



# M U L T I S T A T E

## [Nominee for NV Elections Post Misses Finance Report Deadline](#) (Nevada)

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Republican Secretary of State candidate Jim Marchant is the only statewide candidate in [Nevada](#) who has yet to file his campaign finance report, having missed Monday's deadline.

A central duty of the secretary of state's office is administering elections, handling campaign finance reports and enforcing reporting deadlines for contribution and expenditure reports. The secretary of state also registers corporations and limited liability companies and represents the third highest ranking state official behind the governor and lieutenant governor.

Marchant's campaign did not immediately respond to an email request for comment Tuesday. The secretary of state's office declined to comment.

Campaign reporting deadlines normally fall on the 15th of the month for April, July, October and January. But since it fell on a Saturday this month, the deadline was moved to Monday at 5 p.m.

Marchant had not filed by late afternoon Tuesday.

If the report is filed one to seven days late, the candidate must pay a \$25 daily fee. For eight to 15 days late, the penalty is \$50 a day. And if the report is filed more than 15 days late, it is \$100 a day the up to a maximum of \$10,000.

Marchant is among the America First Secretary of State Coalition candidates who deny the legitimacy of the 2020 election and vow to scrap early voting and vote-counting tabulators.

Standing next to former President Donald Trump at a rally in rural Nevada this month, Marchant said if his coalition is elected, "we're going to fix the whole country. And President Trump is going to be president again in 2024."

Through the first two reporting periods that span from January 1 to June 30, Marchant raised more than \$301,000 and spent nearly \$328,000. More than half his contributions came from himself. He had a balance of nearly \$15,200 at the end of June.

His opponent, Democrat Cisco Aguilar, raised more than \$647,000 and spent \$205,400 through June 30. Aguilar submitted his report from this period on time, which runs from July 1 to September 30. That

report shows he raised an additional \$1.15 million and spent \$554,000 through Sep. 30. Some of his biggest donors include Wynn Resorts and the Bellagio Hotel and Casino.

### **FPPC dismisses complaint against McCann over campaign finance law** (California)

State election regulators on Tuesday dismissed a complaint filed against Chula Vista Councilmember John McCann that alleged the mayoral candidate had violated campaign disclosure provisions.

The California Fair Political Practices Commission ruled that McCann's campaign correctly reported expenses for a hired private investigator.

"After review of the complaint, the Enforcement Division will not pursue an enforcement action in this matter," read a letter signed by Angela Brereton, chief of the Commission's Enforcement Division, to Jose Cerda, who submitted the complaint.

Cerda, a local real estate agent, filed the complaint Oct. 3 with Chula Vista City Clerk Kerry Bigelow and the FPPC. He claimed that McCann accepted "an illegal and excessive in-kind contribution in the form of deeply discounted personal services" from a private investigator tasked with surveilling his challenger, Ammar Campa-Najjar. McCann alleges Camp-Najjar does not live in Chula Vista.

On Sept. 29, McCann's campaign reported a \$1,000 payment to private investigator Lawrence Hamilton, who runs The Special Investigations Unit, for "opposition research." Cerda claimed that "(g)iven the time-intensive nature of (Hamilton's) work, and Mr. Hamilton's credentials, the fair market value of SIU's services had to exceed \$1,000."

McCann, who called the complaint "[frivolous](#)," said he did not receive a discount and that the initial filing was only an estimate prior to receiving an invoice. The private investigator said last week the surveillance work was "performed in a very cost-effective manner," adding that no discount was provided.

The filing was amended after Hamilton submitted an invoice, reflecting a total of \$2,669 for Hamilton's services.

"(McCann's) committee then immediately, and before this complaint was filed, amended the applicable campaign statement when the invoice was received, following FPPC guidance for accrued expenses," the FPPC said.

State law says that campaigns that receive discounted goods or services must report the discount as a nonmonetary contribution if the discount is not offered to the public in the regular course of business. The law also states that if the exact amount of debt is unknown, the finance report shall provide an estimate. Once the exact amount is determined, the committee shall amend it.

