

To whom it may concern,

On 05/07/2024 the Vote Yes for Public Safety committee was notified by the COPP that they had receive a formal complaint alleging violation of Montana election law. The committee's response to the allegations received was requested by the COPP by 05/17/2024.

After reviewing the allegations and working with the COPP, this is the committee's response.

The Vote Yes for Public Safety committee's goal is to provide support for the Public Safety Levy and Bond in a legit, legal and transparent manner. We strive to operate in accordance with Montana state law and the COPP's regulations. Some of the members on the committee are new to this process and are still learning how to operate in accordance with Montana state law.

Our response to the allegations made:

Allegation: "This organization has not been listed publicly with any agency until yesterday, for political action, as it is pushing Call to Action for the upcoming Levy and Bond measures on the June 4th, 2024 Ballot."... "This organization only appears to have been made public with the CoPP as of yesterday, May 2, 20224, however the registration was done 03/15/24. As of Monday 04/29/24 this organization could not be found to the public, and as such has also missed several timely filing dates for the month of April (April 2 and April 25)."

Response: The Vote Yes for Public Safety committee filed their C2 report with the COPP on 03/15.2024. To our knowledge, no other documentation is required to be listed publicly as an organization.

Allegation: "They failed to submit their report on 03/30/2024, and submitted an insufficient report on 05/02/24 that does not go through 04/30/24. They were spending money at least by April 2nd, as the website was already active and taking in donations. That being said, the had donors before this date."

Response: The committee did miss its first financial report on 03/30/2024 for the report for 03/15/20 through 03/25/24. The committee was notified by the COPP on 05/01/24 that they had a financial report due on 04/30/2024. The committee did provide a financial report on 05/02/2024 that included information from 03/15/2024 through 04/25/2024, as that is what they were instructed to provide by the COPP. After further investigation, it was found that the financial report submitted on 05/02/2024 was insufficient as it was missing the financial information for the committee's website fees and the P.O. Box fees. These items had been paid for by one of the committee members as a donation and had not been reported to the treasurer. The 05/02/2024 financial report has been amended and those items have been accounted for. The committee was not receiving regularly sent emails by the COPP that notify committees of due dates for financial reports. This has been corrected and the committee is now being notified of all report due dates by the COPP and will not miss another date.

Accusation: "They were spending money at least by April 2nd, as the website was already active and taking in donations. That being said, they had donors before this date."

Response: The committee was spending money by 04/02/2024 and those expenditures are now reflected in our financial report that was submitted on 05/02/2024. The committee did have donors before 04/02/2024 and those are reflected in our financial report that was submitted on 05/02/2024.

Allegation: “As a citizen, I have been unable to see who their donors are, and still cannot see a full and timely report of this information, where they are spending their money, and any accounting for any actions they are committed to in my community.”

Response: Our donors, spending, and actions are all available to the public in our updated financial report that was submitted on 05/02/2024.