

Mr. Chris Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices
1209 Eighth Avenue
P. O. Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620-2401

RE: Senecal v. Decker Compliant: COPP-2024-CFP-003

Dear Mr. Gallus,

This document and accompanying exhibits are my response to the above-referenced Complaint received in your office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Grace Decker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Introduction

I have served a total of nearly twelve (12) years as Lake County Commissioner elected from Commissioner District No. 3. I have resided in this District since 1959 with no break in residency. My initial purchase of property in the district occurred in 1966. My wife and I built a home on that property and raised our family. In 2005, my parents who also owned property in the district, decided to sell the family farm and I purchased 11.38 acres of that farm giving me two properties in the District. Due to the passing of my wife in 2009 and my re-marriage in 2012, I decided to sell my property purchased in 1966 to my grandson and his family. I had no intention of leaving the neighborhood, or establishing residency in another district, as I had begun making improvements on the property purchased from my parents in anticipation of establishing a dwelling there.

Response to Mr. Senecal's Arguments

1. Senecal argues that since there is "no house to live in" on the property that I am claiming as residence, it (the property) cannot be my residence, (page 3). Mr. Senecal cites *MCA 13-35-207, Deceptive Election Practices*, as the basis for his argument rather than the appropriate statutes for determining residency. *MCA 13-1-112, Rules for Determining Residency*, (Exhibit #1) and *MCA 1-1-215 Residence-Rules for Determining*, (Exhibit #2) provide explicit guidance when facing questions of residency. None of the statutes referred to by Mr. Senecal in his complaint mention that a requirement for residency of an individual in a particular district is having a dwelling or "a house to live in."
2. Senecal contends that since I have not lived in a house in my district for the past two years, I am not eligible for election, (page 4). He cites *MCA 7-4-2104 Commissioners to be Elected by District* as the basis for his argument. Again, Mr. Senecal provides as his argument that I do not reside in my district and again fails to reference the appropriate statutes that provide rules for residency that I referenced in No. 1 above.

Summary of Residency Issue in This Complaint

The definitions of "resident", "residency" and "residence" are not defined in Montana Code Annotated Title 7, Title 13, or any other statute dealing with voter registration, voting, or running for public office in Montana leaving many residency questions open to interpretation or determination on a case-by-case basis. When interpreting the application of a statute, significant weight must be given to the clear language of the statute and the intent of legislature in approving the language. In 2002, the Montana Supreme Court included the following language in the case of *Richard Fliehler v. Montana Uninsured Employment Fund*, "If the words of the statute are clear and plain, we discern the intent of the legislature from the text of the statute." If the intent of legislature was to require that a resident of a district must have "a house to live in" on the property claimed as a residence, that language, or something similar, would have been included in the act.

Response to Senecal Exhibits A and B

Although Mr. Senecal provides no explanation for the inclusion of these exhibits in his complaint, it appears that he is attempting to provide more evidence that there is: 1) no dwelling on the property, or 2) I am not the owner of the property identified by Assessment Code 17282.

The evidence is undisputable that I am the owner of the property that is my residence, (Exhibit #3). Presently, there is no dwelling on the property, but as provided by the 2023 “Real Property Tax Statement,” in my name (Exhibit #4), there are buildings and improvements as well as other investments in infrastructure on the property. The *Montana Cadastral* “Property Record Card 2023” identifies seven (7) “Outbuildings/Yard” improvements on the property, (Exhibit #5).

MCA 1-1-215 (7) requires that residence “can be changed only by union of act and intent.” I have undertaken several “acts” on my property that demonstrate that I have no intention of changing my residence including: installation of underground utilities, a buried sprinkler irrigation system, and a vegetable garden. It would be nonsensical of me to make the investments I have on my property if I was not planning to continue my residence there.

