



M U L T I S T A T E

[Arkansas state Sen. Charles Beckham receives caution letter from ethics panel over fundraising](#) (Arkansas)

Sloan said Friday that in a written statement to this newspaper that Beckham initially reported the campaign contributions on his final campaign finance report for the 2020 general election.

At the time the campaign contributions were received, Beckham could accept contributions to retire his 2020 campaign debt and could also accept contributions for the 2022 election, Sloan said. Beckham amended his final campaign finance report to remove the additional contributions as having been for retirement of the 2020 campaign debt and filed a campaign finance report for the fourth quarter reflecting the contributions as having been received for the 2022 election, he said.

Sloan said in his letter to Beckham that Hannah Bruner filed the ethics complaint against him.

Sloan said Bruner's complaint indicated that Beckham was legally allowed to raise \$17,367.12 to retire his campaign debt, but he raised funds after election day in an amount that far exceeded that campaign debt. The complaint indicated Beckham's final campaign finance report shows a transfer of carryover funds of \$27,859.76, and he violated state law by receiving contributions that exceeded the amount of his campaign debt by more than \$25,000, Sloan said.

Beckham said Friday that he cooperated every step of the way with the Ethics Commission.

"It was an honest mistake," he said. "I wasn't trying to deceive anyone."

[Rosendale Asks Court to Dismiss Campaign Finance Lawsuit](#) (Montana)

Republican U.S. Rep. Matt Rosendale of Montana is asking a federal court to dismiss a lawsuit that alleges his campaign and the National Rifle Association illegally worked together to run ads during his unsuccessful 2018 race against Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester.

The gun control group Giffords [filed the lawsuit in November](#), alleging the NRA and its affiliates worked with Rosendale's campaign and produced nearly \$400,000 in campaign ads criticizing Tester's votes on three U.S. Supreme Court nominees.

The lawsuit argues that Rosendale and the NRA hired the same company for their ad buys that could have acted as a conduit for the campaign to illegally share information with the group. Rosendale's campaign hired a consulting firm called OnMessage, while the NRA used a firm called Starboard. The firms have the same office address and board of directors.

It's illegal for outside groups and candidates to use the same vendor without taking measures to prevent coordination.

The accusation against Rosendale is part of a larger lawsuit that alleged the NRA, dating back to 2014, worked "to evade campaign finance regulations by using a series of shell corporations to illegally but surreptitiously coordinate advertising with at least seven candidates for federal office."

Former President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign received up to \$25 million as part of the scheme, the lawsuit states.

Rosendale's Jan. 21 filing argues the Giffords group does not have standing to file the lawsuit and that the U.S. District Court in Washington lacks the jurisdiction to hear the case. The Giffords group was founded by former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords of Arizona, who suffered a brain injury after being shot in the head during a mass shooting in January 2011 while speaking with constituents near Tucson, Arizona. Six people were killed, including a federal judge and a 9-year-old girl.

Rosendale's filing did not address the merits of the lawsuit, [The Billings Gazette](#) reported.

The [Giffords group asked the Federal Election Commission in September 2018](#) to investigate the after The Daily Beast posted a recording that appeared to capture Rosendale saying that he expected the NRA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to enter the race against Tester and that he had spoken with Chris Cox, executive director of NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, the group's lobbying arm.

Rosendale on Tuesday reissued the same statement he made when the lawsuit was filed, calling the allegations baseless and saying "there have been no findings by the Federal Election Commission that suggests their claims have any merit."

The FEC did not issue any rulings on the complaint, so Giffords sued the FEC.

The Washington, D.C., District Court ordered the FEC to issue a determination within 30 days, which it didn't do. Because the FEC did not follow the court order, Giffords was allowed to sue the defendants directly, the Gazette reported.

Rosendale planned to file Wednesday as a candidate in Montana's new 2nd congressional district, his campaign said.