to register as a political committee and report the expenditures made to oppose the ballot issue.

Primary Purpose

Identifying the primary purpose of a political committee helps both the officers of the committee and the COPP classify the committee appropriately. The term “primary purpose” refers to the major principal, important goal, or the reason for existence for a committee, ARM 44.11.203. The criteria that should be considered when determining the primary purpose of a committee is as follows:

- allocation and source of budget;
- allocation of staff or member’s activity, both during an election and otherwise;
- the statement of purpose, articles of incorporation, bylaws, or goals;
- reportable election activity;
- the history of the committee and the numbers of elections in which it has participated or registered;
- receipt of contributions in response to an appeal or that are designated for a specified candidate, ballot issue, petition, or reportable election activity;
- the number or cost of reportable election expenditures made;
- coordination with any candidates or other political committees;
- ordinary business actually conducted;
- if a corporation, whether it was created and maintained as provided by law; or
- the date of founding, incorporation, or organization.

A committee may submit any information it wishes the COPP to consider in classifying the committee. The organization will be notified of the COPP’s classification. If the organization disagrees with the COPP’s classification, the organization can submit additional information and request to be reclassified pursuant to ARM 44.11.204.

School advocates work to gather community support for bond and levy

HUNTER HERBAUGH

Ranger-Review

A group of local residents has come together to help garner support for the Glendive Public School district's proposed bond and building reserve levy that will be presented to voters later this year. Defining the schools as the heart of the community, they are hoping to make people aware of the potential ramifications should the bond and levy fail to pass.

This effort is entirely citizen-driven, independent from the Glendive Public Schools District.

The group currently consisting of local residents Jamie McMillan, Sarah Thorson and Kayla Rivas, but they are hoping to grow by connecting directly with individual community members to discuss issues in the schools and drum up the support needed to address those issues. In particular, they are hoping to tackle the issues that they believe have been the primary factors in past bond and levy attempts failing to garner the support needed.

"Our mission is to unite our community and eliminate the 'us' versus 'them' mentality that has hindered the success of past school bonds and levies. We firmly believe that passing the school bond and levy is not just about improving facilities and education; it is about fostering a thriving, interconnected community that benefits us all," the group said in a statement.

McMillan, who has been a regular fixture at school board meetings since the previous bond and levy failure in May, has been particularly interested in addressing these issues for some time.

"Our mission is to unite our community and eliminate the 'us' versus 'them' mentality that has hindered the success of past school bonds and levies. We firmly believe that passing the school bond and levy is not just about improving facilities and education; it is about fostering a thriving, interconnected community that benefits us all."

School advocates group statement

She grew up in Glendive though lived away for some time, including during previous bond attempts. However, she remained engaged during those previous periods and saw the community discourse that occurred around them.

Now that she has been back in Glendive for some time and been present for the recent bond attempts, she said she is excited to begin digging at the root of the issues as she and the other advocates believe ensuring the success of the schools will ultimately ensure the success of the community.

"From a kind of outsider looking in, it feels like people have picked a team and they want to stick to their allegiance. At this point, I feel like nothing that happened in the past matters. It doesn't matter how we got here, what happened, what side you were on. At this point, I think that everybody has to be on the same team: the community," she said.

The central part of this advocacy campaign is based on having open and collaborative dialogues with individual community members, hopefully resulting in a large-scale support base. These conversation will include attempts to demonstrate how a healthy, well-supported school system can positively impact nearly every facet of the community, from boosting economic development to overall pride in a community.

Thorson pointed out that a lack of communication and lack of participation were noticeably missing during the previous bond attempt. By reaching out to the community on an individual basis, the group is hoping to increase overall engagement.

“The biggest thing in our plans is building a community within the community and having a lot of personal conversations,” Thorson said. “We just feel there weren’t a lot of conversations being had in the community, among friends or just out and about. So our aim is really just to reach a lot of people individually and have those conversations. Not everyone we reach may necessarily agree, but it’s important to have those conversations.”

To better help facilitate this community engagement, the group has created a new Facebook page, GPS Advocates, where anyone is welcome to message or interact. The high school bond and levy election is set for Aug. 8. Mail ballot will be sent out in mid-July.

Hunter Herbaugh can be reached at hherbaugh@rangerreview.com.

SCHOOL
from page A2 to A6

↑
Issue Date

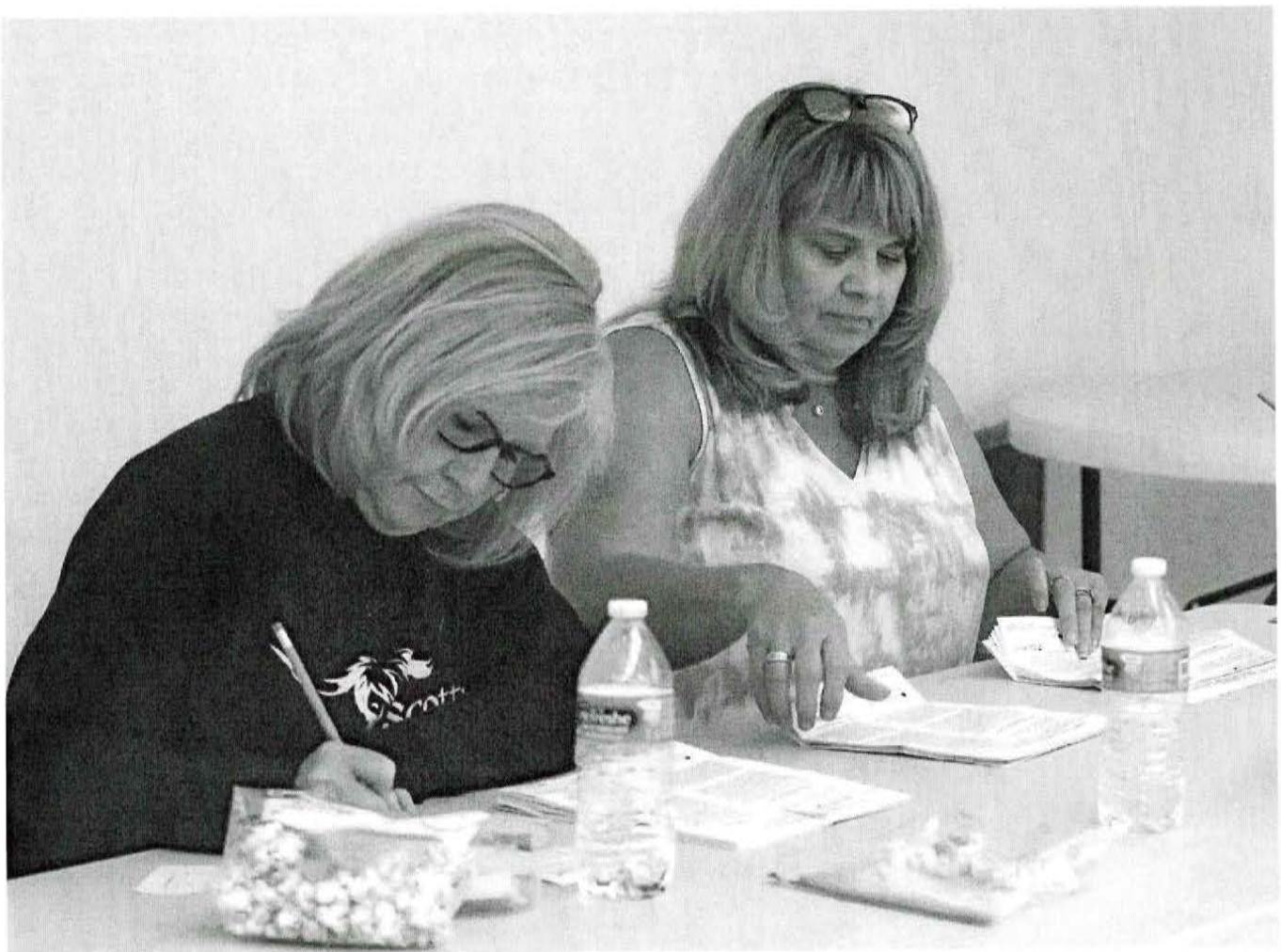
Exhibit B

https://www.rangerreview.com/news/constituent-advocacy-credited-for-outcome-of-glendive-school-election/article_2f6c7d48-3aba-11ee-80b5-9f5af0375e20.html