Response to Senecal Exhibit C

This exhibit provided by Mr. Senecal solidifies my argument that this property is my residence. The approval for an eventual septic system indicates that I have no intention, and have taken no action, to change my residency to another Commissioner District. On the contrary, the septic system approval enhances my argument that I have no intention of re-locating, or changing my residency, to another Commissioner District. Senecal additionally notes that there is no domestic well on the property. Approval to drill domestic wells now rests with the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board, established by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Water Compact. This Board took months to organize and be prepared to issue permits to drill wells. I have not submitted an application for permission to drill a well on the property as I have been told that all permits are presently on hold. I do plan to have a domestic well drilled for use on the property.

Response to Senecal Exhibit D

The mileage reimbursement claims completed by myself merely reflect that I am presently not spending the majority of my nights at my property of residence. If I was claiming and collecting reimbursement for miles that I did not travel to get to work, Mr. Senecal would have a legitimate ethical complaint to file against me.

Summary

Mr. Senecal’s complaint is based entirely on his assertion that since I currently do not sleep at my residence, I have assumed residence in a different Commissioner District. He has cherry picked two statutes that, in his opinion support his argument, rather than applying the statutes relevant to determining residency that I have provided.

A 2023 Montana Supreme Court decision in the case of *Darla Downs v. Frank Piosos* provides an answer to Mr. Senecal’s argument that I have changed my district of residency by sleeping in another district. Defendant Piosos argued that since he slept in Roosevelt County two or three nights a week, he had established that he was a resident of the County. The Supreme Court disagreed and wrote, “However, merely sleeping in that county would not be enough to establish residency under *MCA 13-1-112(8)*.”

My intent to retain residency in my present Commissioner District is evidenced by the facts presented below:

- I own property in District #3 with the physical address of 33270 Glinwater Lane. This property has been in the family since 1959.
- I spend time on this property nearly every day for nine months of the year, occasionally spending the night.
- I vote in Commissioner District #3 (Exhibit #6) and have done so for over 50 years.
- I receive my important mail, such as utility bills, at my post office box in Ronan, (Exhibit #7).
- My personal physician for over 20 years has been Dr. Ed Vizcarra who practices at St. Luke Community Healthcare in Ronan.
- I am a member and regularly attend church at Terrace Lake Community Church located in Ronan. (Exhibit #8)
- After teaching and coaching in the Ronan School District for over 30 years I continue to volunteer coach in the basketball, cross country, and track programs in the Ronan School District.
- I am chairman of the School District #30/Ronan Hall of Fame Committee.
- Valley Bank of Ronan is my personal bank.
- My home internet provider is Access Montana, based in Ronan, MT., and my address is a ronan.net address.
- I attend Ronan Chamber meetings as a Commissioner representative from District #3.

In conclusion, Mr. Senecal's Complaint has no merit. He requests that, "Mr. Decker should not be allowed to have his name on the ballot (sic) as a candidate for County Commissioner seat in the Ronan district." This request should not be granted as Mr. Senecal has produced no valid argument to substantiate his claim that I am not a resident of Commissioner District #3. I am also providing a letter prepared by the law firm of Turnage, Mercer and Wall that I requested they prepare as an opinion on the question of my residency in District #3, (Exhibit #9).

Gale Decker

MCA Contents / TITLE 13 / CHAPTER 1 / Part 1 / 13-1-112 Rules for dete...

EXHIBIT #1

Montana Code Annotated 2023

TITLE 13. ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Part 1. General Provisions

Rules For Determining Residence

13-1-112. Rules for determining residence. For registration, voting, or seeking election to the legislature, the residence of an individual must be determined by the following rules as far as they are applicable:

(1) The residence of an individual is where the individual's habitation is fixed and to which, whenever the individual is absent, the individual has the intention of returning.

(2) An individual may not gain or lose a residence while kept involuntarily at any public institution, not necessarily at public expense; as a result of being confined in any prison; or solely as a result of residing on a military reservation.

(3) (a) An individual in the armed forces of the United States may not become a resident solely as a result of being stationed at a military facility in the state.

(b) An individual may not acquire a residence solely as a result of being employed or stationed at a training or other transient camp maintained by the United States within the state.

