

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

POSTMARKED MAY - 1 2023

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED 2023 MAY - 3 A 10 04 HAND DELIVERED 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 Bill Bronson Complete Mailing Address 733 32nd Avenue NE Great Falls MT 59404 Phone Numbers: Work (406) 799-9373 Home Same

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

Complete Name Free to Learn Action Complete Mailing Address Cannot locate physical address--they list a website, freetolearn.org Phone Numbers: Work (406) 919-5273 Home

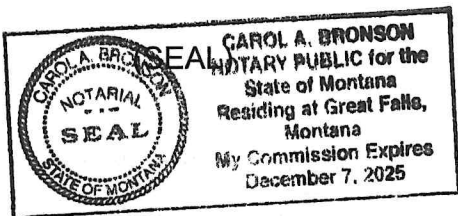
Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alledged violation.

Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Cascade

I, Bill Bronson, 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



Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of May, 2023.

Signature of Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 12.7.25

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 attachments

Complaints must be:

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

The attached copy of a text message began appearing on cell phones in the Great Falls, Montana area on or about Tuesday, April 25. The content of the text is self-explanatory. It references the May 2, 2023, school board election in Great Falls. It is apparently intended to influence voting in this election.

The message identifies all the school board candidates save one by a registered party affiliation. This reference is false. Montana law does not provide for registration to vote by political party. There's no way you can list a party affiliation when you register, even if you want to do so. (One may list affiliations with the Commissioner of Political Practices as a candidate, but not when one registers to vote. My listing is "non-partisan.") The school board race is non-partisan.

More importantly, there is no disclaimer contained with this ad, informing us who sponsored it, and where they can be contacted. I understand this to be a violation of Montana law. See ARM 44.11.601 and MCA 13-35-225.

There is no attribution other than a phone number, (406) 919-5273. I have traced the message to Free to Learn Action. It appears to be a Virginia- based 501(c)(4) organization with a particular political slant. I cannot locate an address, only a website. I cannot find any indication this group is organized as a PAC in Montana.

I would like the Commissioner's office to investigate this matter and take action as it deems appropriate.

VOTE MAY 2

Great Falls Public School District Candidate Highlights:

Rodney Meyers:

Meyers is a registered Republican. Meyers says he wants to return to the basics and ensure students have the ability to read, write, and do math.

Facebook, 3/27/22

Tony Rosales:

Rosales is a registered Democrat. Rosales has said he supports policy proposals for children as "greater learning time."

Facebook, accessed 4/18/22

Amie Thompson:

Thompson is a non-partisan voter. Thompson says it is important to bridge the learning gap caused by the pandemic.

LinkedIn, "Candidate-Gov," Fall Education, No. 4/14/22

Kim Skornogowski:

Skornogowski is a registered Democrat. Skornogowski has said that "diverse perspectives are important on any board" and that she plans to address the state page in 2025.

LinkedIn, "Teacher-Gov," Fall Education, No. 4/14/22

Bill Bronson:

Bronson is a registered Democrat. Bronson has said the "balanced challenge facing our district and our young people stems from factors largely outside of our control" and "we recognize now many young people are not destined for college."

LinkedIn, "Teacher-Gov," Fall Education, No. 4/14/22



Have you researched the School Board candidates running in the May 2 election? Here's where they stand on some important issues. Reply STOP to opt out