CONSTITUENT ADVOCACY HAD IMPACT ON OUTCOME OF RECENT SCHOOL ELECTION

Constituent advocacy credited for outcome of Glendive school election

Hunter Herbaugh Ranger-Review
Aug 16, 2023



Ballots for the Aug. 8 election are counted by election judges at the Dawson County Courthouse. Voter turnout was significantly higher in the August school election compared to the May election.

Hunter Herbaugh photo

Voter turn-out in the recent school bond and levy election was up significantly over the first election earlier this year and a local advocacy group is getting the credit not just for the participation, but the outcome as well. The group, GPS Advocates, formed following the the first election in May after the bond and levy issues failed with the aim of engaging voters on an individual level in an attempt to improve turn out for the next election on Aug. 8, especially in support of the bond and levy.

For the past several months, the Advocates have been performing that outreach and appear to have come out successful. Voter turnout was higher in this month's election, with voter participation over 66% with a total of 3,090 votes being counted.

The previous election on May 2, by contrast, had a participation rate of just a little over 51% with a total of 2,378 votes being counted. From one election to the next, that amounts to a roughly 30% increase in total votes counted on Aug. 8.

Last week, the bond receiving about 61% of the vote in favor and the levy receiving roughly 63% of the vote.

"I think it's really exciting and I think it's really a testament to where Glendive is as a community right now," said Jamie McMillan, one of the Advocates' original members. "We were really able to achieve some quality engagement and we're getting a lot of good feedback."

While voters of all demographics were engaged by the advocates, McMillan noted that they saw good engagement from younger voters. She explained that those the advocates engaged with seemed to be very responsive to the strategy of one-on-one, more personal conversations, with many of those they spoke with seemingly leaving with more of an understanding of the issues the Advocates were trying to highlight. Many young voters registered to vote for the first time, McMillan said.

That influence can be seen in the number of voters that registered in the time leading up to the election. According to information provided by Dawson County Clerk and Recorder Shirley Kreiman, there were 68 voters who registered between July 1 and the August election, but only 11 registered from April 1 to the May 2 election. There were also overall more ballots issued for the August election, with a net gain of 20 registrations bringing the total voter count to 4,627 compared to May's 4,607.

With that much more participation, McMillan said she was happy but ultimately unsurprised to see both the bond and levy pass by significant margins, saying that the results reflect the community effort that was put into the election.

"I think we tried really hard that we had the messaging to reach as many people as we could. We wanted our message to be heard that this was really vital to our community and everybody who lives here, not just our school district and not just our kids. I believe there are a lot of people who live in Glendive who believe in Glendive who want really good things for Glendive, and I think that message was received," she said.

Some people though were rather surprised by the results, and not just in the passing but the wide margin as well. These people include Glendive Unified School Board Chairman Mike Ziegler, who said his personal feelings leading up to the vote were that the decision was going to come down to a much closer decision. However, seeing the final results has left him feeling grateful for both the community's support and the especially the Advocates' efforts.

"I didn't imagine it would be that big of a landslide. We always played like we were behind in the game and doing everything we could to get everything to get info out to the public, just doing everything we could to exhaustion, us and the Advocates, who I definitely think were the 'X' factor in this," Ziegler said. "It was a total community effort, which was just amazing."

Looking forward, McMillan said she would like to see this community engagement continue. The GUSB will likely begin crafting another bond for the elementary district in the near future, something that was previously discussed in the lead up to the high school bond. For that to stand any chance though, community support will once again be a vital asset.

“I think what the GPS Advocates started for the high school bond and levy is just the beginning of what is going to have to happen for the next bond,” McMillan said.

Hunter Herbaugh can be reached at hherbaugh@rangerreview.com.

“It was a total community effort, which was just amazing.”

Mikes Ziegler,
GUSB Chairman

“I think it’s really exciting and I think it’s really a testament to where Glendive is as a community right now.”

Jamie McMillan
GPS Advocates member

Hunter Herbaugh
Reporter

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Commissioner of
Political Practices
2023 SEP 06
RECEIVED
HAND DELIVERED
SIGNED/NOTARIZED



Lobbying

Complaint Form (04/19)

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

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Charles Jeffrey Peterson Jr
Complete Mailing Address 1322 Rd 261, Glendive Montana 59330
Phone Numbers: Work _____ Home 406-941-1538

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

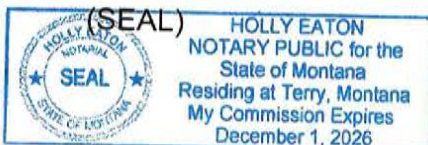
Complete Name GPS Advocates, Sarah Thorson Lassle
Complete Mailing Address 42 Rd 245, Glendive Montana 59330
Phone Numbers: Work _____ Home _____

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 Prairie

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



Charles Jeffrey Peterson SR
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29 day of August, 2023.

Holly Eaton
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

**Lobbying
Complaint Form**

Page 2

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.

Sarah Thorson Lassel/GPS ADVOCATES formed the GPS ADVOCATES in June 2023 following the failure of the last school bond. She failed to register her Political Committee (ARM 44.11.203) Should have been used to determine the purpose of this committee, also under 13-1-101 (22) MCA.

Sarah Thorson Lassel/GPS ADVOCATES Violated 13-35-225 MCA, (1)(A)(B), (Exhibits (C)(D)(E)) by printing and distribution of these Documents with no (Paid for by) in the Public Schools as well as during the July 4th City Parade and on the July 26th school walk through where Rhett Corn had the Flyers in hand and was on the table as we were encouraged to pick one up.

Sarah Thorson Lassel/GPS ADVOCATES Violated 13-1-101(6) & (7), MCA, 13-1-101(22), MCA, failed to file a (C-2) thus violating 13-37-201 MCA, Sarah Thorson Lassel/GPS ADVOCATES did not file a (C-6) report.

Sarah Thorson Lassel/GPS ADVOCATES violated 13-37-201, MCA (1)(2)(B)(3) Political Committee, Fund Raising Committee does not have a Campaign Treasure, Address or FULL NAME ON FILE WITH (CERS) THE COPP, Sarah Thorson Lassel/GPS ADVOCATES under the Primary Purpose (ARM 44.11.203) failed to identify committee and follow Proper Procedures in this Bond Cycle.