(c) A member of a reserve component of the United States armed forces who is stationed outside of the state but who has no intent of changing residency retains resident status.

(4) An individual does not lose residence if the individual goes into another state or other district of this state for temporary purposes with the intention of returning, unless the individual exercises the election franchise in the other state or district.

(5) An individual may not gain a residence in a county if the individual comes in for temporary purposes without the intention of making that county the individual's home.

(6) If an individual moves to another state with the intention of making it the individual's residence, the individual loses residence in this state.

(7) The place where an individual's family resides is presumed to be that individual's place of residence. However, an individual who takes up or continues a residence at a place other than where the individual's family resides with the intention of remaining is a resident of the place where the individual resides.

(8) A change of residence may be made only by the act of removal joined with intent to remain in another place.

History: En. Sec. 41, Ch. 368, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 23-3022(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 2003.

Montana Code Annotated 2023

EXHIBIT #2

TITLE 1. GENERAL LAWS AND DEFINITIONS

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Part 2. General Definitions of Terms Used in Code

Residence -- Rules For Determining

1-1-215. Residence -- rules for determining. Every person has, in law, a residence. In determining the place of residence, the following rules are to be observed:

- (1) It is the place where a person remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose and to which the person returns in seasons of repose.
- (2) There may be only one residence. If a person claims a residence within Montana for any purpose, then that location is the person's residence for all purposes unless there is a specific statutory exception.
- (3) A residence cannot be lost until another is gained.
- (4) The residence of an unmarried minor is:
 - (a) the residence of the minor's parents;
 - (b) if one of the parents is deceased or the parents do not share the same residence, the residence of the parent having legal custody;
 - (c) if neither parent has legal custody, the residence of the legal guardian or custodian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction; or
 - (d) if the conditions in **20-5-502** are met, the residence of the caretaker relative.
- (5) In the case of a controversy, the district court has jurisdiction over which residence is the residence of an unmarried minor.
- (6) Except as provided in Title 20, chapter 5, part 5, and this section, the residence of an unmarried minor who has a parent living cannot be changed by either the minor's own act or an act of the minor's guardian.
- (7) The residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.

History: En. Sec. 72, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 32, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 33, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 52; re-en. Sec. 33, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 164, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 83-303; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 442, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 2011.

WARRANTY DEED

EXHIBIT #3

THIS INDENTURE, Made the 26 day of Oct., 1998, between **MARIE A. DECKER**, 3199 Canal Road, Ronan, Montana 59864, Party of the First Part, and **GALE L. DECKER and LINDA E. DECKER**, Husband and Wife as Joint Tenants With Right of Survivorship, 3130 Canal Road, Ronan, Montana 59864, Parties of the Second Part;

WITNESSETH, that the said Party of the First Part, for Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable consideration, lawful money of the United States of America to her in hand paid by said Parties of the Second Part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; does by these presents grant, bargain, sell, convey, warrant and confirm unto the said Parties of the Second Part as Joint Tenants and to the Survivor of said named Joint Tenants, (and not as tenants in common), and to heirs and assigns of such survivor forever, the hereinafter described real estate situated in the County of Lake, and State of Montana, to-wit:

A part of the Northwest One-Quarter of the Southeast One-Quarter (N.W.1/4S.E.1/4) of Section 17, Township 21 North, Range 19 West, P.M.M., Lake County, Montana, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast Corner of the N.W.1/4S.E.1/4 of said Section 17, T. 21 N., R. 19 W., P.M.M.; Thence S 89°52'34" W 664.43' to the true point of beginning; Thence S 89°52'36" W 232.39' to the centerline of the Pablo Feeder Canal; Thence along a non-tangent curve concave to the West 488.53' whose cord bears S 14°58'16" W 485.16'; whose central angle is 23°19'32"; whose radius is 1200'; Thence along a non-tangent curve concave to the East 167.67' whose cord bears S 14°14'24" W 167.50', whose central angle is 8°52'42", whose radius is 1082'; Thence S 14°45'31" W 212.47'; Thence S 2°06'03" W 484.90'; Thence N 88°56'44" E 29.11' to a found monument; Thence N 89°45'18" E 431.06' along the South boundary of the N.W.1/4S.E.1/4 said Section 17; Thence N 0°27'48" E 1319.24' more or less to the point of beginning. Containing 11.38± acres more or less, and designated as Tract B on Certificate of Survey hereinbelow cited

