

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

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Commissioner of Political Practices 2024 SEP 05

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 Jake Eaton Complete Mailing Address PO Box 81274 Billings, MT 59108 Phone Numbers: Work Home

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

Complete Name American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc. Complete Mailing Address 125 Broad Street New York, NY 10004 Phone Numbers: Work Home

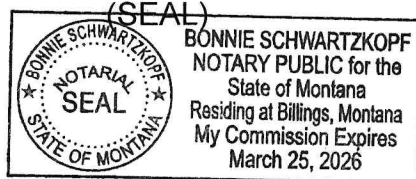
Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alleged violation.

Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Yellowstone

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

Signature of Complainant



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of September, 2024. Bonnie Schwartzkopf Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

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.

See Attached

Complaints must be:

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

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc. has violated Montana campaign finance law by failing to properly report electioneering communications.

Background

On or about August 24, 2024, American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc. distributed a direct mail piece (Exhibit A) to an unknown number of Montana voters. The mail piece clearly identifies 4 candidates for public office in the 2024 General Election.

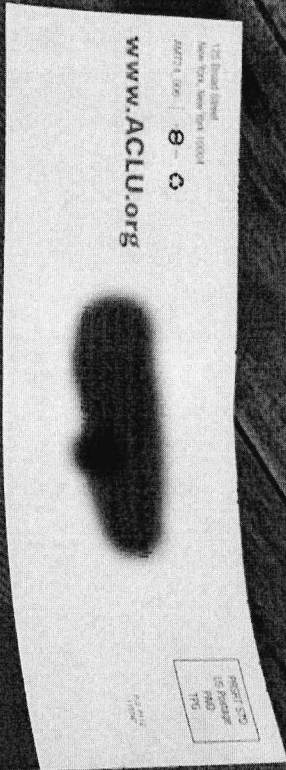
As the mail piece refers to one or more clearly identified candidates and was distributed within 60 days of the initiation of voting, it is an electioneering communication, as defined by MCA § 13-1-101.

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation filed a c-4 report with Commissioner on 8/30/2024 that covered the period 6/26/2024 - 08/25/2024. The report lists only 2 expenditures, both donations to the group Montanans Securing Reproductive Rights. The report does not list any expense for its direct mail piece.

Violation

By failing to properly report its spending on electioneering communications, American Civil Liberties Union Foundation has violated MCA § 13-37-223.

Exhibit A



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.

*Make a plan to cast your ballot
for Chief Justice and Associate
Justice this November.*

In-person absentee
voting begins

MON. OCT. 7

Election
Day is

TUES. NOV. 5

PAID FOR BY AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, INC. ANTHONY ROMERO,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 125 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

ACLU Election Day is TUES. NOV. 5 THE MONTANA SUPREME COURT DECIDES ON YOUR FREEDOMS.

You get to decide who is best for the job.



THE ACLU DOES NOT ENDORSE OR
OPPOSE CANDIDATES, BUT WE WANT VOTERS
TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION.

LEARN MORE HERE 

WHICH CANDIDATES FOR MONTANA SUPREME COURT DO YOU TRUST TO PROTECT ABORTION ACCESS?

FOR CHIEF JUSTICE



JUDGE JERRY LYNCH attended the University of Montana Law School and went on to become Montana's longest-serving federal magistrate judge. Lynch has sat on the state Board of Public Education and Board of Environmental Review. He has been endorsed by six former state supreme court justices and a number of labor unions and groups that support access to public lands.



CORY SWANSON attended the University of Montana Law School and went on to hold political office as Deputy Attorney General. He has served as Broadwater County Attorney since 2014, and he is a pastor and a member of the National Guard. He has been endorsed by seven county sheriffs.

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE



JUDGE KATHERINE BIDEGARAY attended the University of Montana Law School. Afterward, Bidegaray worked in the office of the Montana State Auditor and has served as a District Court Judge in eastern Montana since 2003. She has been endorsed by a number of labor unions and groups that support access to public lands.



JUDGE DAN WILSON attended law school at the University of Minnesota. Wilson later returned to Montana to work as a County Attorney in Great Falls and has served as a District Court Judge in Flathead since 2017. He has been endorsed by a former state supreme court justice and three former district court judges.

For CHIEF JUSTICE	Supports ABORTION ACCESS ¹	Accepted CAMPAIGN DONATIONS from Anti-Abortion Donors ²
Jerry LYNCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cory SWANSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For ASSOCIATE JUSTICE	Supports ABORTION ACCESS ³	Accepted CAMPAIGN DONATIONS from Anti-Abortion Donors
Katherine BIDEGARAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan WILSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. "The Politics and Philosophy Behind the Race for Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court," *Montana Free Press*, 12/14/2023. 2. Montana Campaign Electronic Reporting System, 2024.

3. Supreme Court Candidate Bidegaray Vows to Protect Constitutional Rights at Flathead Campaign Denali Sagner, *The Flathead Beacon*, 3/4/2024. 4. Montana Campaign Electronic Reporting System