

LIBERTY ALLIANCE

September 8, 2020

Hon. John R. Ashcroft
Missouri Secretary of State
Elections Division
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Re: Complaint Against Missouri State Auditor Nicole Galloway and Request for Investigation

Dear Secretary Ashcroft:

In accordance with Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.642, Liberty Alliance respectfully requests that the Missouri Secretary of State commence an investigation into Missouri State Auditor Nicole Galloway. Evidence strongly suggests that Galloway used public funds as Auditor to support her candidacy for Governor, by instructing her state, taxpayer-paid staff to place an op-ed in the St. Louis Post Dispatch accusing the Governor and lawmakers of passing a pro-life bill to “protect rapists.” The pro-life bill has no relation to Galloway’s constitutional role as Auditor. Instead, Galloway used the op-ed as part of a coordinated campaign to paint the bill’s supposed “protection” of rapists as having motivated her to run for Governor. This constitutes a misuse of public funds, in violation of Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.646. Consequently, the Secretary of State should immediately investigate this violation and aid in the state's prosecution of this offense.¹

I. Introduction

The Secretary of State’s Office previously commenced an investigation into allegations that a statewide officeholder used public funds to aid a run for political office. On December 6, 2018, the Secretary of State’s Office commenced an investigation into a complaint brought by the American Democracy Legal Fund against former Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley alleging that his use of political consultants to communicate with AGO staff members violated Section 115.646. After an investigation, the Office concluded that Hawley had not violated Section 115.646.

In that case, there was no indication public funds were used to promote Hawley’s campaign for U.S. Senate, because, among other things, it “is not unusual for elected officials to... communicate *office-related priorities* that may raise their public profile,” and state employees were “implementing Attorney General Hawley’s priorities.” (emphasis added). **Here, however, Auditor Galloway used at least one taxpayer-paid state employee to advocate for her candidacy for public office, using tax dollars to**

¹ See Feb. 28, 2019 Letter from Frank Jung to Brad Woodhouse.

communicate her policy positions on issues that are not office-related priorities and are expressly outside the constitutional duties of State Auditor. This violates Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.646. For the reasons explained below, the Secretary of State should investigate.

II. Duties of State Auditor

Nicole Galloway assumed office as the State Auditor of Missouri on April 14, 2015. She was elected to a full term on November 6, 2018.

As State Auditor, Galloway’s official duties are limited by the Missouri Constitution to conducting post-audits of the accounts of all state agencies and establishing appropriate systems of accounting for public officials. Under Mo. Const. art. IV, sec. 13, “The state auditor shall have the same qualifications as the governor. [S]he shall establish appropriate systems of accounting for all public officials of the state, post-audit the accounts of all state agencies and audit the treasury at least once annually. [S]he shall make all other audits and investigations required by law, and shall make an annual report to the governor and general assembly. [S]he shall establish appropriate systems of accounting for the political subdivisions of the state, supervise their budgeting systems, and audit their accounts as provided by law.” *See Ex. A.*

As the Supreme Court of Missouri has held, “[t]he Missouri Constitution specifically limits the Auditor's authority to that set out in the Constitution.” *Schweich v. Nixon*, 408 S.W.3d 769, 772 (Mo. 2013). The Missouri Constitution specifically limits the authority of the Auditor by prohibiting her exercise of duties unrelated to those involving supervising and auditing of the receipt and expenditure of public funds, stating: “No duty shall be imposed on him by law which is not related to the supervising and auditing of the receipt and expenditure of public funds.” *See Schweich v. Nixon*, 408 S.W.3d 769, 775–76 (Mo. 2013) (quoting Mo. Const. art. IV, sec. 13.) The Supreme Court of Missouri has recognized that “[t]he wording of section 13 is simple and clear. It authorizes the Auditor to conduct post-audits of “the accounts of all state agencies” and to “establish appropriate systems of accounting” for public officials. He has and may be given no greater authority than that set out in the constitution.” *Schweich*, 408 S.W.3d at 776. There is no role for the State Auditor in setting Missouri public policy.

III. Galloway’s Run for Governor and Unlawful Use of Taxpayer Funds

On Aug 12, 2019, Galloway officially announced her candidacy for Missouri Governor, though her “Nicole Galloway for Missouri” campaign committee had been raising money and paying consultants for months for campaign management, fundraising, event sponsorship, digital ads, and advocacy. *See Ex. B.*²

In the weeks leading up to her official declaration of her candidacy, Auditor Galloway utilized taxpayer-funded staff to communicate her policy priorities with the public, including the drafting, editing, and placing of an editorial in the *Post-Dispatch*

² Galloway for Missouri, MEC July 30, 2019 Quarterly Report.

criticizing her eventual rival, Governor Parson, on a policy issue (abortion) clearly outside the purview of her official duties as auditor.

