

June 8, 2022

To: Jeff Mangan, Commissioner of Political Practices

From: Michelle Nelon, Candidate for Beaverhead County Superintendent of Schools

*M. Nelon*  
*6/8/2022*

Re: Complaint Form on Campaign Finance and Practices

Please see attached Complaint Form and supporting documentation regarding campaign violations by Robert "Mike" Miller. According to the Commission of Political Practices handbook, policies and Montana State law, Mr. Miller should not have been allowed to be on the ballot for Beaverhead County Superintendent of Schools. I called and spoke to your office in regards to his violations in April 2022 with no assistance except the fact that a formal complaint needed to be filed. I look forward to hearing back from you upon review.

Cc: Tom Rice, Beaverhead County Commissioner

Michael McGinley, Beaverhead County Commissioner

John Jackson, Beaverhead County Commissioner

Stacey Reynolds, Beaverhead County Clerk and Recorder

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

**POSTMARKED**

JUN 9 2022

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED

2022 JUN 13 P 1:50

COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES  
HAND DELIVERED

SIGNED/NOTARIZED

### Campaign Finance and Practices

### Complaint Form (08/17)

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

#### Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Michelle F. Nelson  
Complete Mailing Address 65 Goshawk Ln  
Dillon, MT 59725  
Phone Numbers: Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home 406-925-3808

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

Complete Name Robert M. Miller  
Complete Mailing Address 405 S. Dakota  
Dillon, MT 59725  
Phone Numbers: Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home 406-865-0640

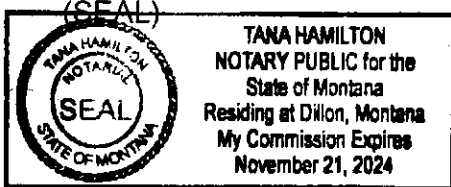
**Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alleged violation.**

#### Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Beaverhead

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

Michelle F. Nelson  
Signature of Complainant



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

Tana Hamilton  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: Nov. 21, 2024

**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.

According to COPP Candidate Forms Guide [reference Title 13, Chapters 35 and 37 Montana Code Annotated (2021)], a form C-1A must be filed within five days after any of these events first occur: money is received or spent, a campaign treasurer is appointed, or the candidate files for office. Candidate Miller filed at the Beaverhead County Courthouse in January 2022 and his registration on COPP via CERS was dated 3/15/22. This is longer than five days.

MCA 13-37-229 states candidates not spending less than \$500 must file periodic reports disclosing campaign contributions and expenditures ...

Candidate Miller filed that he would spend less than \$500, however, the filing fee for candidacy of \$275 was paid, \$120 for printed ads in the locally distributed advertiser (Dillonite Daily) and four ads were placed in the Dillon Tribune (local newspaper) and a campaign banner was purchased and hung locally. From funding another local campaign, it is known that these expenditures add up to greater than \$500.

MCA 13-37-226 states ... a candidate shall file reports required by 13-37-225 (1)(a) ... as follows ... (b) ... the 20th day of March, April, May, June ... in the year of an election in which the candidate participates.

Candidate Miller did not have campaign finance reports filed at the March, April, May deadlines available for public review by the time of the election on June 7, 2022.

All election materials are required by 13-35-225, MCA, to clearly and conspicuously include the appropriate attribution language. To ensure compliance with this statutory directive, the Commissioner established the following requirements and specifications:

1. (a) For election materials financed by a candidate or a candidate's campaign, the attribution must include either:

- The name and address of the candidate; or
- The name and address of the candidate's campaign.

Candidate Miller's newspaper ads did not provide the address of the candidate or his campaign. See enclosed ads.

**Complaints must be:**

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



COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES

STATE OF MONTANA

JEFF MANGAN  
COMMISSIONER  
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942  
FAX (406) 444-1643  
[www.politicalpractices.mt.gov](http://www.politicalpractices.mt.gov)

1209 EIGHTH AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 202401  
HELENA, MT 59620-2401

COPP Candidate Forms Guide

The following is a list of report forms available to candidates from the Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices and a brief description of what each form is and where and when the form must be filed:

**C-1 Statement of Candidate:** Form C-1 is the Statement of Candidate for candidates for statewide or state district (House, Senate, PSC, and District Judge) seats. Form C-1 must be filed within five days after receiving/soliciting campaign contributions, making campaign expenditures or filing for office, whichever occurs first. The C-1 Statement of Candidate must be filed electronically using the CERS system.

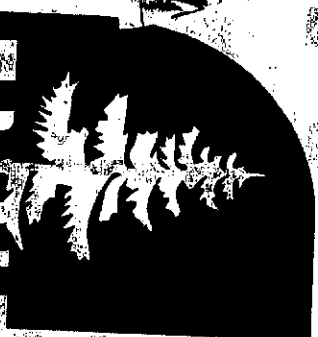
**C-1A Statement of Candidate:** Form C-1A is the Statement of Candidate for county, municipal (city), or school candidates. All county and municipal candidates must file form C-1A; all candidates campaigning for school trustee offices in first-class districts located in counties with populations of 15,000 and more or in county high school districts having student enrollments of 2,000 or more must file a Form C-1A. Form C-1A must be filed within five (5) days after receiving/soliciting campaign contributions, making campaign expenditures or filing for office, whichever occurs first. 'B' box (the campaign will not exceed \$500 in contribution or expenditure activity) or 'C' box (the campaign will exceed \$500 in contribution or expenditure activity). A C-1 Statement of Candidate must be filed electronically using the CERS system.

**C-3 Code of Fair Campaign Practices:** Form C-3 is the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. Candidates may file form C-3 with the COPP at any time, but it is a voluntary form and is not required. Form C-3 can be filed in the CERS system.

**C-5 Candidate Campaign Finance Report:** Form C-5 is the candidate campaign finance reporting form and must be filed by all statewide and state district candidates as well as all county, municipal (city), and school candidates that have designated themselves 'C' box candidates on the C-1A. C5 reports must detail all contributions received and expenditures made by a campaign during the reporting period. C5s are filed periodically according to the reporting calendar- see the Reporting Calendars page on the COPP's website for up to date information about campaign reporting calendars. Candidates must file form C-5 electronically using the CERS system.

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**VOTE**  
**Mike Miller**

Beaverhead County  
Superintendent of Schools

On June 7

Paid for by Miller for Superintendent Dillon, MT

**VOTE**  
**Mike Miller**  
Beaverhead County  
Superintendent of Schools  
on June 7  
Paid for by Miller for Superintendent Dillon, MT

May 25, 2022