TOGETHER WITH all easements appurtenant thereto, apparent or of record; and also with a further non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress being thirty-five feet (35') wide, South of and adjacent to the North boundary of said N.W.1/4S.E.1/4 from the Northeast corner thereof to the parcel hereby conveyed, as further shown on Certificate of Survey No. 5490, records of Lake County, Montana.

SUBJECT, HOWEVER, to all reservations, restrictions, and easements, apparent or of record.

TOGETHER with all and singular the hereinbefore described premises, all tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof; and also all the estate, right, title, interest, right of dower and right of homestead, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said Party of the First Part, of, in or to the said premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances thereto belonging, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, all and singular the above-mentioned and described premises unto the said Parties of the Second Part, as joint tenants with right of survivorship (and not as tenants in common) and to the heirs and assigns of the survivor of said named joint tenants forever.

And the said Party of the First Part, and her heirs, does hereby covenant that she will forever WARRANT and DEFEND all right,

Return to: Gale Decker
3130 Canal Road
Ronan, MT. 59864 Page 1 of 2

title and interest in and to the said premises and the quiet and peaceable possession thereof, unto the said Parties of the Second Part, as joint tenants with right of survivorship (and not as tenants in common) and to the heirs and assigns of the survivor of said named joint tenants, against all acts and deeds of the said Party of the First Part, and all and every person and persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same.

GRANTOR specifically declares that the warranties set forth herein relate solely to the state of ownership of and title to the real property and not to the physical condition of the premises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Party of the First Part has hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Marie A. Decker
MARIE A. DECKER

STATE OF MONTANA)
) : ss.
County of Lake)

On this 26 day of October, 1998, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State of Montana, personally appeared MARIE A. DECKER, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Notarial Seal the day and year first above written.

John D. French
Notary Public for the State of MT
Residing at: Panama, MT
My Commission Expires: April 11, 2002

STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF LAKE
Recorded At 3:42 O'Clock P.M. NOV 02 1998
Microfilm 394299 P. Blodges Recorder
Fees \$ 12.00 By _____ Deputy

2023 REAL Property Tax Statement

LAKE COUNTY TREASURER

106 4TH AVE EAST

POLSON MT 59860

10/25/23

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

EXHIBIT #4

Tax Payer	Property Description
DECKER GALE L 43650 CANAL RD RONAN MT 59864-9195	Twn/Rng/Sect 21N/19W /17 TR B COS 5490 (11.38 AC) Acres: 11.38

Tax Payer 17282
School District 30 RONAN RURAL
Taxable Value 1,887
Geo Code 3104-17-4-01-10-0000