It is well known that on February 6, 2020, Auditor Galloway released an audit criticizing former Attorney General Hawley for what she called “interactions between consultants and government officials [that] give the appearance of using state resources for political purposes.” Two days later, however, the *Post-Dispatch* reported that Auditor Galloway herself had apparently used her own office staff to help her planned run for governor. **See Ex. C.**³ But unlike the tasks undertaken by AG Hawley’s team (which this Office found did not violate Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.646), Auditor Galloway had used taxpayer-funded staff on *non-office-related priorities* to elevate her candidacy for office.

Specifically, the *Post-Dispatch* reported that Auditor Galloway instructed her official, taxpayer-funded press secretary Steph Deidrick to prepare and send an op-ed to the newspaper sharply critical of the policy positions of her gubernatorial opponent, Governor Parson. Emails received by Liberty Alliance in response to a Sunshine Law request reveal that Deidrick submitted and pitched an “exclusive” op-ed to the *Post-Dispatch* editorial board on May 30, 2019, just two days before Auditor Galloway would headline the Jackson County Democrats’ annual fundraising dinner. **See Ex. D.**

As Press Secretary for the Office of State Auditor, Deidrick holds no position with Galloway’s campaign and earned \$82,165.02 from the State of Missouri in 2019.⁴ **See Ex. E.** Deidrick submitted the editorial on Galloway’s behalf from her state email account, during the work day, and included her official state title of Press Secretary along with her office phone number. **See Ex. D.** Deidrick’s draft of the editorial, initially titled “*The Cruel Reality of Missouri’s New Law*,” and submitted to the newspaper on the Galloway’s behalf, included the following hyper-partisan lines:

- “Gov. Mike Parson has spoken loud and clear. He wants rapists in Missouri to have more power over their victims. He wants a woman's decisions over her healthcare to be criminalized.”
- “Gov. Parson and Republican lawmakers in Jefferson City have gone too far.”
- “Instead, our state is once again at the forefront of extremism, because Gov. Parson is disrespecting women and delivering another dose of Todd Akin — this time, it's not just rhetoric, it's the law.”

See Ex. D at 7. The editorial made no reference to the constitutional duties of the State Auditor’s role, which is limited to “conducting postaudits of the accounts of all state agencies” and “establishing appropriate systems of accounting” for public officials. *See Schweich v. Nixon*, 408 S.W.3d 769, 772. The published editorial served no official purpose of the Auditor’s office and instead attempted to advance the political aspirations of Galloway, who planned to imminently challenge Governor Parson. **See Ex. F.**

³ St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial, “*Galloway turns up the heat on Hawley. But can she take it herself?*”, available at https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-galloway-turns-up-the-heat-on-hawley-but-can/article_3e35b6fd-dd47-57a6-a2a3-b1100c2c99ee.html

⁴ *See* Missouri Accountability Portal, Steph Deidrick Pay Records.

Titled “*Missouri’s New Abortion Law is a Travesty for Women*,” the piece lambasted Governor Parson’s signature of a pro-life bill and in doing so, enumerated a policy position of Galloway’s entirely unrelated to her constitutional duties of Auditor. **See Ex. F.** Indeed, it was an issue that would become a hallmark of her gubernatorial campaign. In fact, just one day after the Auditor’s Press Secretary submitted the abortion editorial on Galloway’s behalf to the *Post-Dispatch* editorial board, the *Kansas City Star* reported in a headline that “*Missouri’s new abortion ban has Nicole Galloway leaning toward campaign for governor.*”⁵ The *Star* reported that Galloway headlined the June 1, 2019 annual Jackson County Democrats’ Truman Dinner, where she “hammered Republican Gov. Mike Parson on a litany of issues...sav[ing] her most withering critique, however, for a new law Parson recently signed that criminalizes abortion after eight weeks of pregnancy, with no exception for victims of rape or incest.”

The *Star* noted that Auditor Galloway “followed up her speech with an Op-Ed in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, where she said Parson and his fellow Republicans were “giving new rights and opportunities to rapists....[T]hose close to her told The Star this week that she is leaning toward a run, and that Missouri’s eight-week abortion ban may be the factor that tips the scales. “It would be fair to say that she is very seriously considering challenging the governor,” a source close to Galloway with knowledge of her thinking told *The Star*. “His extreme position on women’s health has certainly influenced her thinking about a potential challenge.”

Despite spending thousands of dollars in May and June 2019 from her campaign account, Auditor Galloway used her state-funded staff and expended public funds to further her candidacy for public office.

