

September 9, 2025

Juanita Vero
Dave Stroumaier
Josh Slotnick

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to address a series of acts of vandalism, harassment, and defamation that occurred at the Western Montana Fair this August and have continued since. I serve as the Chairman of the Missoula County Republican Central Committee (MCRCC). Our committee hosted a Community Trivia contest at the Republican fair booth, sponsored by four Missoula businesses that purchased advertising in support of this civic activity. The contest tested fairgoers' knowledge of City, County, and State Government, as well as the U.S. Constitution.

The Trivia contest was well-received by hundreds of participants. However, during fair hours, three incidents occurred where individuals willfully vandalized our property. In addition, several others engaged in harassment and intimidation, using obscene gestures and abusive language toward our booth workers.

The attacks extended beyond the fairgrounds. Individuals unaffiliated with our sponsors launched coordinated online defamation campaigns, posting false and malicious statements on business review platforms commonly used by Missoulians to evaluate local services. As a result of this targeted slander, one sponsor's ratings plummeted from five stars to one.

This type of harassment, vandalism, and character assassination poses a serious threat not only to civic engagement but also to the economic viability of businesses in our community.

One could argue that the failure of past city leadership to condemn prior acts of political theft, intimidation, and even violent threats has emboldened those who now seek to escalate hostilities. Without intervention, we risk seeing these actions escalate to property destruction and violence against citizens for their beliefs.

As the elected leader of this city, it is imperative that you speak out and condemn such acts. Silence in the face of harassment and vandalism sends the dangerous message that such conduct is not only tolerated but also condoned.

Members of our committee respectfully request a face-to-face meeting with you within the next week. Furthermore, we ask that you issue a public statement denouncing this unlawful and destructive behavior as incompatible with Missoula's values. We also request that you submit a letter to the editor of local print and electronic media to underscore your condemnation.

We look forward to your timely response.

Respectfully,
Ryan Darling
Chairman, Missoula County Republican Central Committee

<https://www.westernmt.news/2025/08/20/missoula-businesses-face-harassment-campaign-after-sponsoring-republican-fair-booth/>