Tax Description	1st Half	2nd Half	Total Tax	Voted *	% of Tax	Tax Amount	Mill Levy
LAND	343.77	343.76	687.53		STATE SCHOOL LEVY 16.62 %	\$147.00	77.900
BLDS & IMPROVEMENTS	72.59	72.59	145.18		DISTRICT SCHOOL LEV 28.11 %	\$248.53	131.710
SOIL CONSERVATION	0.85	0.85	1.70		STATE LEVY - UNIVER 1.28 %	\$11.32	6.000
STATE FOREST FIRE	25.00	25.00	50.00		COUNTYWIDE EDUCATIO 8.42 %	\$74.48	39.470
1st Half Due (11/30/23)	442.21				Total School 54.43 %	\$481.33	255.080
2nd Half Due (05/31/24)		442.20			County		
Total Bill			884.41		GENERAL FUND 2.21 %	\$19.57	10.370
					ROAD 4.35 %	\$38.44	20.370
					* ROAD - VOTED 0.85 %	\$7.55	4.000
					POOR 0.21 %	\$1.89	1.000
					BRIDGE 0.50 %	\$4.43	2.350
					WEED 0.34 %	\$3.02	1.600
					FAIR 0.28 %	\$2.49	1.320
					AIRPORT 0.27 %	\$2.40	1.270
					DISTRICT COURT 0.40 %	\$3.53	1.870
					YOUTH COURT 0.20 %	\$1.75	0.930
					LIABILITY INSURANCE 1.36 %	\$12.00	6.360
					LIBRARIES 0.03 %	\$0.26	0.140
					AMBULANCE 0.06 %	\$0.55	0.290
					COUNTY PLANNING 0.42 %	\$3.72	1.970
					PUBLIC HEALTH 0.41 %	\$3.60	1.910
					SANITATION 0.38 %	\$3.38	1.790
					* SENIOR CITIZENS 0.43 %	\$3.77	2.000
					CO EXTENSION AGENT 0.14 %	\$1.26	0.670
					PUBLIC SAFETY 4.14 %	\$36.59	19.390
					* PUBLIC SAFETY SPECI 1.50 %	\$13.25	7.020
					* PUBLIC SAFETY MILL 3.67 %	\$32.44	17.190
					P E R S 1.83 %	\$16.21	8.590
					HEALTH INSURANCE 0.41 %	\$3.60	1.910
					PERMISSIVE HEALTH I 2.72 %	\$24.02	12.730
					* SEARCH AND RESCUE-L 0.21 %	\$1.89	1.000
					* SEARCH & RESCUE-SWA 0.21 %	\$1.89	1.000
					DISPATCH 1.94 %	\$17.19	9.110
					JUDGMENT LEVY 0.59 %	\$5.26	2.790
					Total County 30.06 %	\$265.95	140.940
					Other State		
					FOREST FIRE PROTECT 5.65 %	\$50.00	0.000
					Total Other Stat 5.65 %	\$50.00	0.000
					Other		
					RONAN RURAL FIRE 2.74 %	\$24.27	12.860
					LAKE COUNTY CEMETER 0.51 %	\$4.55	2.410
					* LAKE COUNTY CEMETER 0.64 %	\$5.66	3.000
					Soil Conservation P 0.01 %	\$0.08	0.040
					SOIL CONSERVATION 0.18 %	\$1.62	0.860
					* RONAN LIBRARY DISTR 5.76 %	\$50.95	27.000
					Total Other 9.84 %	\$87.13	46.170
					Total Bill 100.00 %	\$884.41	442.190

Please make checks payable to: Lake County Treasurer
Include payment stub and write your Tax Payer number on your check.

PAYONLINE at HTTP://WWW.LAKEMT.GOV
There is a 3% convenience fee to pay by credit/debit card.
Payments made online must be received by 5:00 pm MST of the due date.

Payments can be made by phone with a credit/debit card with a 3% convenience fee by calling 406-883-7224 or 406-883-7225.

An * in front of a levy means that it was voted on at some point in time.

DOR property valuation staff may be visiting your property to conduct an on-site review for property tax purposes. You or your agent may want to be present. If you wish to make an appointment for the next tax year contact the local DOR office at 406-872-6228.

Receipt Validation for 1st Half: 442.21
Penalty:
Interest:
Total:

Receipt Validation for 2nd Half: 442.20
Penalty:
Interest:
Total:

Total if both halves paid: 884.41



Name DECKER GALE L
43650 CANAL RD
17282

Due 442.21 11/30/23

Return this stub with payment to:
LAKE COUNTY TREASURER
106 4TH AVE EAST
POLSON MT 59860
FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Total if both halves paid: 884.41



Name DECKER GALE L
43650 CANAL RD
17282

Due 442.20 05/31/24

Return this stub with payment to:
LAKE COUNTY TREASURER
106 4TH AVE EAST
POLSON MT 59860
FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Property Record Card

