

COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

MISSION STATEMENT

To monitor and to enforce, in a fair and impartial manner, campaign practices and campaign finance disclosure, lobbying disclosure, business interest disclosure of statewide and state district candidates, elected state officials, and state department directors, ethical standards of conduct for legislators, public officers, and state employees, and to investigate legitimate complaints that arise concerning any of the foregoing.

FY 16 & FY 17 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

(Revised August 2015)

GOAL 1: Consolidate Staff

GOAL 1 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The goal is to move COPP staff into one shared facility while maintaining historical data storage and public interface. The objectives are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Find New suitable location for COPP office.2. Organize file and record storage after move.3. Stay on 8th Ave in Helena. | Target: 1/16 |
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GOAL 2: Adopt and Use New COPP Regulations

GOAL 2 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The goal is to write, adopt and implement an entire package of COPP regulations, including those triggered by law passed by the 2015 Legislature, and have those regulations in place for the 2016 election cycle. The objectives are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Examine and redraft, as necessary, all existing COPP regulations.5. Draft new regulations as necessary to administer SB 289.6. Move regulations through MAPA review.7. Adopt COPP regulation package.8. Have regulations in place for 2016 campaigns. | Target: 1/16 |
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GOAL 3: Refine and improve on-line filing systems

GOAL 3 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The goal is to increase use of on-line filing by candidates and improve availability of information and data to the public. The objectives are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop regulation (see Goal No. 2) requiring district level candidates, including legislators, to file campaign finance reports by electronic filing.2. Provide user friendly assistance to candidates using on-line filing.3. Continue to preserve candidate and committee filing information by dual filing system of electronic original and duplicated copy.4. Improve speed, quantity and quality of public access to campaign finance reports filed in CERS and in file net.5. Improve access to data stored in multiple campaign finance reports through search function in CERS filings. | Target: 3/16 |
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GOAL 4: Bring COPP Complaint Handling Current

GOAL 4 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The goal is to resolve and handle all filed complaints before the start of the 2016 campaign season. The objectives are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Issue Decisions on the 12 COPP campaign finance and 1 ethics complaints remaining on the 2012-2014 docket.2. Issue Decisions on the 2015 complaints (now 2 lobbying and 9 campaign practice).3. Resolve Decisions currently made by settlement or litigation.4. Move 4 complaints suspended by Lair litigation into Decision by February of 2016. | Target: 4/16 |
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GOAL 5: Adapt Report Inspections to New Regulations

GOAL 5 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The goal is to adapt the COPP's system of inspection of campaign finance reports so that it includes criteria imposed by new COPP regulations, with the inspection information also made available to the public through the new reporting systems. The objectives are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Redefine inspection criteria.2. Develop way to post inspection results for public viewing.3. Have this ready for the first district candidate filing period (now 35 days pre-primary under SB 289) | Target: 4/16 |
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GOAL 6: Begin Work on COPP responsibilities other than campaign finance

GOAL 6 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

The COPP handles administrative tasks and program tasks in ethics and lobbying that have not had adequate attention because of the explosion in campaign practice work. The goal is to identify the scope of this work. The objectives are:

Target: 1/17

1. Identify and update regulations (ARMS).
2. Develop and publicize helpful manuals for reporting of lobbying activities.
3. Review and improve agency functions in lobbyist's registration and ethics enforcement.
4. Improve public knowledge and availability of public search functions.

GOAL 7: Secure additional resources

GOAL 7 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

Campaign practices issues and complaints have increased dramatically over the past few years. The COPP seeks resources to better inform the public of issues and to better issue and enforce Decisions on complaints.

Target: 5/17

1. See general fund support for development and enlargement of the COPP CERS data base that is accessible by the press and public.
2. Seek general fund support for an additional in-house attorney to assist in the work.
3. Seek general fund support for an accountant to assist in the work.