

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

SIGNED/NOTARIZED

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[X]

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 Andrew Rowse
Complete Mailing Address 65 Cedar Shade Ln Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone Numbers: Work Home 406-539-2444

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

Complete Name Smarter Monforton Growth -AR
Complete Mailing Address 40 Spanish Peak Dr, Unit 101 A74 Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone Numbers: Work Home

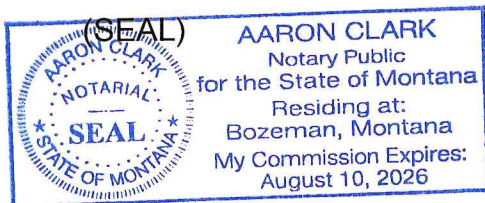
Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alledged violation.

Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Gallatin

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

[Signature]
Signature of Complainant



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of April, 2023.

[Signature]
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.

Commissioner Gallus,

Statement of Facts:

Violation #1

On Saturday, April 15th, 2023, “Smarter Monforton Growth” paid for printed materials opposing the “SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27 (MONFORTON) GALLATIN COUNTY, MONTANA SCHOOL BOND ELECTION” ballot issue that is part of the May 2nd election.

The printed materials were posted at least 8 times at 4 public locations where an estimated 500+ voters would see the materials. The locations are neighborhood common mailbox and the materials were posted on both sides of the mailbox.

It is known that the material was produced by “Smarter Monforton Growth” because it closely matches the style and content of other materials (See Violation #2)

According to MCA 13-35-225 (b) (see below), these materials completely failed to disclose the “Paid By” attribution. This is a violation that election materials must not be anonymous. The materials have already been posted and are still available as of Monday, April 17th. Additional locations and postings likely exist in the community making the message visible to hundreds more voters.

“MCA 13-35-225 (b): (b) for election communications, electioneering communications, or independent expenditures financed by a political committee or a joint fundraising committee, the name of the committee, the name of the committee treasurer, deputy treasurer, secretary, vice chairperson, or chairperson, as designated pursuant to 13-37-201(2)(b), and the address of the committee or the named committee officer; and”

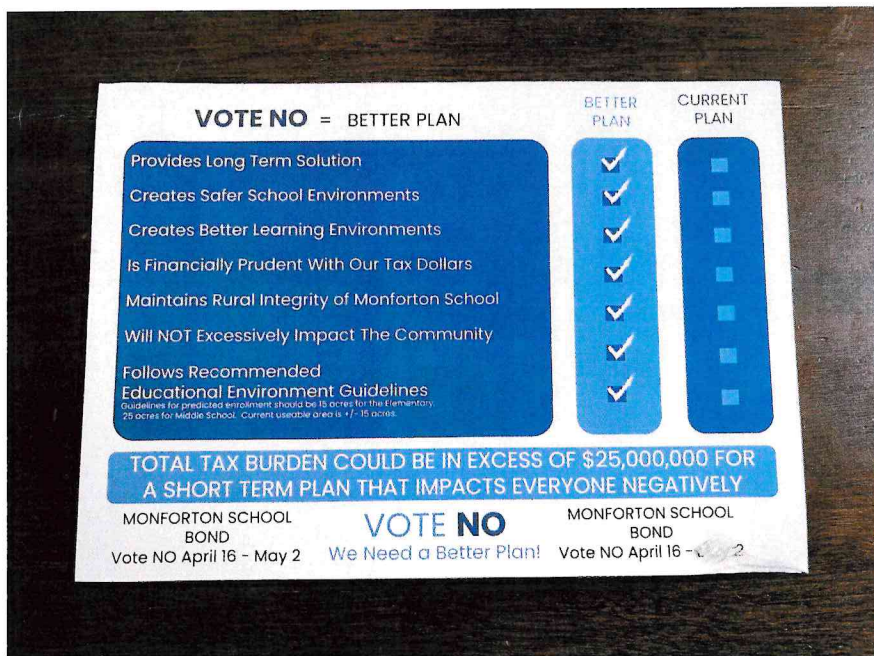


Violation #2

“Smarter Monforton Growth” paid for a mailed postcard campaign that targeted voters in the Monforton School District. Residents across the district started to receive the materials via USPS on Saturday, April 15th, 2023. The printed materials opposed the “SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27 (MONFORTON) GALLATIN COUNTY, MONTANA SCHOOL BOND ELECTION” ballot issue that is part of the May 2nd election.

According to MCA 13-35-225 (b) (see below), these materials failed to disclose Treasurer of the committee in the “Paid By” attribution. This is a violation that election materials must not be anonymous. The materials have already been printed and delivered to residents.

“MCA 13-35-225 (b): (b) for election communications, electioneering communications, or independent expenditures financed by a political committee or a joint fundraising committee, the name of the committee, the name of the committee treasurer, deputy treasurer, secretary, vice chairperson, or chairperson, as designated pursuant to 13-37-201(2)(b), and the address of the committee or the named committee officer; and”



Violation #3

“Smarter Monforton Growth” paid for campaign yard signs that started to appear on Monday, April 17th, 2023. The printed materials opposed the “SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27 (MONFORTON) GALLATIN COUNTY, MONTANA SCHOOL BOND ELECTION” ballot issue that is part of the May 2nd election.

According to MCA 13-35-225 (b) (see below), these materials failed to disclose Treasurer of the committee in the “Paid By” attribution. This is a violation that election materials must not be anonymous. The materials have already been printed and delivered to residents.

“MCA 13-35-225 (b): (b) for election communications, electioneering communications, or independent expenditures financed by a political committee or a joint fundraising committee, the name of the committee, the name of the committee treasurer, deputy treasurer, secretary, vice chairperson, or chairperson, as designated pursuant to 13-37-201(2)(b), and the address of the committee or the named committee officer; and”

