

# CLUB FOR GROWTH – YOUR WORD MATTERS

## Overview

- Jon Tester took part in a fact-finding mission to Israel sponsored by an educational nonprofit, which routinely takes Members of Congress – including Senator Steve Daines – on such trips.
- Jon Tester passed legislation banning lawmakers from accepting travel, gifts, and meals from lobbyists, and has fought to end perks for Members of Congress, from pushing to eliminate automatic pay raises, to prohibiting taxpayer-funded oil paintings for Members of Congress, to banning insider trading in Congress.
- Matt Rosendale as Insurance Commissioner has raised thousands of dollars for his campaign from the insurance industry, took over \$10,000 in travel from an out-of-state special interest group to junkets around the country where he rubbed elbows with insurance executives and lobbyists, and voted to revive “special accounts” that would have let lobbyists fund his travel in the legislature.
- Jon Tester has been a leader in fighting for more transparency and to lobbyist influence in Washington, becoming the first Senator to post his schedule online, pushing to ban Members of Congress from lobbying for 5 years, and passing a law to make it harder for Members of Congress to cash in after leaving office and requiring disclosure of campaign contributions bundled by lobbyists.
- Matt Rosendale has been propped up by millions of dollars in out-of-state super PAC ads from the Club for Growth, and used a “legal form of money laundering” to circumvent campaign finance limits.

## Claim

VOICE: In Montana, your word matters. Unless you're Jon Tester.

ON SCREEN: IN MONTANA, YOUR WORD MATTERS. UNLESS YOU ARE JON TESTER.

V/O: Tester promised not to take any lobbyist gifts or special interest-paid travel.

TESTER: "I won't sell Montana down the road by cutting deals with K-street lobbyists"

ONSCREEN: TESTER PROMISED NOT TO TAKE ANY LOBBYIST GIFTS OR SPECIAL INTEREST-PAID TRAVEL.

V/O: But Tester broke his promise and accepted expensive international travel, including a trip to Cancun.

ONSCREEN: TESTER BROKE HIS PROMISE ACCEPTED EXPENSIVE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.

## Facts

### JON TESTER MET WITH ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

**HEADLINE:** “Tester Meets with Israeli Prime Minister.” [Associated Press, [11/28/13](#)]

**Jon Tester Met With Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu During A Weeklong Fact-Finding Visit To Israel Scheduled By The American Israel Education Foundation.** “Tester said Netanyahu left their one-on-one meeting Sunday evening in Jerusalem to take a call from President Barack Obama. Tester, D-Mont., had scheduled his weeklong visit to Israel some time ago, arranged and sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation, a pro-Israel group that routinely takes members of Congress on fact-finding trips to Israel. He flew into Jerusalem last Friday and was scheduled to leave Tel Aviv late Tuesday night on the first of three flights taking him to Great Falls by Wednesday afternoon.” [Missoulian, [11/26/13](#)]

- **Jon Tester Spent Five Days In Israel Visiting Border Areas, Farming Cooperatives, And Meeting With Counterterrorism And Business Experts.** “Tester spent most of the past five days in Israel, visiting all corners of the country, including religious sites, farming cooperatives, Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank area and border areas near Lebanon, Egypt and Syria. He also met with Saeb Erekat, the chief negotiator from the Palestinian Authority, a retired Israeli general who worked in counterterrorism and Dan Shapiro, the U.S. ambassador to Israel...He also met with an Israeli business expert who said the country has a good climate for startup businesses. Positive business factors in Israel include access to capital, a good education system and something that the United States doesn't have, Tester said: Required military service, which fosters a sense of discipline, service and sacrifice among Israeli citizens.” [Missoulian, [11/26/13](#)]

### AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION ROUTINELY TOOK MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, INCLUDING STEVE DAINES, ON FACT-FINDING TRIPS TO ISRAEL

**Missoulian:** “The American Israel Education Foundation...Routinely Takes Members Of Congress On Fact-Finding Trips To Israel.” [Missoulian, [11/26/13](#)]

SOURCE: USA TODAY  
6/1/17; LEGISTORM,  
11/21/13

- **August 2013: Steve Daines And 25 Other Members Of Congress Participated In A Trip To Israel Sponsored By The American Israel Education Foundation To Learn About US-Israeli Relations And The Peace Process With Palestine.** [MTPR, [8/14/13](#)]
- **August 2016: Steve Daines And Other Members Of Congress Participated In A Weeklong Fact-Finding Trip To Israel Sponsored And Paid For By The American Israel Education Foundation.** [News Release, Office of Rep. David Rouzer, [8/2/16](#)]

