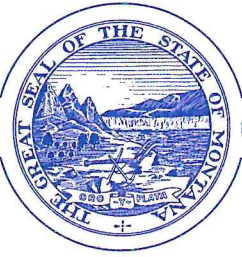


COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

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

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

September 6, 2024

Danielle Bradley, Montana Republican Party
P.O. Box 935
Helena, MT 59624

Sent via email to: danielle@mtgop.org

Subject: Complaint received September 3, 2024; Montana Republican Party (via Bradley) v Busse

Danielle,

I write in response to your complaint, received by this office on September 3, 2024. I am writing to request you provide additional information related to the submitted complaint, pursuant to my authority under Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 44.11.106(4).

While the submitted complaint names Ryan Busse/the Busse for Montana campaign as a respondent and alleges violations of Montana election law under my jurisdiction, it does not provide any factual support or documented evidence relating to these claims. ARM 44.11.106(4) specifically provides me authority to dismiss a complaint that "does not contain sufficient allegations to enable the commissioner to determine that it states a potential violation of statute or rule within the commissioner's jurisdiction." Absent factual support or documentable evidence relating to the submitted complaint's claims, I cannot at this time reasonably determine a potential violation of election law falling under my jurisdiction has occurred as alleged.

I would at a minimum require additional information establishing that a campaign event involving Mr. Busse or the Busse for Montana campaign has actually occurred to be able to properly consider this matter. This was done in similar complaints submitted by the Montana Republican Party in 2023 against Attorney General candidate Ben Alke- via the inclusion of links to a news article and YouTube video- and Mr. Busse- via direct reference to specific social media posts made by Mr. Busse or the Busse for Montana campaign. Should you wish to proceed with the submitted complaint, please provide appropriate factual support or documentable evidence as requested on or before 5:00 PM Friday, September 13, 2024. If you need an extension, you may request one by contacting my office. If no information is provided or no extension is requested, I will return the complaint to you in accordance with my discretionary authority provided by ARM 44.11.106(4). *Powell v. Motl*, OP 14-0711 at 3 (2014).

Citizen complaints are an important part of the enforcement process, so I hesitate to dismiss matters out of hand. Thus, I did want to provide you this additional opportunity to meet the minimum requirements.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris J. Gallus".

Chris J. Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices