

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

Campaign Finance and Practices

Complaint Form (08/17)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Commissioner of Political Practices 2026 MAY 01 AM1043/ RECEIVED

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APR 28 2026

SIGNED/NOTARIZED

[]

Type or print in ink all information on this form except for verification signature

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Julie Baldrige Complete Mailing Address 2323 Kismet Ct Kalispell, MT 59901 Phone Numbers: Work Home 406-407-5305

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

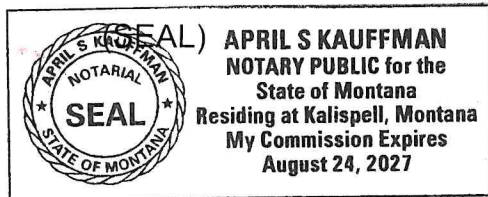
Complete Name David G Sanders Complete Mailing Address 4186 Fox Ridge Dr Helena, MT 59602 Phone Numbers: Work (406) 475-5101 Home (406) 475-5101

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

I, Julie Baldrige, 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 Julie Baldrige

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of April, 2026.

Signature of Notary Public April S Kauffman

My Commission Expires:

JULIE M. BALDRIDGE

2323 Kismet Court
Kalispell, MT 59901

(406) 407-5305
juliebravo@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Dear Commissioner,

As of Tuesday, April 28, **David G Sanders** (Candidate for Public Service Commissioner District 5) has not yet filed a *C-5 Candidate Campaign Financial Report* for the Reporting Period of March 16 through April 15. The COPP the deadline for the report was April 20. Therefore, Mr. Sanders is over a week late and is in direct violation of **MCA 13-37-226 (1) (b)**.

Penalties for not filing financial reports as required by law are outlined in:

MCA 13-37-226 (10): failure to comply with reporting requirements will result in removal of the candidate's name from the official ballot for an election.

MCA 13-37-128 (1): a violation of reporting provisions (including failure to file) can result in a fine **up to \$500**

In addition, under **Administrative Rules of Montana 44.11.240**, *Consequences For Failure To File Required Statements, Reports, Or Disclosures*, there are several actions that may be taken by the Commissioner for this violation. One of them is:

(1) (e) provide notice to the Secretary of State or other election administrator that a **candidate's name should be withheld from a primary election ballot** as provided in 13-37-126, MCA.

Failure to provide campaign contributions and expenditures by the deadline is unacceptable. The seriousness of this situation cannot be overstated, as these laws and rules are there to prevent campaign fraud and to promote campaign transparency to voters.

Candidates who do not follow the laws and administrative rules of the State of Montana should not be allowed on the ballot; much less be allowed to serve the people of Montana in any elected capacity.

Per **Administrative Rules of Montana 44.11.106**, I am requesting that the COPP take action to not only fine Mr. Sanders but to also remove his name from the June 2, 2026, Montana primary election ballot.

Sincerely,



Julie Baldrige
406-407-5305
juliebravo@gmail.com

Montana Code Annotated 2025

TITLE 13. ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 37. CONTROL OF CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

Part 2. Campaign Finance

Time For Filing Reports

13-37-226. Time for filing reports. (1) Except as provided in **13-37-206** and **13-37-225(3)**, a candidate shall file reports required by **13-37-225(1)(a)**, even if the candidate has no contributions or expenditures to report, containing the information required by **13-37-229**, **13-37-231**, and **13-37-232** as follows:

(a) quarterly, due on the 5th day following a calendar quarter, beginning with the calendar quarter in which funds are received or expended during the year or years prior to the election year that the candidate expects to be on the ballot and ending in the final quarter of the year preceding the year of an election in which the candidate participates;

(b) except as provided in subsection (4)(a), the 20th day of March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and November in the year of an election in which the candidate participates;

(c) except as provided in subsection (6), within 2 business days of receiving a contribution equal to the applicable limitation provided in **13-37-216** for the candidate if the contribution is received between the 15th day of the month preceding an election in which the candidate participates and the day before the election;

(d) except as provided in subsection (6), within 2 business days of making an expenditure of an amount equal to or more than the applicable contribution limitation provided in **13-37-216** for the candidate if made between the 15th day of the month preceding an election in which the candidate participates and the day before the election;

(e) semiannually on the 10th day of March and September, starting in the year following an election in which the candidate participates until the candidate files a closing report as specified in **13-37-228(3)**; and

(f) as provided by subsection (3).

(2) Except as provided in **13-37-206**, **13-37-225(3)**, and **13-37-227**, a political committee or a joint fundraising committee shall file reports required by **13-37-225(1)(a)** containing the information required by **13-37-229**, **13-37-231**, and **13-37-232** as follows:

(a) quarterly, due on the 5th day following a calendar quarter, beginning with the calendar quarter in which the political committee or the joint fundraising committee receives a contribution or makes an expenditure after an individual becomes a candidate or an issue becomes a ballot issue, as defined in **13-1-101(7)(b)**, and ending in the final quarter of the year preceding the year in which the candidate or the ballot issue appears on the ballot;

(b) except as provided in subsection (4)(b), the 30th day of March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and November in the year of an election in which the political committee or the joint fundraising committee participates;

(c) within 2 business days of receiving a contribution, except as provided in **13-37-232**, of \$500 or more if received between the 25th day of the month before an election in which the political committee or the joint fundraising committee participates and the day before the election;

1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 401, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 481, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 297, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 6, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 259, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 63, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 429, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 494, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 571, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 682, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 390, L. 2025; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 722, L. 2025.

Disclaimer: The Internet version of the Montana Code Annotated is provided as a research tool to users of the Code. In case of inconsistencies resulting from omissions or other errors, the printed version will prevail.

Montana Code Annotated 2025

TITLE 13. ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 37. CONTROL OF CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

Part 1. Commissioner of Political Practices

Cause Of Action Created

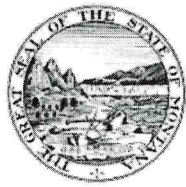
13-37-128. Cause of action created. (1) A person who intentionally or negligently violates any of the reporting provisions of this chapter, a provision of **13-35-225**, or a provision of Title 13, chapter 35, part 4, is liable in a civil action brought by the commissioner or a county attorney pursuant to the provisions outlined in **13-37-124** and **13-37-125** for an amount up to \$500 or three times the amount of the unlawful contributions or expenditures, whichever is greater.

(2) A person who makes or receives a contribution or expenditure in violation of **13-35-227**, **13-35-228**, or this chapter or who violates **13-35-226** is liable in a civil action brought by the commissioner or a county attorney pursuant to the provisions outlined in **13-37-124** and **13-37-125** for an amount up to \$500 or three times the amount of the unlawful contribution or expenditure, whichever is greater.

(3) A person who violates the provisions of **13-37-502** is liable in a civil action brought by the commissioner or a county attorney pursuant to the provisions outlined in **13-37-124** and **13-37-125** for an amount up to \$500 or three times the amount of the unlawful disbursement, contribution, expenditure, or promise, whichever is greater.

History: En. Sec. 244, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 401, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 508, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 330, L. 2019.

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ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES OF
MONTANA

44.11.240 CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO FILE REQUIRED STATEMENTS, REPORTS, OR DISCLOSURES

- (1) The commissioner, following inspection of the candidate or committee's required statements, disclosures, or reports or lack thereof, may take actions, including any of the following:
 - (a) declare the statement, disclosure, or report to be incomplete or inadequate and require the preparation of a new statement, disclosure, or report, as provided in 13-37-121 and 13-37-123, MCA;
 - (b) require the production of a candidate or committee's campaign records, accounts, books, correspondence, memoranda, bank account statements, or any other information as provided in 13-37-111 and 13-37-123, MCA;
 - (c) reclassify a political committee as provided in ARM 44.11.204;
 - (d) issue an order of noncompliance as provided in 13-37-121, MCA;
 - (e) provide notice to the Secretary of State or other election administrator that a candidate's name should be withheld from a primary election ballot as provided in 13-37-126, MCA;
 - (f) provide notice to the Secretary of State or other election administrator that a certificate of nomination or election should be withheld following the general election as provided in 13-37-127, MCA;
 - (g) issue a finding of sufficient evidence of violation of Montana's Campaign Practice and Finance laws after an investigation authorized by 13-37-111 and 13-37-123, MCA;
 - (h) initiate a civil or criminal court action to enforce Montana's Campaign Practice and Finance laws as provided by 13-37-128, MCA;
 - (i) request the District Court to remove an elected official from office, if the official is found by the court to have violated the laws as provided in 13-35-106, MCA;
 - (j) request that the District Court void an election pursuant to 13-35-107, MCA; or
 - (k) any other action allowed by statute to carry out the purposes of Montana's 1975 Campaign Finance and Candidate Disclosure Act as provided by sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 1975.
- (2) This rule is not intended to limit the powers of others to enforce the laws of Title 13, chapters 35 and 37, MCA, where allowed by law, nor to encompass all potential legal consequences for actions outside the jurisdiction of the commissioner.