#### **JON TESTER PASSED LEGISLATION BANNING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM ACCEPTING TRAVEL, GIFTS, AND MEALS FROM LOBBYISTS**

**New York Times: Jon Tester Voted For The Honest Leadership And Open Government Act Of 2007, Which "Call[ed] For Bans On Gifts, Meals And Travel Paid For By Lobbyists."** "The Senate gave final approval Thursday to a far-reaching package of new ethics and lobbying rules, with an overwhelming majority of Republicans and Democrats agreeing to improve policing of the relationship between lawmakers and lobbyists. If President Bush signs the bill into law, members of Congress would face a battery of new restrictions. The legislation, approved by the Senate on a vote of 83 to 14, calls for bans on gifts, meals and travel paid for by lobbyists and makes it more difficult for lawmakers to capitalize quickly on their connections when joining the private sector." [New York Times, [8/3/07](#); CQ, [8/2/07](#); S. 1, Vote 294, [8/2/07](#)]

- **Times-Picayune Editorial: "Groundbreaking Ethics Legislation...Will Ban Gifts, Meals And Travel Financed By Lobbyists."** "The business of governing should be done in the open, and that's why Americans should be encouraged by the groundbreaking ethics legislation Congress approved this week. The bill requires better disclosure of contributions to members of Congress and of earmarks, the special spending measures lawmakers use to fund pet projects. It also for the first time will require disclosure of small campaign contributions that are bundled by lobbyists and it will ban gifts, meals and travel financed by lobbyists." [Editorial, Times-Picayune, 8/4/07]

#### **JON TESTER HAS LED BY EXAMPLE IN WASHINGTON, FIGHTING TO END CONGRESSIONAL PERKS**

##### **JON TESTER HAS FOUGHT TO END AUTOMATIC RAISES FOR CONGRESS**

**March 2009: Jon Tester Was One Of 10 Democratic Senators To Vote To Eliminate Automatic Pay Raises For Members Of Congress.** [CQ, [3/10/09](#); Vote 95, S. Amdt. 621 to H.R. 1105, [3/10/09](#)]

**March 2012: Jon Tester Introduced Measure Eliminating Cost Of Living Adjustment For Members Of Congress.** [S. 2210, Text, Library of Congress, [3/20/12](#)]

- **September 2012: Jon Tester Voted In Favor Of A Continuing Appropriations Measure That Denied Congressional Pay Adjustment.** [Public Law 112-175, [9/28/12](#); H.R. Res. 117, Vote 199, [9/22/12](#); Congressional Research Service, [6/21/16](#)]

**2009-2016: Jon Tester Cosponsored Bipartisan Measures To Eliminate Automatic Pay Raises For Members Of Congress.** [S. 17, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [9/8/16](#); S. 133, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [1/25/11](#); S. 542, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [3/10/09](#)]

#### **JON TESTER COSPONSORED SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION BANNING TAXPAYER-FUNDED OIL PAINTINGS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

**Jon Tester-Cosponsored Legislation Prohibiting Federal Funds For Official Portraits For Members Of Congress Was Signed Into Law.** On April 24, 2017, Jon Tester cosponsored S. 188, the EGO Act. NPR reported: "On Tuesday, President Trump

signed into law the Eliminating Government-funded Oil-painting Act, also known as — wait for it — the EGO Act. Under the new law, federal funds can no longer be used toward official painted portraits for federal government officials or employees. (It remains a little unclear if watercolor painters can find themselves a loophole.) The law applies to members of Congress, heads of executive agencies, even the president himself.” [Cosponsors, S. 188, Library of Congress, [4/24/17](#); NPR, [3/28/18](#)]

TESTER VOTED TO BAN INSIDER TRADING BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

**2012: Jon Tester Voted For The STOCK Act, Which Banned Insider Trading By Members Of Congress.** On March 22, 2012, Jon Tester voted in favor of “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill that would clarify that members of Congress as well as officials and senior staff of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the U.S. government are covered by current regulations that bar the use of non-public information for trading stocks and bonds. It would require lawmakers and other covered officials to publicly report any stock or securities transaction within 45 days of when the transaction occurs. It would bar lawmakers and other covered officials from participating in initial stock offerings on a favored basis.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 96-3. [Vote 56, S. 2038, [3/22/12](#); CQ, [3/22/12](#)]