EXHIBIT #5

Summary

Primary Information

Property Category: RP **Subcategory:** Residential Property
Geocode: 15-3104-17-4-01-10-0000 **Assessment Code:** 0000017282
Primary Owner: **PropertyAddress:** 33270 GLINNWATER LN
 DECKER GALE L RONAN, MT 59864
 43650 CANAL RD **COS Parcel:** TR B
 RONAN, MT 59864-9195

NOTE: See the Owner tab for all owner information

Certificate of Survey: 5490

Subdivision:

Legal Description:

S17, T21 N, R19 W, C.O.S. 5490, PARCEL TR B, ACRES 11.38

Last Modified: 9/27/2023 6:58:07 PM

General Property Information

Neighborhood: 215.200.1 **Property Type:** IMP_R - Improved Property - Rural
Living Units: 0 **Levy District:** 15-1B99-30
Zoning: **Ownership %:** 100

Linked Property:

No linked properties exist for this property

Exemptions:

No exemptions exist for this property

Condo Ownership:

General: 0 **Limited:** 0

Property Factors

Topography: **Fronting:**
Utilities: **Parking Type:**
Access: **Parking Quantity:**
Location: **Parking Proximity:**

Land Summary

<u>Land Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Value</u>
Grazing	0.000	00.00
Fallow	0.000	00.00
Irrigated	0.000	00.00
Continuous Crop	0.000	00.00
Wild Hay	0.000	00.00
Farmsite	0.000	00.00
ROW	0.000	00.00
NonQual Land	0.000	00.00
Total Ag Land	0.000	00.00
Total Forest Land	0.000	00.00
Total Market Land	11.380	115,410.00

Other Buildings/Improvements

Outbuilding/Yard Improvement #1

Type: Residential	Description: RRC2 - Canopy	
Quantity: 1	Year Built: 2010	Grade: 5
Condition:	Functional:	Class Code: 3301
Dimensions		
Width/Diameter: 8	Length: 18	Size/Area: 144
Height:	Bushels:	Circumference:

Outbuilding/Yard Improvement #2

Type: Residential	Description: RRS1 - Shed, Frame	
Quantity: 1	Year Built: 2010	Grade: G
Condition:	Functional:	Class Code: 3301
Dimensions		
Width/Diameter: 12	Length: 24	Size/Area: 288
Height:	Bushels:	Circumference:

Outbuilding/Yard Improvement #3

Type: Residential	Description: RRT7 - Deck, covered patio	
Quantity: 1	Year Built: 2010	Grade: A
Condition:	Functional:	Class Code: 3301
Dimensions		
Width/Diameter: 24	Length: 24	Size/Area: 576
Height:	Bushels:	Circumference:

Outbuilding/Yard Improvement #4

Type: Residential	Description: RRS1 - Shed, Frame	
Quantity: 1	Year Built: 2010	Grade: A
Condition:	Functional:	Class Code: 3301
Dimensions		
Width/Diameter: 8	Length: 9	Size/Area: 72
Height:	Bushels:	Circumference:

Outbuilding/Yard Improvement #5

Type: Residential	Description: RRC2 - Canopy	
Quantity: 1	Year Built: 2018	Grade: 5
Condition:	Functional:	Class Code: 3301
Dimensions		
Width/Diameter: 9	Length: 28	Size/Area:
Height:	Bushels:	Circumference:

Outbuilding/Yard Improvement #6

Type: Residential	Description: RRC2 - Canopy	
Quantity: 1	Year Built: 2018	Grade: 5

3/6/24, 2:47 PM

PrintPropertyRecordCard

Condition:

Functional:

Class Code: 3301

Dimensions

Width/Diameter: 12

Length: 12

Size/Area:

Height:

Bushels:

Circumference:

Outbuilding/Yard Improvement #7

Type: Residential

Description: RRS1 - Shed, Frame

Quantity: 1

Year Built: 2018

Grade: A

Condition:

Functional:

Class Code: 3301

Dimensions

Width/Diameter: 28

Length: 16

Size/Area:

