

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 18 & FY 19 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

(Issued August, 2016)

GOAL 1: INCREASE TRANSPARENCY

GOAL 1 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">The goal is to provide efficient public and press access to entire range of candidate and committee information that is lodged with the COPP. Objectives are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reorganize File Net information so that active campaign information is separate from past campaign information.2. Create a new correspondence folder of information within the master folder for each candidate or committee wherein compliance specialist communication with candidate or committee and other comparable information is posted so that it can be reviewed in real time on File Net.	Target: 6/17
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GOAL 2: RETAIN STAFF BY BRINGING COMPENSATION TO CORRECT GRADE LEVEL

GOAL 2 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">The goal and objective is to compensate staff at the grade level of work they are performing. Current COPP compliance specialists are performing Grade Level 5 work but are being compensated at Grade Level 3.<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Present Issue to SAVA.2. Present Issue to Executive3. Seek appropriate funding from 2017 Legislature.	Target: 5/17

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GOAL 3: ESTABLISH LITIGATION FUND

GOAL 3 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<p>The goal and objective is to establish a revolving fund that would allow the COPP to expend and recover money spent in enforcement litigation. At this time the COPP funds enforcement litigation from its budget while any funds recovered from litigation goes into the general fund. A single recently completed COPP enforcement trial involved costs of about \$50,000 (exclusive of attorney fees) and resulted in Judgement of \$60,000 plus. The COPP stayed within budget, even with the unanticipated litigations costs, but was forced to use intra-agency fund transfers to do so. The COPP is facing enforcement litigation into the foreseeable future and needs a more stable method (revolving fund) to fund its litigation efforts.</p>	<p>Target: 5/17</p>

GOAL 4: BRING CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION CAMPAIGN PRACTICE DECISIONS

GOAL 4 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The goal is to settle or advance to litigation outstanding sufficiency Decisions. The COPP has issued over 140 Decisions in calendar years 2014, 2015 and thus far in 2016. Over half of these Decisions found sufficient facts to show a campaign practice violation. The COPP must next resolve any such sufficiency Decision by settlement or advance the Decision to judicial enforcement where settlement is not possible. There is a lag time inherent in the enforcement process (sufficiency Decisions are sent to and returned by a county attorney office) such that a sufficiency Decision is not “ripe” for settlement for about two months following the date of the Decision. The objectives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring backlogged “ripe” sufficiency Decisions current by January 1, 2017. 2. Administratively resolve new sufficiency Decisions within six months of the date of the Decision. 	<p>Target:</p> <p>Objective One (January 1, 2017).</p> <p>Objective Two (Ongoing, depending on date of decision.)</p>
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GOAL 5: INITIATE §13-37-123, MCA EXAMINATIONS

GOAL 5 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The COPP has been charged by statute (§13-37-123, MCA) to conduct post-election exams of reports and statements. The COPP 	<p>Target: 5/17 for initial exams.</p>
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<p>has, to date, not been able to do anything beyond the facial inspections required by §13-37-121, MCA. The goal is for the COPP to define and begin such examinations to the extent it can without in-house accounting expertise. The objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct exams of reports and statements of candidates and committees following the 2016 elections, if necessary using a representative sample approach. 2. Prepare for systemic exam of future reports and statements following the date of election. 	<p><i>12/17 for systemic approach</i></p>
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GOAL 6: WORK ON COPP RESPONSIBILITIES OTHER THAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE

GOAL 6 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The goal is to increase the amount and focus of the work that the COPP is conducting in the area of ethics and lobbying activity. Lobbying and ethics have not received adequate attention as the COPP's resources (staff and funds) have been applied to deal with the markedly increased workload on campaign finance issues. The objectives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and update ethics and lobbying regulations. 2. Develop and publish manuals for reporting of lobbying expenses. 3. Review and define COPP functions in registration of lobbyists and enforcement of lobbying and ethics complaints. 	<p>Target: 12/18</p>
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GOAL 7: DISCUSS ROLE OF COPP

GOAL 7 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<p>The COPP has significant responsibilities in regard to campaign finance, ethics, and lobbying. Those responsibilities include the implicit responsibility of making its work transparent for access by the press and public. The COPP needs certain additional resources necessary to fulfill those responsibilities. A discussion needs to occur between the COPP and policy makers as to whether or not those needed resources should be provided the COPP. The objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion of the need for an in-house accountant, given the COPP's inspection, exam and enforcement responsibilities. 2. Discussion of the need for enhancement of the CERS system to allow for further transparency, both in access and reporting. 	<p>12/18</p>
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