- **Jon Tester On The STOCK Act: “It Is Critically Important That We Operate In A Way That Is Totally Clean.”** [NewsTalk KGVO, [12/2/11](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE HAS TAKEN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN TRIPS PAID FOR BY OUTSIDE GROUP AND VOTED TO LET LOBBYISTS TO PAY FOR HIS TRAVEL

MATT ROSENDALE RAISED THOUSANDS FROM THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND FLEW ALL OVER THE COUNTRY PAID BY AN OUTSIDE GROUP WHERE HE RUBBED ELBOWS WITH INSURANCE EXECUTIVES AND LOBBYISTS

**2017-2018: Center for Responsive Politics: Matt Rosendale Raised \$22,550 From The Insurance Industry During His Senate Campaign.** [Montana Senate Race, Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [6/22/18](#)]

**12/2016 – 8/2017: National Association Of Insurance Commissioners Spent Nearly \$10,000 On “Travel Expenses” For Matt Rosendale.**

Travel Expenses for Commissioner Matthew Rosendale  
As of August 31, 2017

Date	Destination	Purpose	Ground		Change			Misc.	Total
			Transport	Airfare	Fees	Hotel	Meals		
12/10/16-12/13/16	Miami, FL	2016 Fall National Meeting	\$ 57.11				\$ 138.43		\$ 195.54
2/9/16-2/13/16	Scottsdale, AZ	Commissioners Conference	\$ -	\$ 813.54		\$ 1,435.40	\$ 63.90		\$ 2,312.84
2/14/17-2/15/17	Oklahoma City, OK	National Tornado Summit	\$ -			\$ 453.24			\$ 453.24
4/8/17-4/11/17	Denver, CO	Spring National Meeting	\$ 55.36	\$ 579.41		\$ 1,005.20	\$ 81.00		\$ 1,720.97
5/2/17-5/4/17	Washington DC	All Commissioner DC Fly In	\$ 17.07	\$ 671.60		\$ 1,167.00			\$ 1,855.67
7/10/17-7/13/17	Madison, WI	Interim Exec Comm Mtg/Mid Yr Update	\$ -	\$ 601.60		\$ 490.08			\$ 1,091.68
8/5/17-8/8/17	Philadelph, PA	Summer National Meeting	\$ 104.55	\$ 664.60		\$ 1,484.20			\$ 2,253.35
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$ 234.09</b>	<b>\$ 3,330.75</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,035.12</b>	<b>\$ 283.33</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,883.29</b>

*Paid by NAIC*

[Montana Office of the State Auditor, via FOIA, as of 2/16/18]

**HEADLINE: “Drinks, Junkets And Jobs: How The Insurance Industry Courts State Commissioners.”** [Washington Post, [10/2/16](#)]

**National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services: “There Are Only A Handful Of People Representing Consumers And Over 1,000 Insurance Lobbyists At A Typical NAIC Meeting.”** [National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services, 11/22/10]

- **National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services: “Industry Lobbyists Outnumber Consumer Advocates At NAIC Meetings By An Order Of Magnitude.”** [National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services, 11/22/10]

**Consumer Watchdog President Jamie Court: NAIC Conferences “Provide Easy Access” To Insurance Commissioners For Insurance Industry And Officials And Lobbyists: “They Can Be Cozy.”** “‘I’ve never seen anything like this,’ said Jamie Court, president and chairman of Consumer Watchdog, a California group focused on the