Sarah Thorson Lassel/GPS ADVOCATES Violated 45-7-101 MCA, Bribery for a recipient's vote, (EXHIBITS (E)(E1)(F)) Sponsored an event VOTE & FLOAT August 8th election day for the bond, as the flyer states "Vote Yes for the bond August 8th" "Free Open Swim" from 7pm to 9pm, Normal pool hours are Posted on (EXHIBIT (E1)) normal fee's for open swim are as follows, under 17 is \$5.00 and over 18 is \$7.00. swimming instructions are from 5pm to 6pm

Sarah Thorson Lassel/GPS ADVOCATES provided a list of all supporters (EXHIBIT (G)) no (C-4) (C-6)(A)(B)(C) (C-7)& (C-7E) was filed, violating 13-1-101 (22) MCA.

I have enclosed (EXHIBIT (H)) to show Support of my Claims Against GPS ADVOCATES.

Complaints must be:

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

Exhibit (C)

SUPPORT STRONG SCHOOLS FOR A THRIVING COMMUNITY!

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND & LEVY

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- ✓ **Strong Schools, Thriving Community:** Investing in our schools means investing in our community's future. Quality education is the cornerstone of a thriving and prosperous community.
- ✓ **Student Success:** Our students deserve the best opportunities for success. Voting YES for the bond and levy ensures they have access to modern facilities, updated resources, and a safe learning environment.
- ✓ **Attracting Families and Businesses:** Strong schools are a magnet for families looking to settle in our community. When families see that we prioritize education, it enhances property values and attracts businesses, fostering economic growth.
- ✓ **Community Pride:** Our schools are the heart of our community. By supporting the bond and levy, we demonstrate our commitment to providing the best educational experience for our students and take pride in our community.
- ✓ **Preserving Property Values:** High-quality schools are a critical factor in maintaining property values. Investing in our schools ensures a positive impact on the overall value and desirability of our community.
- ✓ **Educational Opportunities:** Passage of the bond and levy guarantees the necessary funds for essential repairs, technology upgrades, and expanded educational programs. Our students deserve access to the resources needed for a well-rounded education.
- ✓ **Fiscal Responsibility:** While it may require an investment, supporting the bond and levy is a responsible use of funds. It ensures that repairs and improvements are made promptly and prevents costlier issues down the road.

✓ **VOTE YES
ON AUGUST 8TH**

for the High School District Bond and Levy!

**YOUR
SUPPORT
MATTERS!**

Spread the Word: Encourage your friends and neighbors to support our schools.

Get Involved: Join our advocacy group to actively support our schools to ensure a brighter future for our students and a stronger future for Glendive.

FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES *no paid for by*

TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE!

PROJECTS THAT WILL BE FUNDED BY THE \$8,000,000 HIGH SCHOOL BOND:

HVAC Replacement Project: Estimated Cost \$2,250,000

By supporting the bond you will be approving the replacement of the existing steam heat system with standard rooftop heating and cooling systems in combination with High-Efficiency EER Mini-Split Heat Pump Systems.

Electrical Upgrades and Repairs: Estimated Cost \$1,175,000

Your support of the bond means that critical safety upgrades and replacement of the lights throughout the auditorium and the replacement of the electrical panel, breakers, drops and a new ventilation system in the metal shop can occur.

Roof Replacement: Estimated Cost \$2,200,000

Original construction of DCHS was completed in 1963 and 1969. It was reroofed at approximately 30 years in 1998 and 2001. It is now 30 years later and half of the facility needs to be reroofed. By voting "yes" to the bond you are approving this project.

Fire Alarm: Estimated Cost \$250,000

In 2020, with previous Building Reserve Levy funding, DCHS was able to upgrade the obsolete Fire Control Panel to a new panel that is expandable, upgradable and non-proprietary. This panel should serve us for decades to come. Your support of the bond means that the rest of the system will be upgraded to include the wiring in of new heat and smoke detectors which will be able to tell us exactly where in the facility we are experiencing an activation when one occurs.

Access Control: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Access control is an essential part of any school's security infrastructure, but when it's constantly failing, it becomes a major liability. By voting "yes" to this bond you are approving the installation of an updated system that will provide enhanced security features, such as real-time monitoring, automated alerts and access logs that will help identify security breaches and prevent unauthorized access to our school building. With an updated access control system, we can provide a safer more secure environment for our students, staff and visitors.

Building Security - Exterior Doors and Entrances: Estimated Cost \$450,000

Upgrading and maintaining our building security system is crucial to creating a safe and secure environment for our students and staff. By voting "yes" to this bond you are approving the installation of new and more secure locks, upgrading the surveillance system and making necessary repairs and structural upgrades to exterior doors and entrances.

Technology Infrastructure: Estimated Cost \$600,000

Technology infrastructure needs have changed dramatically in the 30 years since our current system was designed. By supporting the bond you are approving the upgrade and modernization of the wiring, upgrading of the districts servers and backup system, replacement of outdated network switches and improvements to the access points of the school.

Oakland Complex Track and Turf Maintenance: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Maintaining a turf field and track is essential to ensuring their longevity and optimal performance. The rubberized track needs a structural spray applied to it and the football field requires professional grooming every 5 years. Your support of the bond means that this maintenance can be performed allowing the community and school use of the beautiful facility for years to come.

Gymnasium Bleachers Replacement: Estimated Cost \$350,000

By voting "yes" to the bond you are approving the replacement of our old gymnasium bleachers with new, safe and accessible ones that will meet the needs of our diverse student body and community.

Auditorium Seating: Estimated Cost \$275,000

The auditorium at our school has been a staple of our community for many years, hosting countless events and performances for students, families and community members, but the current seats are 54 years old, and it is no longer possible to get replacement parts for them. Your support of the bond means that new seating will be placed in the auditorium to ensure that the show can go on!

Flooring Replacement: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Replacing the flooring in the auditorium is not just a want, but a need. The worn and damaged flooring poses a safety hazard to those who use the auditorium. By supporting the bond you are approving the installation of a new, durable flooring solution that will provide a safer and more visually appealing environment for school and community events.

For more information regarding the levy and bond, visit www.glendiveschools.com.

Exhibit (D)

DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sample Mill Levy Impact Analysis | Building Reserve Fund Levy & GO Bond Issue

Estimated Mill Levy Computation:	5 Year Building Reserve Levy	\$8,000,000 HS 15-Year Bond
Par Amount of the Bond:		<u>\$8,000,000</u>
Total Estimated Interest Over 15-Year Term of the Bonds (1):		\$3,561,250
Estimated Annual Levy on Tax Rolls:	\$400,000	\$770,750
Divided By: District's 2022/23 Mill Value:	<u>\$22,497,441</u>	<u>\$22,497,441</u>
EQUALS: Estimated Number of Mills Required:	17.78	34.26

Estimated Tax Increase for Individual RESIDENTIAL TAXPAYERS:

2022/23 Tax Year "MARKET VALUE" of Residential Property (2)	2022/23 Tax Year "TAXABLE VALUE" of Residential Property (2)	Estimated ANNUAL Tax (3)	Estimated MONTHLY Tax (3)	Estimated ANNUAL Tax (3)	Estimated MONTHLY Tax (3)
\$100,000	\$1,350	\$24.00	\$2.00	\$46.25	\$3.85
\$200,000	\$2,700	\$48.01	\$4.00	\$92.50	\$7.71
\$300,000	\$4,050	\$72.01	\$6.00	\$138.75	\$11.56

