

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES (COPP)

In Re: the matter of Montana Republican Party (MTGOP)	COPP-2023-CFP-017 COPP-2024-CFP-027
v.	ORDER OF DISMISSAL
Ryan Busse	

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 12, 2023, Danielle Bradley filed a complaint on behalf of the MTGOP against 2024 gubernatorial candidate, Ryan Busse of Kalispell, MT. Ms. Bradley filed a second complaint on June 17, 2024. Both complaints met the requirements of Admin. R. Mont. (ARM) 44.11.106 and alleged violations of statutes which fall under my jurisdiction as Commissioner of Political Practices. Therefore, I accepted them as filed and requested responses from Busse for Montana, Ryan Busse’s gubernatorial campaign. Busse for Montana timely filed responses on October 17, 2023, October 27, 2023, and June 28, 2024. COPP subsequently conducted an investigation in accordance with MCA § 13-37-111.

In this matter, the parties to the complaints were identical and the complaints contained substantially similar questions of law and fact. Therefore, the Commissioner determined it appropriate to address all matters in a single decision. Here, the Commissioner dismissed several allegations but determined sufficient evidence supported other violations. Ultimately, in accordance with the authority provided by MCA § 13-37-124, the Commissioner determined those matters were not justified for prosecution and were best resolved by corrective action. At the time of the decision, all but one of these matters had previously been addressed by the Busse campaign. Consequently, on September 20, 2024, the Commissioner issued a Finding of Facts Sufficient to Support Violations, Order of Corrective Action, and Dismissal Contingent on Corrective Action (Decision).

CORRECTIVE ACTION


The Decision in this matter required Busse for Montana to amend their C-5 finance report, for the reporting period of October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, on or before September 27, 2024, to include additional details regarding expenditures for services provided by Aaron Murphy consulting. On September 24, 2024, Busse for Montana amended the applicable

C-5 report, to describe an expenditure to Aaron Murphy Consulting as “[r]eimbursement for the printing costs of 1,500 remittance envelopes, name tags, and two separate months of consulting fees.”

CONCLUSION

The Commissioner has determined that all corrective action has been satisfactorily completed by Busse for Montana. Consequently, the above-named matters are resolved, and all allegations are fully dismissed.

Dated, this 10th day of February, 2025,


Chris J. Gallus
Commissioner of Political Practices
State of Montana