	<p>insurance industry. He said National Association of Insurance Commissioners conferences he has attended were packed with industry officials and lobbyists, which can make it even more important to see how public insurance regulators spend money attending the events. 'They can be cozy,' Court said. 'The insurance industry is well represented at these things, and it provides easy access' to insurance commissioners." [Tampa Tribune, <a href="#">2/15/15</a>]</p> <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE VOTED TO REVIVE "SPECIAL ACCOUNTS" WOULD LET HIM RAISE MONEY FROM LOBBYISTS FOR HIS TRAVEL IN THE LEGISLATURE</u></p> <p><b>HEADLINE: "Montana Senate Endorses Reviving Constituent Accounts."</b> [Associated Press, <a href="#">2/27/13</a>]</p> <p><b>Associated Press: Matt Rosendale Voted To Revive "Special Accounts" For State Legislators To Raise Money For Their Travel Costs, Even Though Previous Legislatures Had Cracked Down On The Accounts Due To Lobbyist Abuse.</b> On February 27, 2013, Matt Rosendale voted in favor of SB 241. The Associated Press reported: "The Montana Senate is backing a measure to revive special accounts state legislators could use for costs associated with the job. Senate Bill 241 was advanced Wednesday with a 30-20 vote. Sen. John Brenden of Scobey said lawmakers now must spend money out of their own pockets to visit constituents and attend meetings. He argued lawmakers should be allowed to raise money to pay for such travel. The so-called 'constituent account' has been dormant ever since the Legislature cracked down on perceived abuses in 2007. At the time, state officials were raising thousands in unregulated money from lobbyists and others with no oversight." The measure was passed by a vote of 29-21. [Vote 751, SB 241, <a href="#">2/27/13</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State Sen. Anders Blewett: "What This Would Do Is Allow Fundraising While We Are Here, i.e. Those People Out In The Hallways Would Be Opening Checkbooks And Writing Checks."</b> "What this would do is allow fundraising while we are here, i.e. those people out in the hallways would be opening checkbooks and writing checks,' Democrat Sen. Anders Blewett, of Great Falls, said of the potential for lobbyist money to flow into lawmakers' pockets. Senators from urban districts also opposed the bill, arguing that it favored legislators from rural districts because they represent more counties and could raise more money." [Associated Press, <a href="#">2/27/13</a>]</li> </ul>
<p>V/O: And Tester took more than a million dollars in campaign cash from lobbyists.</p> <p>ONSCREEN: TESTER: TOOK MORE THAN \$1,000,000.00 FROM LOBBYISTS.</p> <p>SOURCE: CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE POLITICS, 2005-2018</p> <p>VOICE: Jon Tester: he's gone Washington.</p> <p>ONSCREEN: JON TESTER: HE'S GONE WASHINGTON.</p> <p>V/O: CFG Action of Montana is responsible for</p>	<p><u>JON TESTER HAS FOUGHT TO CRACK DOWN ON LOBBYIST INFLUENCE AND WAS THE FIRST SENATOR TO POST HIS SCHEDULE PUBLICLY ONLINE</u></p> <p><u>JON TESTER WAS THE FIRST SENATOR TO POST HIS SCHEDULE PUBLICLY SO MONTANANS COULD SEE WHO HE WAS MEETING WITH</u></p> <p><b>HEADLINE: "Tester Says Full Transparency Is Necessary To Earn Trust."</b> [KGVO, <a href="#">12/2/11</a>]</p> <p><b>Jon Tester Was The First Senator To Post His Daily Schedule Online.</b> "Tester said he's proud of what he's done in the Senate. 'I've got myself on some committees that have really helped and allowed us to do some really good work for Montana,' Tester said. The senator said he's 'set the standard' in making the Senate more transparent and was the first senator to post his daily schedule online." [Helena Independent Record, <a href="#">2/5/11</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jon Tester: "The Voters Are My Bosses...They Need To Be Able To Know What I'm Doing."</b> [Missoulian, <a href="#">2/22/09</a>]</li> </ul> <p><b>Center For Public Integrity Executive Director Bill Buzenberg: "Tester Was Absolutely The Head Of The Pack...Give Credit Where Credit Is Due - What He Has Done Has Changed The Playing Field."</b> [Missoulian, <a href="#">2/22/09</a>]</p>

the content of this advertising.