NOTE: All property owners (including farming and ranching operations, commercial businesses, home owners etc...) should use the following formula to calculate the estimated tax impact of the Bond issue. Look up the Property's "Taxable Value" from Personal Tax Statement or the following State website (<http://svc.mt.gov/dor/property/prc>) and use the following formula: "Taxable Value" X Mills/1,000 = Estimated Annual Tax Impact of the Levy/Bonds

- (1) Based on an estimated average coupon rate of 5.00% (and a true interest cost rate of approximately 4.00%) over 15 Years for sample purposes.
- (2) Based upon Class 4 residential property. The "Market Valuation" for tax purposes will be different than the valuation of most residential real property for resale purposes. To better calculate the estimated tax impact of the levy/bond issue, property owners should look up their exact taxable value as shown on their personal tax statement and use the formula shown above in grey.
- (3) Tax Impacts are based on property tax legislation adopted at the 2015 Legislative Session and the 2021 Department of Revenue reappraisal effective for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 tax years. Tax impact information varies every year depending on such factors as District Mill Value, method of calculating taxable valuation and actual debt service.

No paid for By

✓ VOTE YES ON AUGUST 8TH



The monthly cost of the bond and levy for a ranch that has 200 acres of irrigated farmland and 3,000 acres of grazing is like filling up your gas tank once a month, ensuring you have the fuel to get you where you need to go.



Supporting our schools with a \$5.85 monthly contribution (on a \$100,000 home) is comparable to treating yourself to a small pizza once a month – a delicious investment in our community's future!



The impact of the bond and levy on a \$200,000 home is akin to subscribing to a popular streaming service for just over \$11 a month. By choosing to support our schools, you're giving your family access to a world of educational opportunities.



For the price of a cup of coffee every week, you can help shape the future of our students. The cost of the bond and levy for a section of dryland farm and grazing land is less than the price of a specialty coffee drink once a week.



Supporting the bond and levy for a \$200,000 home is equivalent to purchasing a few books throughout the year. By investing in our schools, you're providing countless educational resources for our students' growth and development.

* Remember, these are just examples to demonstrate the affordable nature of supporting the bond and levy. We understand the importance of being mindful of your budget while striving for the best education for our students.

* We would like to acknowledge that assessing the precise impact on individual parcels of rural land presents challenges due to various factors such as productivity value, land use (grazing versus irrigation), and other variables unique to each property. Therefore, we encourage rural landowners to consult with local tax authorities or use the following website to obtain more precise information tailored to their individual situations. <https://svc.mt.gov/doi/property/prc>

**VOTE YES
ON AUGUST 8TH**

for the High School District Bond and Levy!

FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES

**YOUR
SUPPORT
MATTERS!**

No Paid for By

EXHIBIT(E)

✓ **VOTE YES ON AUGUST 8TH**

FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND & LEVY! FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES

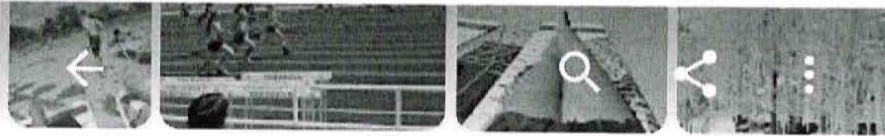
**VOTE &
FLOAT**

AUGUST 8TH FROM 7-9 PM

FREE, OPEN SWIM TO THE PUBLIC

6:48

Exhibit (E1)



Glendive Pool

3.6 ★★★★★ (58)

Public swimming pool in Glendive, Montana

OVERVIEW

REVIEWS

PHOTOS

ABOUT



CALL



DIRECTI...



SHARE



WEBSITE



Lloyd Square Park,
Glendive, MT 59330



Saturday

Closed

Sunday

Closed

Monday

1–4:45 PM

Tuesday

1–4:45 PM

Wednesday

1–4:45 PM

Thursday

1–4:45 PM

Friday

1–4:45 PM

AA 🔒 Q what time does th



ATTN: COPP

09/05/2023

Upon further investigation on the "Vote & Float" event held on 08/08/2023 at Llyod Square Park/POOL, the pool is normally not open to public swim from 1900 to 2100hrs.

If it was to be open how much would it cost? "Normal Cost"

If I was to hold a special event from 1900 to 2100 hrs if the pool is not normally open?
"Depending on availability of life guards"

How much would it cost to hold an after hours event? She stated the last event cost between \$250.00 to \$300.00, however there is a fee to hold special events.

EXhibit (E-2)

Exhibit(F)

12:16



Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture



← Back to All Events

Vote & Float

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Glendive City Pool
(map)

Google Calendar · ICS

Vote & Float Extravaganza!

August 8 is the day we've all been waiting for!
Join us for the ultimate community event:
'Vote & Float'!

Cast your vote for the HS Bond and Levy and

AA endivechamber.com



12:16



Vote & Float Extravaganza!

August 8 is the day we've all been waiting for!
Join us for the ultimate community event:
'Vote & Float'!

Cast your vote for the HS Bond and Levy and
then head over to the city pool for the final
night of open swim! Let's make a splash for the
future of our schools while enjoying a
refreshing float in the pool.

It's the perfect opportunity for our town to
come together, exercise our civic duty, and have
a ton of fun!

Spread the word, invite your friends and
family, and let's make this a night to
remember! See you at the polls and the pool!

August 8

< Vote &
Float

August 9

Trivia in
the Park >

AA endivechamber.com



10:52



Exhibit (G)



GPS Advocates

Jul 12 · 🌐



We are overwhelmed with the support that we are receiving from the Glendive business community.

Thank you to:

Enchanted Room + Enchanted Living

Sugar Plum Fine Jewelry

Chelsea Crisafulli Photography

@Kiddie College Preschool and

Daycare Center

Beaver Creek Brewery

@Schultz Electric

@Becky Blankenship-Titus

@Glendive Total Lawn Care

@Kirpatrick Tee Co.

BOSS Inc.

@Kevin R. McPherson, DDS - General Dentistry

Cobblestone Crafts & Embroidery

Tammie Johnson

LaDonna's School of Dance

Gust Hauf

Glendive Medical Center

@Yellowstone Waterers

@Con-Mat Supply

@Blue Nest Makery and Bakery

@Beer Jug Inc.



Write a comme...



10:52



GPS Advocates

Jul 12 · 🌐



@Beer Jug Inc.

Greater Glendive Community
Foundation

@Teal Dragonfly Creations

If you see these local business owners,
please thank them for their support.



Like



Comment



Share

👍❤️ 53



Write a comme...



EXHIBIT (H)

Accounting and Reporting Manual for Political Committees



Commissioner of Political Practices

1209 8th Ave.
PO Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-3919
Fax: 406-444-1643
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

Contact us via email: cpphelp@mt.gov
or cppcompliance@mt.gov

'Like' the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices Facebook
page for updates and follow us on Twitter:
<https://www.facebook.com/MontanaCOPP>
Twitter: @MontanaCOPP

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PART 1: POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Political Committee

"Political committee" means a combination of two or more individuals, or a "person other than an individual" (a corporation, association, firm, partnership, cooperative, committee, club, union, or other organization) who receives a contribution or makes an expenditure:

- a) To support or oppose a candidate, or a committee organized to support or oppose a candidate or petition for nomination;
- b) To support or oppose a ballot issue, or committee organized to support or oppose a ballot issue; or
- c) To prepare or disseminate an election communication, an electioneering communication, or an independent expenditure.

