

HAND DELIVERED

June 6, 2024

Cory Swanson
Candidate for Supreme Court Chief Justice
Townsend, MT 59644

RECEIVED
MID40
2024 JUN 07
Commissioner of the
Political Process

Commissioner Gallus,

I am writing in response to a frivolous complaint from Jayson O'Neill against my campaign for Montana Supreme Court.

Mr. O'Neill alleges that I violated campaign finance laws by failing to report travel to the Broadwater County Lincoln Day Dinner and the expenditure of the cost of the meal at this event. He appears to alternatively allege that I may have received a complimentary dinner from the Republican Central Committee for Broadwater County, which he asserts would be unlawful.

First, I did not receive a complimentary dinner. I paid \$40.00 cash for an excellent prime rib dinner, and I feel I got my full money's worth. Attached is a receipt for the dinner. Mr. O'Neill could have just asked me instead of filing an unfounded campaign complaint.

Second, I did not report my mileage because the event was held in my hometown and the mileage was minimal from my home to the venue and back.

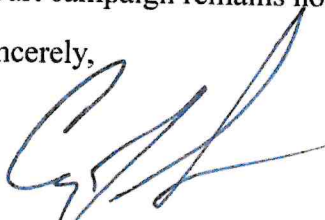
Third, I don't believe I am required to report either my personal mileage or personal payments for meals as a campaign expenditure. Mont. Code Ann. 13-1-101(21)(b)(ii) definition of expenditure excludes "payments by a candidate for personal travel expenses, food...or personal necessities for the candidate..." The expenses discussed above were for my personal travel to my hometown dinner and payment for the dinner that I personally ate. (See O'Neill's photos.)

For further detail, I consulted the Administrative Rules of Montana. ARM 44.11.501(1)(d) defines an expenditure as a candidate's own expense, except as provided in 13-1-101, MCA. As discussed above, 13-1-101 excludes the candidate's payments for my personal travel and meals.

For these reasons, I recommend you dismiss this complaint as unfounded. If you deem these items as expenditures, I recommend you seek an amendment to the statute or ARM because the plain text of these authorities does not include the personal travel and meal I enjoyed.

Finally, prepare yourself for a deluge of frivolous complaints. Mr. O'Neill appears to be an active supporter of Democratic candidates, having contributed to the current Democratic nominees for Montana Governor and Montana Secretary of State. I'm doing my best to ensure the Supreme Court campaign remains non-partisan, but the partisan attacks may have just begun.

Sincerely,



Cory Swanson

RECEIPT

date 4 / 20 / 2024 NO. **049601**

received from Cory Swanson \$ 40.00

forty & no/100 dollars

for payment of Lincoln/Reagan dinner

cash money order credit card check # _____

amount due	
amount paid	
balance	

from _____ to _____

signature Kristi Gisser

DC250IWS