

**June 1, 2026**

**Commissioner Gallus**

Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices

**RE: Response to Complaint COPP-2026-CFP-018**

Commissioner Gallus,

I respectfully submit this response to the complaint filed by Neil S. Lahr alleging campaign finance reporting violations related to my campaign.

The complaint asserts that I failed to file required C-5 campaign finance reports. That allegation is inaccurate. All required campaign finance reports have been filed, including the report at issue, which was submitted on May 31, 2026.

The filing was delayed due to significant and unforeseen medical circumstances during the reporting period. Those circumstances temporarily impaired my ability to attend to campaign administrative responsibilities, including the timely completion of required reporting. The delay was neither intentional nor an effort to conceal campaign activity or evade reporting requirements.

It is also important to note that there was minimal campaign activity during the reporting period. No campaign expenditure was made until May 15, 2026, and the financial activity reported was limited.

As soon as circumstances allowed, I promptly completed and filed the required report. Throughout my campaign, I have acted in good faith and have made every reasonable effort to comply with Montana campaign finance laws and reporting requirements.

The complaint does not allege any undisclosed contributions, hidden expenditures, misuse of campaign funds, or inaccurate reporting. Rather, the complaint concerns the timing of a report that has now been filed and is available for public review. Given the circumstances that caused the delay, together with my prompt corrective action and good-faith compliance, I respectfully request that the complaint be dismissed.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please let me know if any additional information or documentation would be helpful.

Respectfully,

**Matthew J. Connelly**

Candidate for Glacier County Sheriff/Coroner