Political committees include ballot issue committees, incidental committees, independent committees and political party committees. A political committee is formed when a combination of two or more individuals or a person other than an individual makes an election communication, an electioneering communication, or an independent expenditure of \$250 or less of reportable election activity.

Naming your Committee

Political committees must name and identify themselves in a way that specifically identifies their economic, or special interest, or employer. For details, see 13-37-210, MCA and the interpretation and enforcement opinion on our website.

Types of Committees

Ballot issue committee

As the name implies, a ballot issue committee is organized to support or oppose a particular ballot issue, including "initiatives, referenda, proposed constitutional amendments, recall questions, school levy questions, bond issue questions, or a ballot question," 13-1-101(6) and (7), MCA.

A statewide issue becomes a ballot issue "upon preparation and transmission by the Secretary of State of the form of the petition or referral to the person who submitted the proposed issue," 13-1-101(6)(b), MCA. A local issue becomes a local ballot issue "upon certification by the proper official that the legal procedure necessary for its qualification and placement on the ballot has been completed", 13-1-101(6)(b), MCA.

Both statewide and local ballot issue committees must file a Form C-2, Statement of Organization, with the COPP within five days after the issue becomes a ballot issue, 13-37-201, MCA. A ballot issue committee's initial Form C-6, Political Committee Finance Report must include all contributions received and expenditures made by the committee since its date of foundation to qualify the issue for the ballot, 13-37-226, MCA. See Footnote 1 on page 8 for special district exceptions.

As with other committees, a ballot issue committee must keep accurate records of contributions and expenditures, must comply with campaign finance and practices laws, and must file the appropriate finance report forms and disclosures.

Independent committee

An independent committee means a political committee organized for the primary purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures that are not controlled either directly or indirectly by a candidate and that does not coordinate with a candidate in conjunction with making expenditures except as within the contribution limits set in 13-37-216(1), MCA, and 13-1-101(23), MCA.

An independent committee is commonplace in campaign activities, both nationally and in the states. Frequently the committee is composed of employees of a common employer or members a particular profession or trade. These individuals contribute to their own committee for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates and/or issues that the committee agrees on. Most independent committees participate in elections year after year.

Political party committee

A political party committee is "a political committee formed by a political party organization and includes all county and city central committees", 13-1-101(31), MCA. In turn, a "political party organization" means a political organization that was represented on the official ballot in either of the two most recent statewide general elections; or has met the petition requirements, as provided in Title 13, chapter 10, part 5", 13-1-101(32)(a) and (b). For the 2018 election cycle, the political party organizations that have qualified to be political party committees are the Republican, Libertarian, and Democratic Party committees.

These committees support candidates of their own party, oppose candidates of opposition parties, and support or oppose selected issues usually based on party platforms.

Political party committees are similar to independent committees in terms of their wide-ranging participation in campaigns; however, they are different in how they form and in their associational functions, which go beyond simply participating in elections.

Limitations on contributions from political party committees do not include a coordinated expenditure made solely by a political party committee for **personal services** by paid staff that benefits the associational interest of the political party as well as a candidate, ARM 44.11.401. The value of the paid personal services is reportable by the political party committee and the candidate benefitting on their campaign finance reports. See example addendum in Part 5 of this manual, to submit the addendum please email the spreadsheet to CPPHelp@mt.gov, which will then become searchable through the hard copy search system.

Example: the Montana Democratic Party hires interns to do literature drops for several candidates for the legislature. The Montana Democratic Party will have to report the amount of the paid personal services and report the value received by each candidate that benefitted from those services. The candidate will have to report the value as an in-kind contribution from the Montana Democratic Party as well. The personal services contributions do not count towards the aggregate political party contribution limit to a candidate.

Another important distinction of a political party committee is that it “may not contribute to a judicial candidate,” 13-35-231, MCA.

Incidental committee

An incidental committee is a political committee that is not specifically organized or operated for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot issues but may incidentally become a political committee by receiving a contribution or making an expenditure, 13-1-101(22), MCA.

Example: A local Ace Hardware has an interest in a ballot issue that could impact the owner’s ability to conduct business. The primary purpose of Ace Hardware is to sell home improvement supplies, not support or oppose ballot issues. Ace Hardware writes a check to the organized ballot issue committee that is opposing the issue on the ballot for \$1,000. In addition, the store owner decides that he will make some signs to put in his store window. By making these two expenditures, Ace Hardware incidentally became involved in a local election making it qualify as an incidental committee. Ace Hardware is required to register as a political committee and report the expenditures made to oppose the ballot issue.

Primary Purpose

Identifying the primary purpose of a political committee helps both the officers of the committee and the COPP classify the committee appropriately. The term “primary purpose” refers to the major principal, important goal, or the reason for existence for a committee, ARM 44.11.203. The criteria that should be considered when determining the primary purpose of a committee is as follows:

- allocation and source of budget;
- allocation of staff or member’s activity, both during an election and otherwise;
- the statement of purpose, articles of incorporation, bylaws, or goals;
- reportable election activity;
- the history of the committee and the numbers of elections in which it has participated or registered;
- receipt of contributions in response to an appeal or that are designated for a specified candidate, ballot issue, petition, or reportable election activity;
- the number or cost of reportable election expenditures made;
- coordination with any candidates or other political committees;
- ordinary business actually conducted;
- if a corporation, whether it was created and maintained as provided by law; or
- the date of founding, incorporation, or organization.

A committee may submit any information it wishes the COPP to consider in classifying the committee. The organization will be notified of the COPP’s classification. If the organization disagrees with the COPP’s classification, the organization can submit additional information and request to be reclassified pursuant to ARM 44.11.204.

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

HAND DELIVERED

SIGNED/NOTARIZED

RECEIVED

AM118

Political Practices
2023 SEP 06

Lobbying

Complaint Form (04/19)

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

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Charles Jeffrey Peterson Jr
Complete Mailing Address 1322 Rd 261, Glendive Montana 59330
Phone Numbers: Work _____ Home 406-941-1538

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

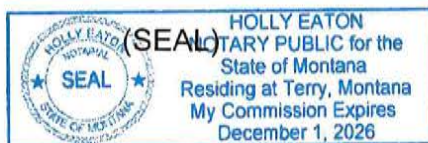
Complete Name GPS Advocates, Kayla Rivas
Complete Mailing Address 120 Glenwood Ave, Glendive Montana 59330
Phone Numbers: Work _____ Home _____

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 Prairie

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



Charles Jeffrey Peterson Jr
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29 day of August, 2023.

Holly Eaton
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

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.

Kayla Rivas/GPS ADVOCATES formed the GPS ADVOCATES in June 2023 following the failure of the last school bond. She failed to register her Political Committee (ARM 44.11.203) Should have been used to determine the purpose of this committee, also under 13-1-101 (22) MCA.

Kayla Rivas /GPS ADVOCATES I Believe Violated 13-35-225 MCA, (1)(A)(B), (Exhibits (C)(D)(E) by printing and distribution of these Documents with no (Paid for by) in the Public Schools as well as during the July 4th City Parade and on the July 26th school walk through where Rhett Coon had the Flyers in hand and was on the table as we were encouraged to pick one up.