Attorney Roger Geddes, acting as the city's special counsel, said Tuesday he is still reviewing the complaint. He received the complaint on Oct. 5 and has 30 days thereafter to determine probable cause.

### **Wyoming Democratic Party files campaign finance complaint** (Wyoming)

CHEYENNE – The Wyoming Democratic Party has complained to the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office, alleging a campaign finance law violation by Vote Vogelheim. This candidate committee supports Republican Paul Vogelheim's campaign in state House District 23.

The Teton County district has been represented in the Legislature since 2015 by Democrat Andy Schwartz, who announced in April he would not seek re-election.

The new complaint focuses on a \$10,000 contribution made on July 19 to Vogelheim's campaign by Barbara Carlsberg. Wyoming law limits such contributions to \$1,500 for non-statewide races.

These rules are in place for a reason," WDP Chairman Joe M. Barbuto said in a written statement on Monday. "It's important that they're enforced and that candidates are held to a high level of compliance."

In the filing, Barbuto said the contribution was included in the section of campaign finance reports reserved for donations from immediate family, who are exempt from some limits. Carlsberg allegedly does not meet the definition of immediate family, and, according to address records, does not live in the same residence as Vogelheim.

Vogelheim received a total of \$39,563 in contributions between Jan. 1 and Aug. 16, according to his 2022 primary report. More than \$14,000 came from individual contributions, \$5,000 came from a Cowboy PAC in Arlington, Virginia, and \$100 came from a PAC in Casper.

He made two contributions of his own in June totaling \$10,010 that were included in the immediate family and personal section of the report, which was in addition to the \$10,000 from Carlsberg.

Maggie Hunt, chair of the Teton County Democrats, said that "we trust the newly appointed secretary of state will investigate this complaint without delay." Karl Allred is the interim secretary of state.

Vogelheim responded Tuesday via email to the WDP complaint. He said Carlsberg is his mother-in-law, and he recorded the donation as family in his August filing because he was not aware of any issues until the complaint was filed. His team reached out to the Secretary of State's Office as soon as they were notified, and he said he returned her donation.

"The Democrats quote the Termination of Parental Rights law (Title 14, Article 3 of Wyoming Statutes)," he said. "It is particularly painful to read that statute, as it implies that since my wife died, Barbara is no longer my mother-in-law."

The candidate said his family's loss is not political fodder, and he asked people to respect how painful his wife's death has been.

"I proudly call Barbara, Mom," he said. "We share our grief and love for my amazing wife, Rebecca Carlsberg Vogelheim – and Barbara and I have banded together to support Becky's girls. Families who have seen cancer take their daughters, wives or mothers ... they can understand."

He said many community members have reached out with support, which he appreciates. He plans to move forward and "keep our heads high and work hard to win this election with honor."

Vogelheim faces Democrat Liz Storer in the general election on Nov. 8.

### **[Valentine dings Schmitt for taking hams from a lobbyist. Schmitt says she's the one with ethical conflicts.](#)** (Missouri)

JEFFERSON CITY — Democrat Trudy Busch Valentine's campaign is accusing Republican Attorney General Eric Schmitt of helping facilitate the sale of Missouri farmland to foreign buyers in exchange for campaign contributions and several holiday hams.

Between 2008 and 2013, Schmitt accepted at least four hams from lobbyist Jewell Patek, who represents Smithfield Farms, the Virginia company whose parent firm is based in Hong Kong.

Schmitt's campaign also received a total of \$3,000 from Smithfield between 2011 and 2013, according to Missouri Ethics Commission records, while he was serving in the state Senate.

