FILED
05/06/2026
Bowen Greenwood
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA
Case Number: OP 26-0301

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

OP 26-0301

TRANSPARENT ELECTION INITIATIVE
and JEFF MANGAN,

Petitioners,

v.

AUSTIN KNUDSEN, in his official capacity as
MONTANA ATTORNEY GENERAL; and
CHRISTI JACOBSEN, in her official capacity as
MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE,

Respondents.

O R D E R

Petitioners Transparent Election Initiative and Jeff Mangan, seek declaratory judgment on original jurisdiction under M. R. App. P. 14(4). Petitioners argue they are entitled to declaratory judgment that declares the Attorney General's ballot statement for CI-135 violates § 13-27-212, MCA, because it fails to provide a true and impartial explanation of the initiative and is argumentative and prejudicial. Petitioners further ask this Court to alter the proposed ballot statement as suggested in their Petition and certify their ballot statement to the Secretary of State as provided in § 13-27-605(1), (3)(c)(ii), MCA.

Having reviewed the Petition, this Court deems it appropriate to obtain a summary response. Therefore, in accordance with M. R. App. P. 14(7),

IT IS ORDERED that Respondents are granted until the close of business on Monday, May 18, 2026, to prepare, file, and serve a response(s) to the petition for declaratory judgment on original jurisdiction.

The Clerk is directed to provide notice of this Order to counsel for all parties.

Electronically signed by:
James Jeremiah Shea
Justice, Montana Supreme Court
May 6 2026