Kayla Rivas/GPS ADVOCATES Violated 13-1-101(6) & (7), MCA, 13-1-101(22), MCA, failed to file A (C-2) thus violating 13-37-201MCA, Kayla Rivas/GPS ADVOCATES did not file a (C-6) report.

Kayla Rivas/GPS ADVOCATES violated 13-37-201, MCA (1)(2)(B)(3) Political Committee, Fund Raising Committee does not have a Campaign Treasure, Address or FULL NAME ON FILE WITH (cers) THE COPP, Kayla Rivas/GPS ADVOCATES under the Primary Purpose (ARM 44.11.203) once again failed to follow Proper Procedures in this Bond Cycle.

Kayla Rivas/GPS ADVOCATES Violated 45-7-101 MCA, Bribery for a recipients vote, (EXIBITS (E)(E1)(F)) Sponsored an event VOTE & FLOAT August 8th election day for the bond, as the flyer states "Vote Yes for the bond August 8th" "Free Open Swim" from 7pm tp 9pm, Normal pool hours are Posted on (EXIBIT (E1) normal fee's for open swim are as follows, under 17 is \$5.00 and over 18 is \$7.00. swimming instructions are from 5pm to 6pm

Kayla Rivas/GPS ADVOCATES provided a list of all supporters (EXIBIT (G)) no (C-4) (C-6)(A)(B)(C) (C-7)& (C-7E)was filed, violating 13-1-101 (22) MCA.

I have enclosed (EXIBIT (H)) to show Support of my Claims Against GPS ADVOCATES.

Complaints must be:

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

Exhibit (C)

SUPPORT STRONG SCHOOLS FOR A THRIVING COMMUNITY!

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND & LEVY

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- ✓ **Strong Schools, Thriving Community:** Investing in our schools means investing in our community's future. Quality education is the cornerstone of a thriving and prosperous community.
- ✓ **Student Success:** Our students deserve the best opportunities for success. Voting YES for the bond and levy ensures they have access to modern facilities, updated resources, and a safe learning environment.
- ✓ **Attracting Families and Businesses:** Strong schools are a magnet for families looking to settle in our community. When families see that we prioritize education, it enhances property values and attracts businesses, fostering economic growth.
- ✓ **Community Pride:** Our schools are the heart of our community. By supporting the bond and levy, we demonstrate our commitment to providing the best educational experience for our students and take pride in our community.
- ✓ **Preserving Property Values:** High-quality schools are a critical factor in maintaining property values. Investing in our schools ensures a positive impact on the overall value and desirability of our community.
- ✓ **Educational Opportunities:** Passage of the bond and levy guarantees the necessary funds for essential repairs, technology upgrades, and expanded educational programs. Our students deserve access to the resources needed for a well-rounded education.
- ✓ **Fiscal Responsibility:** While it may require an investment, supporting the bond and levy is a responsible use of funds. It ensures that repairs and improvements are made promptly and prevents costlier issues down the road.

✓ **VOTE YES
ON AUGUST 8TH**

for the High School District Bond and Levy!

Spread the Word: Encourage your friends and neighbors to support our schools.

Get Involved: Join our advocacy group to actively support our schools to ensure a brighter future for our students and a stronger future for Glendive.

FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES *← no paid for By*

**YOUR
SUPPORT
MATTERS!**

TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE!

PROJECTS THAT WILL BE FUNDED BY THE \$8,000,000 HIGH SCHOOL BOND:

HVAC Replacement Project: Estimated Cost \$2,250,000

By supporting the bond you will be approving the replacement of the existing steam heat system with standard rooftop heating and cooling systems in combination with High-Efficiency EER Mini-Split Heat Pump Systems.

Electrical Upgrades and Repairs: Estimated Cost \$1,175,000

Your support of the bond means that critical safety upgrades and replacement of the lights throughout the auditorium and the replacement of the electrical panel, breakers, drops and a new ventilation system in the metal shop can occur.

Roof Replacement: Estimated Cost \$2,200,000

Original construction of DCHS was completed in 1963 and 1969. It was reroofed at approximately 30 years in 1998 and 2001. It is now 30 years later and half of the facility needs to be reroofed. By voting "yes" to the bond you are approving this project.

Fire Alarm: Estimated Cost \$250,000

In 2020, with previous Building Reserve Levy funding, DCHS was able to upgrade the obsolete Fire Control Panel to a new panel that is expandable, upgradable and non-proprietary. This panel should serve us for decades to come. Your support of the bond means that the rest of the system will be upgraded to include the wiring in of new heat and smoke detectors which will be able to tell us exactly where in the facility we are experiencing an activation when one occurs.

Access Control: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Access control is an essential part of any school's security infrastructure, but when it's constantly failing, it becomes a major liability. By voting "yes" to this bond you are approving the installation of an updated system that will provide enhanced security features, such as real-time monitoring, automated alerts and access logs that will help identify security breaches and prevent unauthorized access to our school building. With an updated access control system, we can provide a safer more secure environment for our students, staff and visitors.

Building Security - Exterior Doors and Entrances: Estimated Cost \$450,000

Upgrading and maintaining our building security system is crucial to creating a safe and secure environment for our students and staff. By voting "yes" to this bond you are approving the installation of new and more secure locks, upgrading the surveillance system and making necessary repairs and structural upgrades to exterior doors and entrances.

Technology Infrastructure: Estimated Cost \$600,000

Technology infrastructure needs have changed dramatically in the 30 years since our current system was designed. By supporting the bond you are approving the upgrade and modernization of the wiring, upgrading of the districts servers and backup system, replacement of outdated network switches and improvements to the access points of the school.

Oakland Complex Track and Turf Maintenance: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Maintaining a turf field and track is essential to ensuring their longevity and optimal performance. The rubberized track needs a structural spray applied to it and the football field requires professional grooming every 5 years. Your support of the bond means that this maintenance can be performed allowing the community and school use of the beautiful facility for years to come.

Gymnasium Bleachers Replacement: Estimated Cost \$350,000

By voting "yes" to the bond you are approving the replacement of our old gymnasium bleachers with new, safe and accessible ones that will meet the needs of our diverse student body and community.

Auditorium Seating: Estimated Cost \$275,000

The auditorium at our school has been a staple of our community for many years, hosting countless events and performances for students, families and community members, but the current seats are 54 years old, and it is no longer possible to get replacement parts for them. Your support of the bond means that new seating will be placed in the auditorium to ensure that the show can go on!

Flooring Replacement: Estimated Cost \$150,000

Replacing the flooring in the auditorium is not just a want, but a need. The worn and damaged flooring poses a safety hazard to those who use the auditorium. By supporting the bond you approving the installation of a new, durable flooring solution that will provide a safer and more visually appealing environment for school and community events.

For more information regarding the levy and bond, visit www.glendiveschools.com.

