

Montana Commissioner of Political Practices

Independent Expenditure GUIDANCE - COMMITTEES

(Note – In CERS, always SAVE before you EXIT – Your report will be updated. Do not FILE until after the last day of the reporting period, your report is not public until filed)

44.11.502 (7) For purposes of the disclosure requirements of 13-37-229 and 13-37-232, MCA, the “purpose” of each expenditure as reported on the commissioner’s campaign finance reporting forms shall specifically describe the purpose, quantity, subject matter, as appropriate to each expenditure, and must be detailed enough to distinguish among expenditures for similar purposes.

44.11.502 (8) Reporting independent expenditures:

(a) shall be reported in accordance with the procedures for reporting other expenditures;

(b) a person making an independent expenditure shall report the name of the candidate or committee the independent expenditure was intended to benefit, and the fact the expenditure was independent; and

(c) the candidate or political committee benefiting from the independent expenditure does not have to report the expenditure.

Simply!

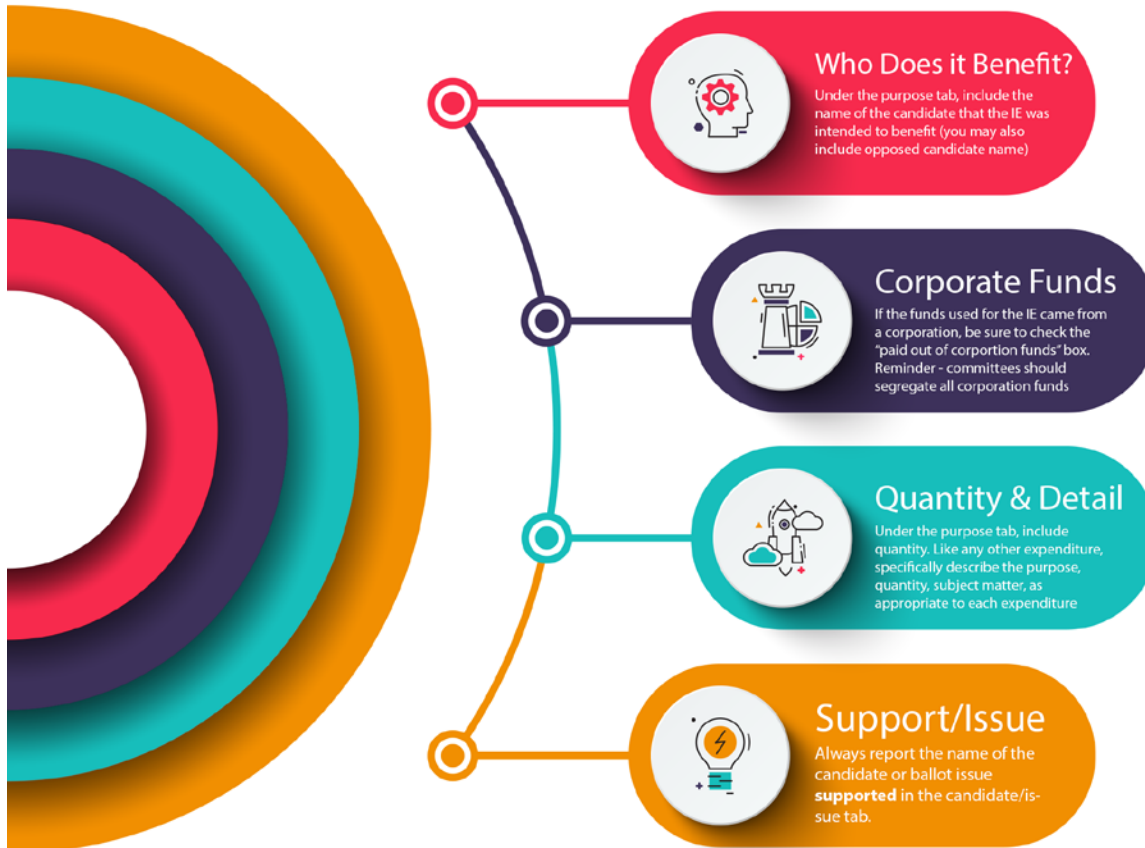
In CERS, Committee Finance Reports include an ‘Independent’ tab under Schedule B reporting. All election communication expenditures considered ‘independent’ (not coordinated with candidate/issue) need to be reported under this tab.

Under the purpose tab, include the name of the candidate that the independent expenditure was intended to benefit (you may include opposed candidate name), include quantity, subject matter with detail to distinguish between like expenditures. If the independent expenditure benefited a candidate, always report the name of the candidate SUPPORTED the candidate/issue tab. If the independent expenditure benefited a ballot issue, always report the name of the ballot issue SUPPORTED the candidate/issue tab

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE REPORTING

44.11.502 (8) ARM, reporting independent expenditures:

- (a) shall be reported in accordance with the procedures for reporting other expenditures;
- (b) a person making an independent expenditure shall report the name of the candidate or committee the independent expenditure was intended to benefit, and the fact the expenditure was independent; and
- (c) the candidate or political committee benefiting from the independent expenditure does not have to report the expenditure.



"Independent expenditure" means an expenditure for an election communication to support or oppose a candidate or ballot issue made at any time that is not coordinated with a candidate or ballot issue committee. 13-1-101 (25), MCA

Guidance for Committees

Montana Commissioner of Political Practices | March 2018