If not for a second *Post-Dispatch* editorial, this one dated February 8, 2020, the state staffer’s role in elevating Auditor Galloway’s political candidacy might never have been known.⁶ In revealing the role of Galloway’s taxpayer-funded press secretary in pushing her candidacy, the *Post-Dispatch* pointed out Galloway’s hypocrisy in criticizing Hawley. It explained that the Galloway campaign’s Twitter account “posts a link to that op-ed,” then asked, “*Why did Galloway assign a state employee to use a state office and state email account for what was clearly a personal political mission? It might not be illegal, but it certainly doesn’t pass the smell test.*”⁷

This Complaint asks your office to commence an investigation to answer that very question: was it illegal? For the reasons discussed below, Liberty Alliance suggests the answer is ‘yes,’ and requests your Office issue a probable cause statement.

IV. Legal Violation

Under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.642, “No contribution or expenditure of public funds shall be made directly by an officer, employee, or agent of any political subdivision to advocate, support, or oppose any ... candidate for public office.” Public funds constitute

⁵ <https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article231153708.html>

⁶ See n. 3.

⁷ Galloway’s actions were publicized by the Republican Governors Association, Ex. ____.

“monies belonging to government or any department of it in the hands of public officials.”⁸ The Attorney General of Missouri has opined that, to determine whether a contribution or expenditure of public funds “advocate[s], support[s], or oppose[s],” one should “look to such factors as the style, tenor and timing” of the contribution or expenditure.⁹

Here, the facts indicate that Auditor Galloway used public funds to support her candidacy for Governor by instructing her official office Press Secretary to raise her profile by drafting and submitting an entirely partisan opinion editorial that attacked her gubernatorial opponent as part of a coordinated launch of her campaign. There is simply no justification for the idea that tax dollars should go toward a partisan attack against a political opponent, unrelated to the duties of the State Auditor.

As public records obtained by Liberty Alliance indicate, at least one of the State Auditor’s official staff members, Steph Deidrick, crafted a hyper-partisan attack on the Governor and Republicans on a policy position completely outside the Auditor’s official constitutional duties and purview. That taxpayer-funded official then worked to submit it for publication in close coordination with a politically charged speech given by her boss, Galloway, just days before Galloway’s campaign sources confirmed to the *Star* that she planned to run (highlighting that exact policy issue, the abortion bill, as her motivation). Even more troubling is the fact that Galloway’s campaign Twitter page publicized and linked to the partisan editorial, which was brought about entirely by the expenditure of state tax dollars.

This is a violation of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.646. Under Galloway’s oversight and with her approval, a state employee paid for by Missouri tax dollars worked to advance Galloway’s nascent campaign for governor by constructing a carefully curated communications strategy that would enhance Galloway’s public image and prepare her to run for Governor.

Just weeks after this taxpayer-funded political operation began, Galloway declared her candidacy against the very official she claimed “wanted to protect rapists,” relying on the talking points her state-funded press secretary had helped her craft and magnify. Galloway’s use of Missouri tax dollars to advocate and support her candidacy for Governor constitutes a misuse of public funds in violation of § 115.646.

V. Conclusion

Your Office previously opened an investigation into allegations against Attorney General Hawley on much even thinner grounds, noting (appropriately) that “This office takes allegations that public funds were used to promote or advocate a candidate seriously.” Your Office decided not to issue a probable cause statement to investigate Attorney General Hawley, because your investigation revealed that state employees were communicating “office-related priorities.” Those same facts are not present here.

⁸ Mo. Ethics Comm’n Advisory Op. No. 2003.07.105 (2003); *see also* Mo. Ethics Comm’n, Conflict of Interest for Elected & Public Officials 20 (revised Mar. 2013).

⁹ Mo. Att’y Gen. Advisory Op. No. 54-90 (Aug. 14, 1990), *available at* https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/opinions/1990/054_1990.pdf?sfvrsn=2

Auditor Galloway used state tax dollars to communicate her views on *non-office related priorities* (indeed, they were partisan, political priorities) in clear violation of the law.

Nicole Galloway's campaign website boasts to voters that she "has been the outsider in statewide government; the independent watchdog standing on the side of taxpayers, holding the powerful accountable to the people they serve." Yet as Missouri's official responsible for ensuring tax dollars are spent appropriately, Auditor Galloway failed to "stand on the side of taxpayers" when she allowed public funds to be spent for her own personal political interests. Her conduct violates the public trust and is a misuse of public funds in violation of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.646.