Exhibit (D)

DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sample Mill Levy Impact Analysis | Building Reserve Fund Levy & GO Bond Issue

Estimated Mill Levy Computation:	5 Year Building Reserve Levy	\$8,000,000 HS 15-Year Bond
Par Amount of the Bond:		\$8,000,000
Total Estimated Interest Over 15-Year Term of the Bonds (1):		\$3,561,250
Estimated Annual Levy on Tax Rolls:	\$400,000	\$770,750
Divided By: District's 2022/23 Mill Value:	\$22,497,441	\$22,497,441
EQUALS: Estimated Number of Mills Required:	17.78	34.26

Estimated Tax Increase for Individual RESIDENTIAL TAXPAYERS:

2022/23 Tax Year "MARKET VALUE" of Residential Property (2)	2022/23 Tax Year "TAXABLE VALUE" of Residential Property (2)	Estimated ANNUAL Tax (3)	Estimated MONTHLY Tax (3)	Estimated ANNUAL Tax (3)	Estimated MONTHLY Tax (3)
\$100,000	\$1,350	\$24.00	\$2.00	\$46.25	\$3.85
\$200,000	\$2,700	\$48.01	\$4.00	\$92.50	\$7.71
\$300,000	\$4,050	\$72.01	\$6.00	\$138.75	\$11.56

NOTE: All property owners (including farming and ranching operations, commercial businesses, home owners etc...) should use the following formula to calculate the estimated tax impact of the Bond issue. Look up the Property's "Taxable Value" from Personal Tax Statement or the following State website (<http://svc.mt.gov/dor/property/prc>) and use the following formula: "Taxable Value" X Mills/1,000 = Estimated Annual Tax Impact of the Levy/Bonds

- (1) Based on an estimated average coupon rate of 5.00% (and a true interest cost rate of approximately 4.00%) over 15 Years for sample purposes.
- (2) Based upon Class 4 residential property. The "Market Valuation" for tax purposes will be different than the valuation of most residential real property for resale purposes. To better calculate the estimated tax impact of the levy/bond issue, property owners should look up their exact taxable value as shown on their personal tax statement and use the formula shown above in grey.
- (3) Tax Impacts are based on property tax legislation adopted at the 2015 Legislative Session and the 2021 Department of Revenue reappraisal effective for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 tax years. Tax impact information varies every year depending on such factors as District Mill Value, method of calculating taxable valuation and actual debt service.

no Paid for By

✓ VOTE YES ON AUGUST 8TH



The monthly cost of the bond and levy for a ranch that has 200 acres of irrigated farmland and 3,000 acres of grazing is like filling up your gas tank once a month, ensuring you have the fuel to get you where you need to go.



Supporting our schools with a \$5.85 monthly contribution (on a \$100,000 home) is comparable to treating yourself to a small pizza once a month - a delicious investment in our community's future!



The impact of the bond and levy on a \$200,000 home is akin to subscribing to a popular streaming service for just over \$11 a month. By choosing to support our schools, you're giving your family access to a world of educational opportunities.



For the price of a cup of coffee every week, you can help shape the future of our students. The cost of the bond and levy for a section of dryland farm and grazing land is less than the price of a specialty coffee drink once a week.



Supporting the bond and levy for a \$200,000 home is equivalent to purchasing a few books throughout the year. By investing in our schools, you're providing countless educational resources for our students' growth and development.

* Remember, these are just examples to demonstrate the affordable nature of supporting the bond and levy. We understand the importance of being mindful of your budget while striving for the best education for our students.

* We would like to acknowledge that assessing the precise impact on individual parcels of rural land presents challenges due to various factors such as productivity value, land use (grazing versus irrigation), and other variables unique to each property. Therefore, we encourage rural landowners to consult with local tax authorities or use the following website to obtain more precise information tailored to their individual situations. <https://svc.mt.gov/doi/property/prc>

YOUR
SUPPORT
MATTERS!

**VOTE YES
ON AUGUST 8TH**

for the High School District Bond and Levy!

FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES

no Paid for By

Exhibit(E)

✓ **VOTE YES ON AUGUST 8TH**

FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND & LEVY! FOLLOW US! @GPSADVOCATES

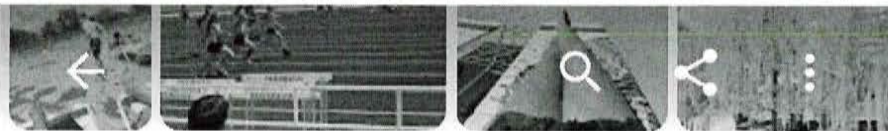
**VOTE &
FLOAT**

AUGUST 8TH FROM 7-9 PM

FREE, OPEN SWIM TO THE PUBLIC

6:48

Exhibit (E1)



Glendive Pool

3.6 ★★★★★ (58)

Public swimming pool in Glendive, Montana

OVERVIEW

REVIEWS

PHOTOS

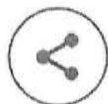
ABOUT



CALL



DIRECTI...



SHARE



WEBSITE



Lloyd Square Park,
Glendive, MT 59330



Saturday

Closed

Sunday

Closed

Monday

1–4:45 PM

Tuesday

1–4:45 PM

Wednesday

1–4:45 PM

Thursday

1–4:45 PM

Friday

1–4:45 PM

AA 🔒 Q what time does th



12:16

Ex: B: + (F)



Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture



← Back to All Events

Vote & Float

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Glendive City Pool
(map)

Google Calendar · ICS

Vote & Float Extravaganza!

August 8 is the day we've all been waiting for!
Join us for the ultimate community event:
'Vote & Float'!

Cast your vote for the HS Bond and Levy and

AA endivechamber.com



Exhibit LE-1)

12:16



Vote & Float Extravaganza!

August 8 is the day we've all been waiting for!
Join us for the ultimate community event:
'Vote & Float'!

Cast your vote for the HS Bond and Levy and
then head over to the city pool for the final
night of open swim! Let's make a splash for the
future of our schools while enjoying a
refreshing float in the pool.

It's the perfect opportunity for our town to
come together, exercise our civic duty, and have
a ton of fun!

Spread the word, invite your friends and
family, and let's make this a night to
remember! See you at the polls and the pool!

August 8

< Vote &
Float

August 9

Trivia in
the Park >

AA endivechamber.com



ATTN: COPP

09/05/2023

Upon further investigation on the "Vote & Float" event held on 08/08/2023 at Llyod Square Park/POOL, the pool is normally not open to public swim from 1900 to 2100hrs.

If it was to be open how much would it cost? "Normal Cost"

If I was to hold a special event from 1900 to 2100 hrs if the pool is not normally open?
"Depending on availability of life guards"

How much would it cost to hold an after hours event? She stated the last event cost between \$250.00 to \$300.00, however there is a fee to hold special events.

EXhibit (E-2)

Exhibit (6)

10:52



GPS Advocates

Jul 12 · 🌐



We are overwhelmed with the support that we are receiving from the Glendive business community.

Thank you to:

Enchanted Room + Enchanted Living

Sugar Plum Fine Jewelry

Chelsea Crisafulli Photography

@Kiddie College Preschool and Daycare Center

Beaver Creek Brewery

@Schultz Electric

@Becky Blankenship-Titus

@Glendive Total Lawn Care

@Kirpatrick Tee Co.

BOSS Inc.

@Kevin R. McPherson, DDS - General Dentistry

Cobblestone Crafts & Embroidery

Tammie Johnson

LaDonna's School of Dance

Gust Hauf

Glendive Medical Center

@Yellowstone Waterers

@Con-Mat Supply

@Blue Nest Makery and Bakery

@Beer Jug Inc.



Write a comme...