Height:

Bushels:

Circumference:

Commercial

Existing Commercial Buildings

No commercial buildings exist for this parcel

Ag/Forest Land

Ag/Forest Land

No ag/forest land exists for this parcel

GALE DECKER VOTING RECORD

Election Date	Election Type	Election Name	Status
5/2/2023	School	15 School/Special Purpose District Election	Voted
11/8/2022	General	15 Federal General 2022	Voted - Accepted
6/7/2022	Primary	15 Federal Primary 2022	Voted - Accepted
11/2/2021	Municipal General	15 Municipal General 2021	Voted - Accepted
11/3/2020	General	15 Federal General Election 2020	Voted - Accepted
6/2/2020	Primary	15 Federal Primary 2020	Voted - Accepted
5/5/2020	School	15 School District Election 2020	Voted - Accepted
1/28/2020	Special	15 Countywide Special Election	Voted - Accepted
5/7/2019	School	15 School/Special Purpose District Election 2019	Voted - Accepted
11/6/2018	General	15 Federal General 2018	Voted
6/5/2018	Primary	15 Federal Primary 2018	Voted - Accepted
5/25/2017	Special	15 Federal Special Election 2017	Voted
11/8/2016	General	15 Federal General 2016	Voted
6/7/2016	Primary	15 Federal Primary 2016	Voted - Accepted
6/16/2015	Special	15 County Road Levy 2015	Voted
11/4/2014	General	15 Federal General 2014	Voted
6/3/2014	Primary	15 Federal Primary 2014	Voted
5/6/2014	School	15 School 2014	Voted
5/7/2013	School	15 School/Fire/Library	Voted
11/6/2012	General	15 FEDERAL GENERAL 2012	Voted
6/5/2012	Primary	15 Pres. Primary 2012	Voted
5/3/2011	School	15 Ronan/St. Ign School 2011	Voted
11/2/2010	General	15 Federal General 2010	Voted
6/8/2010	Primary	15_Federal Primary_2010	Voted
5/4/2010	School	15 Polson / Ronan School 2010	Voted
5/5/2009	School	RONAN SCH 30-2	Voted
11/4/2008	General	2008 Presidential General	Voted
6/3/2008	Primary	2008 Presidential Primary	Voted
5/6/2008	School	Ronan Sch Dist 30-2 Trustee	Voted
11/7/2006	General	General 2006 Election	Voted
6/6/2006	Primary	Primary Election 2006	Voted
11/2/2004	General	GENERAL 2004	Voted
6/8/2004	Primary	PRIMARY 2004	Voted
5/4/2004	School	SCHOOL DISTRICT	Voted
5/6/2003	School	SCHOOL DISTRICT	Voted
11/5/2002	General	GENERAL ELECTION 2002	Voted
11/7/2000	General	GENERAL ELECTION 2000	Voted
11/3/1998	General	GENERAL ELECTION 1998	Voted

EXHIBIT #7

YNNN



www.missionvalleypower.org

Post Office Box 97
Pablo, Montana 59855-0097

Billing/disconnect information call:
Pablo -- Main Office 883-7900 or 675-7900
Office Hours - Monday - Thursday 7:00AM - 5:30PM

4537 1 AV 0.498
GALE L DECKER
PO BOX 674
RONAN MT 59864-0674
5 4537
C-11



Account Number	91076
Statement Date 01/10/2024	Due Date 02/05/2024
Billing Summary	
Balance From Last Billing:	59.57
Payments	99.57 CR
Balance Forward	40.00 CR
Current Charges	23.77
Other Charges and Credits	40.00
AMOUNT DUE	23.77

Any amount listed in the "Balance Forward" places your account in a delinquent status and will accrue additional penalty fees. Your account may be subject to immediate disconnect. The Due Date of this Bill applies to "Current Charges" amounts only.