Due to a new law passed and signed into law this year, as of August 28, 2020, your Office has the power to subpoena documents and other related records to determine if Missouri's election laws were violated. *See* Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.646.4(2)(a) (giving the Secretary of State "the power to require the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, contracts, agreements, and other records by subpoena or otherwise when necessary to conduct an investigation under this section."). Liberty Alliance sent follow-up Sunshine law requests to the Auditor's Office for documents that would reflect other uses of taxpayer funds in furtherance of Galloway's candidacy. *See Ex. G.* The Auditor's Office responded, in part, that it was withholding certain documents as "confidential" under various state and federal laws, but did not elaborate or provide a privilege log. *See Ex. G.*¹⁰ Liberty Alliance urges your office to utilize its subpoena power to commence an investigation seek these responsive documents and determine whether Missouri's election laws were violated.

Therefore, in accordance with Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.642, Liberty Alliance respectfully requests that the Secretary of State commence an investigation against Auditor Galloway within the next 30 days, to determine whether a probable cause statement should issue.

Sincerely,

Chris Vas

Executive Director, Liberty Alliance

CC: Frank Jung

Enclosure

¹⁰ The Auditor's Office acknowledged it possessed responsive documents, but said it had "closed responsive documents as confidential under sections 29.070, 29.221, 29.200.17, 610.021(1), 610.021(14), 610.021(17), RSMo, and 17 U.S.C.A Section 102."

Missouri
Revisor of Statutes

Constitution Committee Publications

About Help & FAQ Other Information & Links ↓

Words ▾ 1st search term or section r And ▾ 2nd search term  

Constitution

Effective - 27 Feb 1945, see footnote ↓


IV Section 13. State auditor — qualifications and duties — limitations on duties.

— The state auditor shall have the same qualifications as the governor. He shall establish appropriate systems of accounting for all public officials of the state, post-audit the accounts of all state agencies and audit the treasury at least once annually. He shall make all other audits and investigations required by law, and shall make an annual report to the governor and general assembly. He shall establish appropriate systems of accounting for the political subdivisions of the state, supervise their budgeting systems, and audit their accounts as provided by law. No duty shall be imposed on him by law which is not related to the supervising and auditing of the receipt and expenditure of public funds.

Source: Const. of 1945.

(2013) State Auditor does not have standing to challenge Governor's constitutional authority to withhold funding of other government branches prior to completion of fiscal year or to set specific amounts in excess of specified "E" (or estimated) appropriations. *Schweich v. Nixon*, 408 S.W.3d 769 (Mo.banc).

---- end of effective 27 Feb 1945 ----
use this link to bookmark section IV Section 13

In accordance with Section **3.090**, the language of statutory sections enacted during a legislative session are updated and available on this website **on the effective date** of such enacted statutory section. 

▶ **Other Information**
▶ **Other Links**



Missouri Senate



MO.gov



Missouri House



MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES OVER \$100 SUPPLEMENTAL FORM

Exhibit B

OFFICE USE ONLY

NAME OF COMMITTEE		REPORT DATE	
Nicole Galloway For Missouri		7/15/2019	
ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES ALL OVER \$100 AND ALL PAYMENTS TO CAMPAIGN WORKERS		DATE	PURPOSE - (IF PAYMENT WAS TO A CAMPAIGN WORKER, SHOW AGGREGATE PAID)
NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT			AMOUNT THIS PERIOD
NAME: LPS Campaigns ADDRESS: PO Box 65200 CITY/STATE: Washington DC 20035-5200		5/20/2019	Web hosting \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 375.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: Mike Pridmore ADDRESS: 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr CITY/STATE: Saint Louis MO 63111-2010		4/1/2019	Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,250.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: Mike Pridmore ADDRESS: 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr CITY/STATE: Saint Louis MO 63111-2010		5/1/2019	Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,250.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: Mike Pridmore ADDRESS: 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr CITY/STATE: Saint Louis MO 63111-2010		6/1/2019	Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,250.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: NGP Van, Inc ADDRESS: 1101 15th St NW Ste 500 CITY/STATE: Washington DC 20005-5006		5/2/2019	Database \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,800.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: The Cheshire Inn ADDRESS: 6300 Clayton Rd CITY/STATE: Saint Louis MO 63117-2500		4/22/2019	Event catering \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 2,282.19 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: Q Enoteca ADDRESS: 308 W Commercial St CITY/STATE: Springfield MO 65803-2666		5/13/2019	Event Catering \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 300.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: New Blue Interactive ADDRESS: 1146 19th St NW Ste 750 CITY/STATE: Washington DC 20036-3740		5/3/2019	Digital Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,000.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: EBN Consulting LLC ADDRESS: 744 Clark Ave CITY/STATE: Webster Groves MO 63119-1913		5/3/2019	Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 4,000.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: CTC Strategies ADDRESS: 4205 Glen Eagle Dr CITY/STATE: Columbia MO 65203-4805		6/14/2019	Campaign management \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 3,500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: EBN Consulting LLC ADDRESS: 744 Clark Ave CITY/STATE: Webster Groves MO 63119-1913		6/14/2019	Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 4,000.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: New Blue Interactive ADDRESS: 1146 19th St NW Ste 750 CITY/STATE: Washington DC 20036-3740		6/14/2019	Digital fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 8,625.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: Mike Pridmore ADDRESS: 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr CITY/STATE: Saint Louis MO 63111-2010		5/15/2019	Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,250.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: Mike Pridmore ADDRESS: 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr CITY/STATE: Saint Louis MO 63111-2010		4/15/2019	Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,250.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: Mike Pridmore ADDRESS: 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr CITY/STATE: Saint Louis MO 63111-2010		6/15/2019	Fundraising \$ 0.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,250.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
TOTAL: ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES ALL OVER \$100 AND ALL PAYMENTS TO CAMPAIGN WORKERS			
(CARRY TO ITEM 13. "SUBTOTAL: ANY ATTACHED PAGES" ON FORM CD-3)			\$ --



**MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES OVER \$100 SUPPLEMENTAL FORM**

OFFICE USE ONLY

NAME OF COMMITTEE Nicole Galloway For Missouri		REPORT DATE 7/15/2019		
ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES ALL OVER \$100 AND ALL PAYMENTS TO CAMPAIGN WORKERS		DATE	PURPOSE - (IF PAYMENT WAS TO A CAMPAIGN WORKER, SHOW AGGREGATE PAID)	AMOUNT THIS PERIOD
NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT				
NAME: CTC Strategies ADDRESS: 4205 Glen Eagle Dr CITY / STATE: Columbia MO 65203-4805		4/15/2019	Campaign management \$ 0.00	\$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 3,500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: CTC Strategies ADDRESS: 4205 Glen Eagle Dr CITY / STATE: Columbia MO 65203-4805		5/15/2019	Campaign management \$ 0.00	\$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 3,500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: USPS - Clayton Branch ADDRESS: 7750 Maryland Ave CITY / STATE: Saint Louis MO 63105-9998		5/16/2019	po box renewal \$ 0.00	\$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 106.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: St. Louis County NAACP ADDRESS: PO Box 210464 CITY / STATE: Saint Louis MO 63121-8464		6/6/2019	Advertising \$ 0.00	\$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 375.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: New Blue Interactive ADDRESS: 1146 19th St NW Ste 750 CITY / STATE: Washington DC 20036-3740		4/8/2019	Digital Fundraising \$ 0.00	\$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 1,862.40 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: New Blue Interactive ADDRESS: 1146 19th St NW Ste 750 CITY / STATE: Washington DC 20036-3740		5/9/2019	Digital Fundraising \$ 0.00	\$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAID 2,000.00 <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: ADDRESS: CITY / STATE:			\$	<input type="checkbox"/> PAID <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
NAME: ADDRESS: CITY / STATE:			\$	<input type="checkbox"/> PAID <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
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NAME: ADDRESS: CITY / STATE:			\$	<input type="checkbox"/> PAID <input type="checkbox"/> INCURRED
TOTAL: ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES ALL OVER \$100 AND ALL PAYMENTS TO CAMPAIGN WORKERS (CARRY TO ITEM 13. "SUBTOTAL: ANY ATTACHED PAGES" ON FORM CD-3)			\$	--



**MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR EXPENDITURE**

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

OFFICE USE ONLY

NAME OF COMMITTEE Nicole Galloway For Missouri	DATE 7/15/2019
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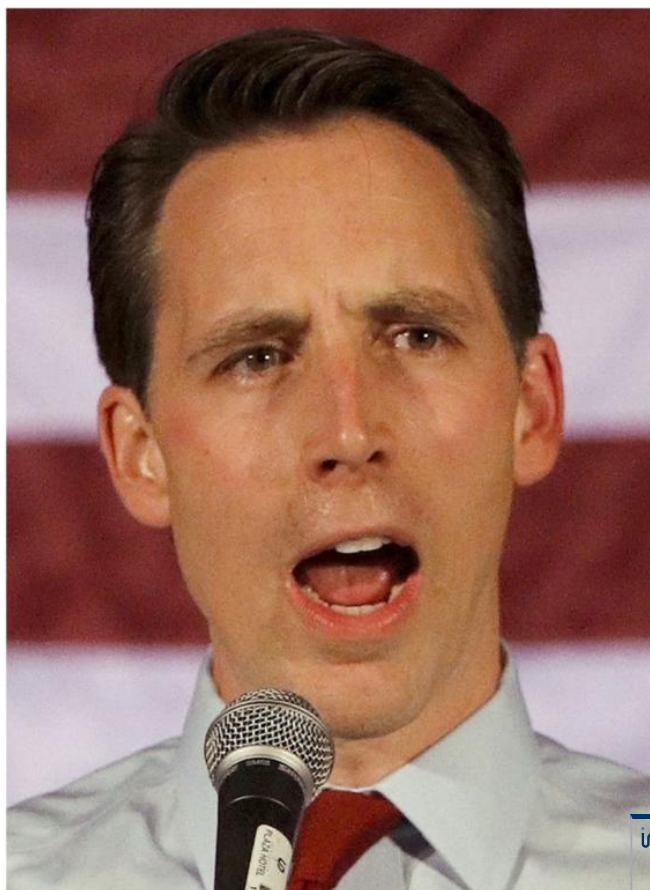
ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES ON PAYMENT TO INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR (NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT)	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES RENDERED	PRO-RATED COST FOR SERVICE	TOTAL AMOUNT PAID
Mike Pridmore 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr Saint Louis MO 63111-2010	6/1/2019	Fundraising	1,250.00	7,500.00
Mike Pridmore 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr Saint Louis MO 63111-2010	4/1/2019	Fundraising	1,250.00	7,500.00
Mike Pridmore 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr Saint Louis MO 63111-2010	5/1/2019	Fundraising	1,250.00	7,500.00
Mike Pridmore 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr Saint Louis MO 63111-2010	5/15/2019	Fundraising	1,250.00	7,500.00
Mike Pridmore 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr Saint Louis MO 63111-2010	6/15/2019	Fundraising	1,250.00	7,500.00
Mike Pridmore 5114 Chouteaus Bluff Dr Saint Louis MO 63111-2010	4/15/2019	Fundraising	1,250.00	7,500.00
TOTAL ALL PAGES				7,500.00

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-galloway-turns-up-the-heat-on-hawley-but-can-she-take-it-herself/article_3e35b6fd-dd47-57a6-a2a3-b1100c2c99ee.html

Editorial: Galloway turns up the heat on Hawley. But can she take it herself?

By the Editorial Board
Feb 8, 2020

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infolinks

U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., has accused Missouri Auditor Nicole Galloway's office of attempting to make an audit more critical of the state attorney general's office, which he used to head.

A new state audit found that Josh Hawley, the former Missouri attorney general and now U.S. senator, inappropriately though not necessarily illegally mixed campaign activities with the duties of staffers in the attorney general's office. That's bad in any context, especially in the wake of President Donald Trump's impeachment over abusing his office for political gain. Hawley, one of Trump's most outspoken defenders, is spluttering protests over State Auditor Nicole Galloway's findings.

We have to ask, however: Would Galloway apply to her own office the same high ethical standards she applies to Hawley and others? She chided Hawley in the audit released Thursday, citing state law prohibiting the use of state employees and resources to advance a political campaign or ballot measure. She outlined multiple instances in which Hawley crossed the line by having outside campaign consultants meet with his taxpayer-funded staffers to coordinate ways to boost Hawley's public image ahead of his Senate run.

Weeks before Galloway announced her own campaign for governor last summer, she had her press secretary, Steph Deidrick, email an **op-ed to this newspaper** excoriating Gov. Mike Parson's decision to sign a new law imposing **draconian restrictions on abortion rights**. It was our mistake to publish the op-ed before asking Deidrick what, exactly, do abortion rights have to do with Galloway's official auditing duties. In fact, the topic has nothing to do with those duties but everything to do with Galloway's effort to position herself on a key political issue just before announcing her gubernatorial campaign against Parson.

infolinks

The Galloway campaign's Twitter account posts a link to that op-ed. Why did Galloway assign a state employee to use a state office and state email account for what was clearly a personal political mission? It might not be illegal, but it certainly doesn't pass the smell test. Nor is it consistent with the laudably high standards Galloway sets when auditing other government offices and officials.

Galloway also failed to answer serious questions raised by an email that one of her staffers erroneously sent out before the release of the Hawley audit. In the email, **audit manager Pamela Allison** mentioned alterations of the audit to "beef up" one section while dropping another part. Was it an attempt to embellish portions to make Hawley's infractions look even worse?

Galloway said at the time that she couldn't discuss details of a pending audit. State law forbids it. But Thursday's audit release should have freed her to clarify. Instead, Galloway attacked Hawley's criticism of Allison as "unfair." The audit says Allison's email "is not evidence of a lack of objectivity, rather evidence that the audit team was appropriately evaluating audit evidence."