10:52



GPS Advocates



Jul 12 · 🌐

@Beer Jug Inc.
Greater Glendive Community
Foundation
@Teal Dragonfly Creations

If you see these local business owners,
please thank them for their support.



Like



Comment



Share



53

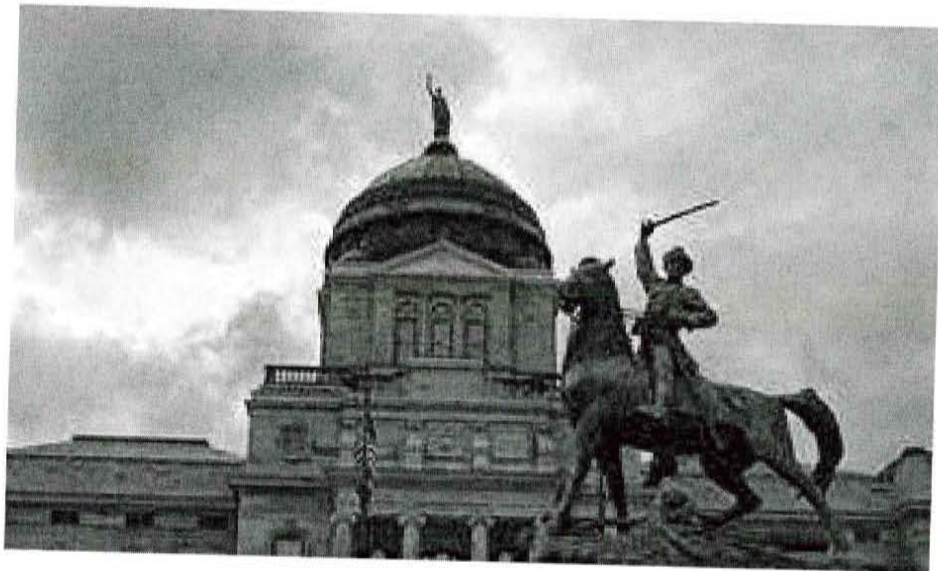


Write a comme...



Exhibit (H)

Accounting and Reporting Manual for Political Committees



Commissioner of Political Practices

1209 8th Ave.
PO Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620

Phone: 406-444-3919
Fax: 406-444-1643
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

Contact us via email: cpphelp@mt.gov
or cppcompliance@mt.gov

'Like' the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices Facebook
page for updates and follow us on Twitter:
<https://www.facebook.com/MontanaCOPP>
Twitter: @MontanaCOPP

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PART 1: POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Political Committee

“Political committee” means a combination of two or more individuals, or a “person other than an individual” (a corporation, association, firm, partnership, cooperative, committee, club, union, or other organization) who receives a contribution or makes an expenditure:

- a) To support or oppose a candidate, or a committee organized to support or oppose a candidate or petition for nomination;
- b) To support or oppose a ballot issue, or committee organized to support or oppose a ballot issue; or
- c) To prepare or disseminate an election communication, an electioneering communication, or an independent expenditure.

Political committees include ballot issue committees, incidental committees, independent committees and political party committees. A political committee is formed when a combination of two or more individuals or a person other than an individual makes an election communication, an electioneering communication, or an independent expenditure of \$250 or less of reportable election activity.

Naming your Committee

Political committees must name and identify themselves in a way that specifically identifies their economic, or special interest, or employer. For details, see 13-37-210, MCA and the interpretation and enforcement opinion on our website.

Types of Committees

Ballot issue committee

As the name implies, a ballot issue committee is organized to support or oppose a particular ballot issue, including “initiatives, referenda, proposed constitutional amendments, recall questions, school levy questions, bond issue questions, or a ballot question,” 13-1-101(6) and (7), MCA.

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An independent committee is commonplace in campaign activities, both nationally and in the states. Frequently the committee is composed of employees of a common employer or members a particular profession or trade. These individuals contribute to their own committee for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates and/or issues that the committee agrees on. Most independent committees participate in elections year after year.

Political party committee

A political party committee is "a political committee formed by a political party organization and includes all county and city central committees", 13-1-101(31), MCA. In turn, a "political party organization" "means a political organization that was represented on the official ballot in either of the two most recent statewide general elections; or has met the petition requirements, as provided in Title 13, chapter 10, part 5", 13-1-101(32)(a) and (b). For the 2018 election cycle, the political party organizations that have qualified to be political party committees are the Republican, Libertarian, and Democratic Party committees.

These committees support candidates of their own party, oppose candidates of opposition parties, and support or oppose selected issues usually based on party platforms.

Political party committees are similar to independent committees in terms of their wide-ranging participation in campaigns; however, they are different in how they form and in their associational functions, which go beyond simply participating in elections.

Limitations on contributions from political party committees do not include a coordinated expenditure made solely by a political party committee for **personal services** by paid staff that benefits the associational interest of the political party as well as a candidate, ARM 44.11.401. The value of the paid personal services is reportable by the political party committee and the candidate benefitting on their campaign finance reports. See example addendum in Part 5 of this manual, to submit the addendum please email the spreadsheet to CPPHelp@mt.gov, which will then become searchable through the hard copy search system.

Example: the Montana Democratic Party hires interns to do literature drops for several candidates for the legislature. The Montana Democratic Party will have to report the amount of the paid personal services and report the value received by each candidate that benefitted from those services. The candidate will have to report the value as an in-kind contribution from the Montana Democratic Party as well. The personal services contributions do not count towards the aggregate political party contribution limit to a candidate.

Another important distinction of a political party committee is that it “may not contribute to a judicial candidate,” 13-35-231, MCA.

Incidental committee

An incidental committee is a political committee that is not specifically organized or operated for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot issues but may incidentally become a political committee by receiving a contribution or making an expenditure, 13-1-101(22), MCA.

Example: A local Ace Hardware has an interest in a ballot issue that could impact the owner’s ability to conduct business. The primary purpose of Ace Hardware is to sell home improvement supplies, not support or oppose ballot issues. Ace Hardware writes a check to the organized ballot issue committee that is opposing the issue on the ballot for \$1,000. In addition, the store owner decides that he will make some signs to put in his store window. By making these two expenditures, Ace Hardware incidentally became involved in a local election making it qualify as an incidental committee. Ace Hardware is required to register as a political committee and report the expenditures made to oppose the ballot issue.

Primary Purpose

Identifying the primary purpose of a political committee helps both the officers of the committee and the COPP classify the committee appropriately. The term “primary purpose” refers to the major principal, important goal, or the reason for existence for a committee, ARM 44.11.203. The criteria that should be considered when determining the primary purpose of a committee is as follows:

- allocation and source of budget;
- allocation of staff or member’s activity, both during an election and otherwise;
- the statement of purpose, articles of incorporation, bylaws, or goals;
- reportable election activity;
- the history of the committee and the numbers of elections in which it has participated or registered;
- receipt of contributions in response to an appeal or that are designated for a specified candidate, ballot issue, petition, or reportable election activity;
- the number or cost of reportable election expenditures made;
- coordination with any candidates or other political committees;
- ordinary business actually conducted;
- if a corporation, whether it was created and maintained as provided by law; or
- the date of founding, incorporation, or organization.

A committee may submit any information it wishes the COPP to consider in classifying the committee. The organization will be notified of the COPP’s classification. If the organization disagrees with the COPP’s classification, the organization can submit additional information and request to be reclassified pursuant to ARM 44.11.204.