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By Office of the Commission Secretary at 11:01 am, Mar 10, 2021



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

SENSITIVE**MEMORANDUM**

March 10, 2021

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Krista J. Roche *KJR*
Director, ADR Office

Rosa Marshall *RM*
Assistant Director, ADR Office

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Approve Negotiated Settlement
ADR 980 – Montana League of Rural Voters (C90009341)

RESOLUTION TERMS: Pay a civil penalty of \$2,300.

Attached for your review is a signed ADR Negotiated Settlement pertaining to ADR 980 (RAD 20L-06). The ADR Office received this referral on October 21, 2020.

SUMMARY: The Reports Analysis Division (RAD) referred Montana League of Rural Voters (Respondent) for failing to timely file three (3) 24-Hour Reports totaling \$31,713.76 to support nine (9) independent expenditures disclosed in the 2017 July Quarterly Report.

The Respondent filed Form 99s (Miscellaneous Electronic Submissions) on April 26, 2018 and August 22, 2018, stating in part, that the delay in reporting independent expenditures was caused by confusion over the correct due dates and the applicable dissemination dates for certain communications. Specifically, Respondent stated that they relied on a Federal Register notice, "Filing Dates for the Montana Special Congressional Election," to determine the filing dates and were not aware of the separate reports required for independent expenditures. Respondent states that it has been inactive since 2017 and will not be engaging in federal elections in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the attached negotiated settlement of Montana League of Rural Voters.
2. Approve the appropriate letters.
3. Close the file on this matter.