JON TESTER INTRODUCED BILL TO “DRAIN THE SWAMP” BY IMPOSING A FIVE-YEAR LOBBYING BAN ON LAWMAKERS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS

**HEADLINE:** “Dem Senator Introduces Bill To 'Drain The Swamp.'” [The Hill, [3/3/17](#)]

**Jon Tester Introduced A Bill To Establish A 5-Year Lobbying Ban For Executive Branch Officials And Members Of Congress.** On March 2, 2017, Jon Tester introduced “S.522 - A bill to establish a 5-year ban on individuals appointed to Executive Schedule positions and Members of Congress engaging in lobbying activities at the Federal level.” [Overview, S. 522, Congress.Gov, [3/2/17](#)]

- **Jon Tester: “Draining The Swamp In Washington Is One Of The Issues Where The President And I Agree.”** [The Hill, [3/3/17](#)]

JON TESTER VOTED TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO CAPITALIZE OFF THEIR ACCESS AFTER LEAVING OFFICE AND TO REQUIRE DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN MONEY BUNDLED BY LOBBYISTS

**New York Times: Jon Tester Voted For Ethics Reform That “[Made] It More Difficult For Lawmakers To Capitalize Quickly On Their Connections” After Leaving Office And “For The First Time” Requiring Lobbyist Campaign Bundling Disclosure.** On August 2, 2007, Jon Tester voted in favor of S. 1. The New York Times reported: “The legislation, approved by the Senate on a vote of 83 to 14, calls for bans on gifts, meals and travel paid for by lobbyists and makes it more difficult for lawmakers to capitalize quickly on their connections when joining the private sector...After overcoming resistance inside his own party, Mr. Obama pushed for a provision requiring, for the first time, disclosure by lobbyists who bundle who bundle political contributions of more than \$15,000 in three months.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 83-14. [Vote 294, S. 1, [8/2/07](#); New York Times, [8/3/07](#)]

- **Ethics Reform Legislation Doubled The “Cooling Off” Period Ex-Senators Needed To Wait Before They Could Lobby Former Colleagues.** “Congress on Thursday sent President Bush a bill aimed at reining in the influence of special interests, completing a long-debated overhaul of ethics and lobbying rules spurred by scandals that rocked Capitol Hill. The measure grew out of a pledge by Democrats to ‘drain the swamp’ after they won majorities in both congressional chambers in last fall’s elections. It passed the Senate, 83-14, after clearing the House, 411-8, earlier this week. The legislation would ban lobbyist-paid gifts, limit privately funded travel and double to two years the ‘cooling off’ period that senators must wait after leaving Capitol Hill before they can lobby their former colleagues. For ex-House members, the waiting period remains one year.” [Los Angeles Times, [8/3/07](#)]
- **Ethics Reform Legislation Required Lawmakers To Disclose The Names Of Lobbyists Who Bundled More Than \$15,000.** “The legislation, approved by the Senate on a vote of 83 to 14, calls for bans on gifts, meals and travel paid for by lobbyists and makes it more difficult for lawmakers to capitalize quickly on their connections when joining the private sector. Still, the legislation does require greater disclosure about how the projects are chosen, with an effort to shed light on backroom dealing at the root of scandals that landed four lawmakers in jail and contributed to Republicans losing control of Congress last year. The bill also requires lawmakers to disclose the names of lobbyists who raise \$15,000 in contributions in a six-month period through the bundling of donations.” [New York Times, [8/3/07](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE HAS BEEN PROPPED UP BY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN NEGATIVE AD SPENDING FROM THE CLUB FOR GROWTH SUPER PAC

**HEADLINE:** “Club For Growth Spends \$1.16M Supporting Rosendale And Attacking Fagg In GOP Primary.” [MTN News, [5/22/18](#)]

**Vox: Matt Rosendale, “Outside Groups’ Preferred Candidate,” Won The Republican Primary Backed By Millions In Outside Spending.** “The millions of dollars



that flowed into Montana's Senate race appears to have worked — outside groups' preferred candidate emerged victorious from Tuesday's Republican primary. State auditor Matt Rosendale, who was endorsed by three conservative US senators and backed by conservative outside groups to the tune of \$5.7 million, defeated the state's political establishment pick, retired Judge Russ Fagg. The primary determined who would take on the incumbent Democrat, Sen. Jon Tester, in a state Trump won by 20 points." [Vox, [6/6/18](#)]

- **Real Clear Politics: Matt Rosendale's Primary Election Victory Was A "Win" For The Club For Growth PAC After It "Pumped More Than \$2 Million Into The Race."** "In baseball, if you get one hit every three times at bat, you're an All-Star. The odds in politics aren't much different. But the Club for Growth PAC, the political action committee for the right-leaning free-market advocacy group, is on a bit of a hot streak. Its most recent win came Tuesday night in Montana, where the group's favored candidate, State Auditor Matt Rosendale, scored a hard-fought victory in the four-way Republican Senate primary. The Club for Growth PAC, which endorsed Rosendale last July, pumped more than \$2 million into the race to help boost Rosendale over former Judge Russ Fagg by a 34 percent to 28 percent margin." [Real Clear Politics, [6/7/18](#)]