Steph Deidrick

From: Steph Deidrick
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 12:37 PM
To: 'TRobberson@post-dispatch.com'
Subject: Op-ed submission

Hi Tod,

Auditor Galloway is planning to submit an op-ed to the Post-Dispatch. I thought it might be of interest for this weekend, so I wanted to give you a heads up. I think it should be ready to submit by close of business today. It's about 550 words and would be exclusive.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Steph Deidrick
Press Secretary
Office of Missouri State Auditor Nicole Galloway, CPA
573-522-2358

Steph Deidrick

From: Tod Robberson <TRobberson@post-dispatch.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 12:52 PM
To: Steph Deidrick
Subject: RE: Op-ed submission

Hi Steph. We've had to advance our weekend schedule this week because of a staffing shortage, so Sunday's page is already filled. The earliest it could run is Tuesday.

The preferred length is 650-700 words.

Thanks,
Tod

Tod Robberson
Editorial Page Editor

 **ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

900 N. Tucker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63101
o. 314-340-8382 | c. 469-544-8265
trobberson@post-dispatch.com

From: Steph Deidrick [mailto:Steph.Deidrick@auditor.mo.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 12:41 PM
To: Tod Robberson <TRobberson@post-dispatch.com>
Subject: Op-ed submission

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Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Steph Deidrick
Press Secretary
Office of Missouri State Auditor Nicole Galloway, CPA
573-522-2358

Steph Deidrick

From: Steph Deidrick
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Press Secretary

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573-522-2358

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From: Tod Robberson <TRobberson@post-dispatch.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 6:35 PM
To: Steph Deidrick
Subject: RE: Op-ed submission

I would need it by Friday afternoon.

Thanks.

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The cruel reality of Missouri's new law

By Nicole Galloway, CPA
Missouri State Auditor

Missouri finds itself in the national spotlight for all the wrong reasons again — this time, by giving new rights and opportunities to rapists.

By signing House Bill 126, which bans abortions even in the case of rape, incest or human trafficking, Gov. Mike Parson has spoken loud and clear. He wants rapists in Missouri to have more power over their victims. He wants a woman's decisions over her healthcare to be criminalized. These positions are both extreme and cruel.

I join the majority of Missourians who are appalled by this new law. But I also know this law represents another emotion for Missouri women — fear.

One of the biggest fears a woman has is for her personal safety — the fear of being assaulted or raped. We've come to accept the reality that we must fear it and protect ourselves from it. We've come to accept that we have to be prepared in everyday situations. This is why women carry rape whistles and mace, and have emergency apps on our phones. We carry our keys between our fingers and wear nail polish to detect date rape drugs. If we go for a run, we've been told to leave one earbud out so we can hear someone coming up behind us.

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Women should be trusted to make their own healthcare decisions. In fact, it's our constitutional right. Instead, we are subjected to extreme laws. It's been happening for years, and it leaves all of us wondering what will come next. Considerations for the life and health of the mother could very well come under attack.

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I am not alone in feeling this way. In fact, Republicans, Democrats, and independents in our state and across the nation are shocked by this law. This includes President Trump, who came out in opposition to this cruel public policy.

I'm frustrated to once again see Missouri portrayed this way, especially over an issue that is so personal to so many people.

Sometimes, the memories in the halls of Jefferson City are short. Even so, we all remember in 2012 when Todd Akin, the U.S. Senate nominee of the Republican party, referred to "legitimate rape" and that a woman's "body has ways to shut the whole thing down." It made national headlines and was an embarrassment. Missourians refused to allow it.

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Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 8:57 AM
To: Steph Deidrick
Subject: RE: Op-ed from Auditor Galloway for consideration

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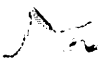
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From: Steph Deidrick
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Tod Robberson
Subject: Re: Op-ed from Auditor Galloway for consideration

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Press Secretary
Office of State Auditor Nicole Galloway, CPA
573-522-2358

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Details for DEIDRICK, STEPHANIE M for Calendar Year 2019 (as of August 31, 2020, pay date)
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Agency Name	Position Title	YTD Gross Pay
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Missouri's new abortion law is a travesty for women **0** comments

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By Nicole Galloway

Jun 3, 2019

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Missouri finds itself in the national spotlight for all the wrong reasons again — this time, by giving new rights and opportunities to rapists.

By signing House Bill 126, which bans abortions even in the case of rape, incest or human trafficking, Gov. Mike Parson has spoken loud and clear. He wants rapists in Missouri to have more power over their victims. He wants a woman's decisions over her health care to be criminalized. These positions are extreme and cruel.

I join the probable majority of Missourians who are appalled by this new **Missouri's new abortion law is a travesty for women** also know this law represents another emotion for Missouri women — fear.

0 comments

One of the biggest fears a woman has is for her personal safety — the fear of being assaulted or raped. We've come to accept the reality that we must protect ourselves from it. We've come to accept that we have to be prepared in everyday situations. This is why women carry rape whistles and pepper spray, and have emergency apps on our phones. We carry our keys between our fingers and wear nail polish that can detect date-rape drugs. If we go for a run, we've been told to leave one earbud out so we can hear someone coming up behind us.