Messages

Starting January 2024 Mission Valley Power is raising rates to cover an increase in the price of power purchased from Bonneville Power Administration and EKI. For more information go to MVP's website: missionvalleypower.org

Meter	Type	From	To	Days	Prev Read	Pres Read	Usage	Mult
02-07387	KWH	Dec 03, 2023	Jan 03, 2024	31	1445	1496	51	1
02-07387	KW	Dec 03, 2023	Jan 03, 2024	31	3.536	3.344	3.34	1

Location: 6302330000
Service Address: 21-19 176380
Service Description: 33270 GLINNWATER LANE
Rate Schedule: 020

Detail of Charges:

Service Fee	40.00
Basic Charge	17.50
51 KWH @ 0.10340	5.27
3.344 KW Dmd @ 0.30	1.00

This Month Last Year	Usage	35 Days Served	30
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PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT

GALE L DECKER
PO BOX 674
RONAN MT 59864-0000

Account Number	91076
Statement Date	01/10/2024
Amount Due By 02/05/2024	23.77

Cycle 01

PLEASE INDICATE CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ PHONE NUMBER HERE.

MAILING ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
LOCATION PHONE NUMBER ()	OTHER PHONE NUMBER ()	
EMAIL ADDRESS		

Make Check Payable To:

Mission Valley Power
PO Box 97
Pablo MT 59855-0097

01



00000009107600000023779



TERRACE LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH

OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE
406-676-5395 | tlchurch@ronan.net | 35663 Terrace Lake Road Ronan, Montana 59864

EXHIBIT #8

January 24, 2023

Dear Gale and Susan Decker,

Thank you for your faithful support of TLCC in 2023!

Your gifts from January 1st, 2023 to December 31st, 2023 total **\$3,150.00**.

This includes all documented giving to the church general fund as well as designated giving to specific funds such as the great Commission Fund, building fund, etc. It does not include any payments for goods and services such as purchased books or building use gratuity.

This year I have provided a detail on the back of this letter with how and when you gave as well as what the donation was designated for.

Terrace Lake Community Church is a 501-(c)(3) tax exempt entity.
No tangible goods or services were exchanged for the aforementioned gift(s).

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Matthew Beasley
TLCC Bookkeeper
cell# 406-598-2125

Terrace Lake Community Church
35663 Terrace Lake Road
Ronan, MT 59864

TURNAGE MERCER & WALL, PLLP

J. A. Turnage 1926-2015

John A. Mercer

Chuck Wall*

*also licensed in South Carolina

Attorneys at Law

312 1st Street East

Polson, MT 59860

Telephone: (406)883-5367

Fax: (406) 883-5328

ChuckWall@TurnageMercerWall.com

March 4, 2024

Commissioner Gale Decker

P.O. Box 674

Ronan, MT 59860

Re: Enclosed

Dear Commissioner Decker –

Per your request I have thoroughly reviewed the Montana Code Annotated as well as what I feel are the relevant Montana Supreme Court decisions concerning the question regarding your residency for purposes of filing for Lake County Commissioner in Lake County District 3, also known as the Ronan District.

Without referencing, ad nauseum, all of the authorities I have reviewed, it is my opinion that based upon the facts as explained to me by you, pursuant to Montana Law your residence is the Ronan District, or District 3. My review included, but was not limited to, MCA 7-4-2201; MCA 7-4-2104; MCA 1-1-215; MCA 13-1-111-113; ; MCA 13-2-514; the recent Montana Supreme Court holding in Downs v. Picos, 2023 MT 173; and a prior Montana Supreme Court case that was cited in the Downs holding, Taylor v. Matejovsky, 863 P.2d 1022, including the Montana statutes that were considered therein.

My reading, analysis, and interpretation of the statutes and cases that I have reviewed, coupled with the application of the facts at hand as described to me, leads me to the conclusion that for the purposes of residency in the upcoming election for the District 3 Commissioner position, Lake County, Montana, you are a registered elector in, and your legal residence is located within, the aforesaid District 3, therefore qualifying you to seek re-election for Commissioner of said District.

Sincerely,



Chuck Wall