### **MATT ROSENDALE USED "A LEGAL FORM OF MONEY LAUNDERING" TO SKIRT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR HIS BIG OUT-OF-STATE DONORS**

**HEADLINE: "GOP Senate Hopeful Cooks Books, Skirts Donation Limits."** [Daily Beast, [7/12/18](#)]

**April-May 2018: Matt Rosendale Raised Debt Retirement Contributions From Eight Donors Who Had Already Contributed The Maximum Amount To His 2018 Campaign, Then Re-Loaned The Exact Same Amount To His Campaign.** "In April, the Rosendale campaign began raising money explicitly for the purpose of retiring that debt. Repayment of debts incurred during previous election cycles don't count towards the \$5,400 per-donor limit for the current cycle, the rationale being that they're effectively donations to a previous campaign and won't be used to support ongoing political efforts. Nine donors stepped up in April and May to help retire the campaign's debt to Rosendale, including Rastin, Wright, Home Depot founder Bernie Marcus and his wife Wilma, veteran political consultant Roy Pfautch, and Texas oil tycoons Wayne and Gayle Laufer. Eight of the nine donors had already maxed out to the Rosendale campaign. The debt retirement contributions would've put all nine of them over the per-election limit for individual contributors had they gone towards the Rosendale campaign's 2018 coffers... But then the Rosendale campaign pulled an audacious accounting maneuver. On May 14, it used the money from those nine donors to repay \$32,831 of the debt the campaign committee still owed to Rosendale. The very next day, Rosendale re-lent the exact same sum to the campaign." [Daily Beast, [7/12/18](#)]

- **May-June 2018: Matt Rosendale Raised \$35,000 In 2014 Debt Retirement Funding From 14 Donors Who Contributed The Maximum Amount To His 2018 Campaign.** "During the most recent quarter, Rosendale, who is the state auditor, raised \$35,000 from 14 different donors that went toward retiring his past campaign debt from 2014. Each of the contributors had already maxed out on their contributions to the 2018 election. In all but one case, the contribution to the 2014 campaign brought the contributor's total money given this election cycle to \$8,000; in one case it brought the total to \$6,400." [Helena Independent Record, [6/23/18](#)]

**Daily Beast: Matt Rosendale's Campaign Finance Scheme Was "A Pretty Ambitious End-Run Around Campaign Finance Laws Made Possible Only By Rosendale's Extensive Personal Wealth."** "But with some creative accounting, it appears the the Rosendale campaign figured out a way around the limits - not only for Rastin and Wright, but for other max-out contributors to the campaign. It's a pretty ambitious end-run around campaign finance laws made possible only by Rosendale's extensive personal wealth." [Daily Beast, [7/12/18](#)]

**Campaign Legal Center Director Of Federal Reform Brendan Fischer: “This Is A Legal Form Of Money Laundering In Order To Help A Handful Of Wealthy Donors Get Around Federal Contribution Limits.”** “‘This is a legal form of money laundering in order to help a handful of wealthy donors get around federal contribution limits,’ said Brendan Fischer, an attorney with the Campaign Legal Center, a non-partisan group focused on campaign finance, voting rights and other issues.” [Associated Press, [7/12/18](#)]

**Bozeman Daily Chronicle Editorial: “Matt Rosendale May Not Be Violating The Letter Of The Law With A Bookkeeping Gimmick That Allows Donors To Exceed The Individual Cap On Campaign Contributions. But He Definitely Is Violating The Spirit Of The Law.”** “Montana U.S. Senate candidate Matt Rosendale may not be violating the letter of the law with a bookkeeping gimmick that allows donors to exceed the individual cap on campaign contributions. But he definitely is violating the spirit of the law. Rosendale recently used funds left over from a previous congressional race to pay back loans he made to his campaign instead of using the money to paid down the previous campaign’s debts. He then turned around and loaned the money back to his ongoing Senate campaign. The accounting move effectively raises the individual campaign donation limit from \$5,400 to \$8,000.” [Editorial, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [7/20/18](#)]