Now, Missouri women have another fear — that in what is potentially their darkest hour, they will be unable to access the care they need. They have fear that if they become a victim of rape, incest or human trafficking, they will not have a choice in what comes next. Instead, a survivor of rape must accept that her attacker could have parental rights. Proponents of this law apparently are comfortable with the idea you could be forced to stand side by side in front of a judge, working out a shared custody plan with your rapist. That is truly frightening.

Too many in positions of power disregard women and do not consider — or do not care — how their policy choices amplify those fears. In Missouri, these politicians have consistently attacked the availability of contraception and prenatal and postnatal care. Now, when a woman needs health care the most, following a rape, they have said no again.

Women should be trusted to make their own health care decisions. In fact, it's our constitutional right. Instead, we are subjected to extreme laws. It's been happening for years, and it leaves all of us wondering what will come next. Considerations for the life and health of the mother could very well come under attack.

The governor and Republican lawmakers in Jefferson City have gone too far.

I am not alone in feeling this way. In fact, Republicans, Democrats and independents in our state and across the nation are shocked by this law. This includes President Donald Trump, who came out in opposition to this cruel public policy of not making exceptions in the case of rape or incest.

I'm frustrated to once again see Missouri portrayed this way, especially over an issue that is so personal to so many people.

Sometimes, the memories in the Capitol halls of Jefferson City are short. Even so, we all remember in 2012 when Todd Akin, the U.S. Senate nominee of the Republican Party, referred to "legitimate rape" and that a woman's "body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down." It made national headlines and was an embarrassment. Missourians refused to allow it.

Missouri women need health care. Missouri families need to know they have the constitutional rights granted under Roe v. Wade. **Missouri's new abortion law is a travesty for women**

 0 comments

Instead, our state is once again at the forefront of extremism, because the governor is disrespecting women and delivering another dose of Akin. This time, it's not just rhetoric, it's the law.

Nicole Galloway is the Missouri state auditor.

 0 comments

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NICOLE GALLOWAY, CPA
Missouri State Auditor

June 17, 2020

Christopher Vas
P.O. Box 1741
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Missouri Sunshine Law

Mr. Vas:

On February 11, 2020, the State Auditor's Office received your sunshine request. In that request, you asked for the following:

1. All correspondence sent and received between May 15, 2019 and August 15, 2019 by SAO employees, including employees John Hale, Doug Nelson, Kim Hoelscher, Paul Harper, Michael Moorefield, and Steph Deidrick, to Eric Slusher and Mike Pridmore, including at the email addresses slusher@gmail.com and mlpridmore@gmail.com, and text messages to and from the phone numbers (603) 204-8499 and 573-442-6709.
2. The results of a search for all communications sent and received to or from the Auditor's office employees, including the address SAE2@auditor.mo.gov, between May 15, 2019 and August 15, 2019, using the terms "Eric Slusher," "Slusher," "campaign," "announce," "announcement," "Truman Dinner," "Truman Gala," "Pridmore," and "Keep Government Accountable."

On February 18, 2020, I notified you that you had requested 15 different searches and that we would provide you with an update of the status of your request in 30 days. I also notified you that you had made 7 requests in the last 3 months. Four of these requests had been made in a week before the February 13 letter. We had completed 2 of your requests and were continuing to work on the remainder.

On March 19, 2020, I notified you that you had requested 15 different searches and that we would provide you with an update of the status of your request in 30 days.

On April 17, 2020, our office responded to your first request. Our office also notified you that we were in the process of reviewing the remainder of your broad and numerous requests and would provide you with an update of the status of your requests in no later than 30 days.

On May 18, 2020, our office responded to your second request. Our office also notified you that we were in the process of reviewing the remainder of these broad and numerous requests and would provide you with an update of the status of your requests in no later than 30 days.

As to remainder of your second request, I have attached documents responsive to your requests. We have closed responsive documents as confidential under sections 29.070, 29.221, 29.200.17, 610.021(1), 610.021(14), 610.021(17), RSMo, and 17 U.S.C.A Section 102. We have also redacted documents as confidential under Sections 29.221 and 610.021(14), RSMo. We are continuing to process these requests for additional open records that may be responsive.

Because of the broad scope of these requests and that it requires the review of audit and other records that are closed or confidential under Missouri law, our office is continuing to process your requests. We will provide you with additional documents or update you on the progress in 30 days.

On March 2, 2020, we received your attorney's letter, which specifically requested that we "prioritize Mr. Vas's February 11 requests over his prior Sunshine requests to [our] office." As a result, we will complete this request prior to your previous requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Bayer", written in a cursive style.

Brent Bayer
Director of Administration