Schmitt, the Republican nominee and frontrunner in the race for U.S. Senate this year, **voted twice as a state lawmaker in 2013 to allow foreign ownership of farmland in Missouri** — votes that benefited Smithfield, which now owns **more than 146,000 acres** of Missouri farmland, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“Eric Schmitt helped sell 145,000 acres of Missouri farmland to Communist China for a few thousand dollars in campaign donations and some Christmas hams,” Jacob Long, spokesman for Valentine’s campaign, **said** on Twitter on Monday. “Laughable to think he’d do anything differently as a Senator.”

He said Valentine “won’t owe anything to anyone” in Washington. Schmitt’s campaign less than two hours earlier **unveiled** on Twitter an ad outlining the attorney general’s ethics plan.

Schmitt wasn’t the only lawmaker to get a ham from Smithfield, though. In 2013, more than 40 legislators — Democrat and Republican — got one, according to a review of ethics commission records.

The hams Schmitt accepted were valued between \$20 and \$25.

Voters banned lobbyist gifts to Missouri lawmakers in 2020 through **a change** to the state constitution.

In 2013, ethics commission records show Smithfield doled out nearly \$4,700 in gifts, including more than \$2,700 spent at a Jefferson City wine and liquor store for the entire Missouri Senate.

Patek, lobbyist for Smithfield since 2007, did not respond to a request for comment earlier this month.

During the campaign, Schmitt has tried to paint himself as tough on China, touting a lawsuit he filed against the Chinese Communist Party over the COVID-19 pandemic. His opponents in the Republican primary **weren’t convinced**.

Responding to gibes by U.S. Rep. Billy Long, who called him “Shanghai Schmitt,” the attorney general said his record on China was being misrepresented. “I’m the attorney general that has sued China — the first one to sue China for unleashing the coronavirus on the world.”

The Valentine campaign’s focus on the sale of Missouri farmland to Chinese interest mirrors Republican campaign talking points in other states.

In Ohio, Trump-backed Republican U.S. Senate candidate J.D. Vance **said earlier this month** that it was “time to stop foreign purchases of American farmland. Our people deserve food security.”

In Iowa, Sen. Chuck Grassley also criticized such purchases this month. “We should not allow foreign buyers especially those backed by the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) to take prime farmland away from American family farmers,” Grassley **said**.

And, House Republicans this month requested that the Government Accountability Office probe foreign ownership of farmland, citing national security concerns due to Chinese purchases, **Marketwatch reported**.

Asked whether any of the hams influenced Schmitt’s votes, the attorney general’s campaign directed attention to Valentine, who has assets valued between \$68 million and \$215 million, according to **her personal financial disclosure**.

Rich Chrismer, Schmitt campaign spokesman, called her “one of the most ethically-conflicted candidates in U.S. history.”

Schmitt’s campaign has referenced an article **published in Business Insider** in the days before the Aug. 2 Democratic primary that details Valentine’s investments.

Insider reported that even though Valentine pledged to “stand up” to insurance companies, she was heavily invested in them, earning between \$238,000 and \$2.1 million in investment income from health insurance companies last year.

“She owns millions in Big Pharma, insurance companies and Big Tech companies,” Chrismer said. “For years, she has profited off these companies that she now wants to oversee and regulate.”

“While The Heiress Valentine wants to talk about a 14-year-old Christmas ham, Attorney General Schmitt is focused on fighting the inflation-creating policies supported by The Heiress Valentine that today are making meat, food and groceries more expensive for Missouri families,” Chrismer said.

Said Long, Valentine’s spokesman, in response: “Trudy’s the only one in this race who can say she’ll be nobody’s senator but yours, which is why she’s released a comprehensive ethics plan and committed to

placing assets in a blind trust and banning members of Congress from trading stocks in office,” he said last week. “The same can’t be said for career politician Eric Schmitt.”

On Monday, Schmitt released an ad outlining his own ethics plan.

“We need to pass term limits, ban politicians from becoming lobbyists, and stop them from trading stocks and getting rich off insider information,” he said. “And if they won’t balance the budget, they shouldn’t get paid.”

