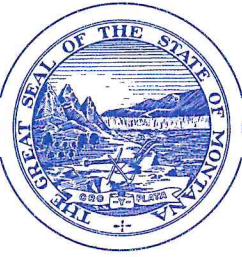


COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

CHRIS J. GALLUS  
COMMISSIONER  
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942  
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April 11, 2024

Stacy Hermiller  
2340 Northern Lights Drive  
Great Falls, MT 59401

Subject: Complaint received April 2, 2024; *Hermiller v. Whitaker*, COPP-2024-CFP-007

Stacy,

This letter acknowledges the receipt of your formal complaint, received by this office on April 2, 2024. Your signed and sworn complaint alleges a violation of Montana election law under my jurisdiction as Commissioner of Political Practices, and also appears to conform to the basic requirements of 44.11.106 ARM. Therefore, I will accept it as filed. While your complaint is presented on an Ethics complaint form, because the alleged violation falls under Montana election law I am considering it a Campaign Finance and Practices (CFP) complaint.

Pursuant to the established process, a letter and copy of the complaint is being sent to the named respondent, requesting that they provide a written response to this office and retain pertinent records pending further investigation of this matter.

I will review any additional materials relevant to this complaint for any deficiencies pursuant to 44.11.106 ARM, law, and prior relevant COPP rulings, and reserve the right to dismiss the complaint upon this initial inquiry. If this occurs, I will notify you and provide a basis for the dismissal. Alternatively, upon this further review, I may determine that a formal investigation is warranted. This generally involves a more extensive and time-consuming process, during which you may contact us for a status update.

If an investigation is conducted, a decision will be issued which includes a summary of facts and determines if those facts are sufficient or insufficient to support a violation. This decision will also determine if prosecution is justified. Upon completion of this investigation a copy of the decision will be sent to you and posted on COPP's website.

If I determine prosecution is justified, this matter will be referred to the county attorney in the county where the violations occurred. The county attorney will then determine whether they will prosecute the matter or refer it back to me. If returned to me, I will either work with the responding party to settle the matter or prosecute it within their local jurisdiction in district court.

Regards,

  
Chris J. Gallus  
Commissioner of Political Practices