The December 2015 poll of the Montana Legislature on proposed NEW RULE IV (ARM 44.11.240) CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO FILE REQUIRED STATEMENTS, REPORTS, OR DISCLOSURES in MAR Notice No. 44-2-207 was as follows: 27 Senators voted the proposed rule is consistent with legislative intent; 19 Senators



ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA

44.11.106 COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS

- (1) An individual who believes a violation of a provision of Title 13, chapters 35 or 37, MCA, or a rule or regulation implementing one or more of those statutory provisions has occurred may file a written complaint in person or by mail with the commissioner. A complaint may be filed on a form available from the COPP. Except as provided in this rule, within five business days after receipt of a complaint, the commissioner shall acknowledge its receipt and transmit a copy to the alleged violator.
- (2) Whether submitted on the form available from the COPP or otherwise, a complaint shall:
 - (a) be typewritten or legibly handwritten in ink; and
 - (b) contain the following information:
 - (i) the complete name and mailing address of the complainant;
 - (ii) the complete name and mailing address of the alleged violator, if known or readily discoverable;
 - (iii) a detailed description of the alleged violation, including citation to each statute and/or rule that is alleged to have been violated;
 - (iv) any evidentiary material; and
 - (c) be signed and verified by the oath or affirmation of the complainant, taken before any officer authorized to administer oaths.
- (3) Except as provided in (4), upon receipt of a complaint, the commissioner shall investigate the alleged violation. The commissioner shall prepare a written summary of facts and statement of findings, upon completion of the investigation, which shall be sent to the complainant and the alleged violator. Following the issuance of a summary of facts and statement of findings, the commissioner may take other appropriate action.
- (4) No investigation shall be required and a complaint may be dismissed if the complaint is frivolous on its face, illegible, too indefinite, does not identify the alleged violator, does not cite the statute or rule that is alleged to have been violated, is unsigned, or is not verified by the oath or affirmation of such person, taken before any officer authorized to administer oaths or affirmations. In addition, no investigation shall be required and may be dismissed if the complaint does not contain sufficient allegations to enable the commissioner to determine that it states a potential violation of a statute or rule within the commissioner's jurisdiction. The commissioner may request additional information from the complainant or the alleged violator prior to making a determination whether to proceed with a full investigation and whether to dismiss a complaint under this rule.

Search

Access My Accounts Search Candidates Search Committee

Contribution Search - Please Select

Expenditure Search - Please Select

Just Posted

Filing Schedules

Candidate Registrations

Committee Registrations

Candidate Even Election Year Calendar

June Primary / November General

School and Special Election Reporting Dates are available on the COPP Website politicalpractices.mt.gov

Report form C-5 must be filed for each reporting period to disclose all transactions, if any that occurred during the specific reporting period.

Filing Deadline

March 20

April 20

May 20

June 20

Reporting Period

January 1 through March 15

March 16 through April 15

April 16 through May 14

May 15 through June 15

May 15 through the day before Primary Election (C-7 & C-7E Reporting Period)

File form C-7 within 2 business days if a contribution equal to the applicable contribution limit is received from a single source between May 15 and the day before the Primary Election

File form C-7E within 2 business days if an expenditure equal to or more than the applicable contribution limit is made between May 15 and the day before the Primary Election