



# COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

## STATE OF MONTANA

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### **Guidance for Minor Party Qualification Committees (MPQC's)**

#### *What is a Minor Party Qualification Committee?*

- A Minor Party Qualification Committee (MPQC) is defined as “a combination of two or more individuals or a person other than an individual organized in furtherance of an effort to qualify a minor political party for primary elections using a minor party petition”, §13-37-601(6), MCA.

#### *What is a Minor Party?*

- ““Minor party” means a political party that does not qualify to hold a primary election under 13-10-601(1)”, §13-37-601(4), MCA. Currently, the Republican Party, Democratic Party, and Libertarian Party are qualified political parties in the State of Montana.

#### *Are Minor Party Qualification Committees required to register with the COPP?*

- Minor Party Qualification Committees that reach or exceed \$500.00 in aggregate contributions received or expenditures made in a calendar year for the purposes of qualifying a minor political party for primary elections would be considered a “reporting entity”, §13-37-601(7), MCA. Reporting entities must file an Organization Statement with the COPP within five (5) days of becoming a reporting entity, §13-37-602(1), MCA. A hard copy version of the Organization Statement for Minor Party Qualification Committees can be found [here](#).

#### *Do Minor Party Qualification Committees have financial reporting requirements with the COPP?*

- Any Minor Party Qualification Committee considered to be a “reporting entity” has financial reporting requirements with the COPP. These reports are to be filed “quarterly, due on the 15th day of January, April, July, and October, beginning in the quarter in which the individual or minor party qualification committee becomes a reporting entity and ending when the reporting entity files a closing report”, §13-37-604(1), MCA. These reports must detail all contributions received or expenditures made for the purposes of qualifying a minor political party for primary elections. See §13-37-605, MCA for full reporting requirements.

#### *Are Minor Party Qualification Committees required to file financial reports electronically?*

- No. Those Minor Party Qualification Committees who are required to register with the COPP and file financial reports may do so electronically OR hard copy. A hard-copy version of the financial reporting form for Minor Party Qualification Committees may be found [here](#). Those who wish to register and file financial reports electronically can find additional guidance [here](#).<sup>1</sup>

#### *Are individuals who work to qualify a minor political party for primary elections exempted from these registration and reporting requirements?*

- Not necessarily. Any individual who meets the definition of a “reporting entity” under §13-37-601(7), MCA would be subject to the reporting and disclosure requirements previously discussed.<sup>2</sup>

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1 The COPP notes that this guidance is tailored to Political Committees, not MPQC's. However, the step by step instructions provided on pages 1 through 6 are those that any MPQC would follow to register itself electronically using the CERS system.

2 Individuals may contact the COPP and discuss their individual circumstances to assist in determining if they qualify as a reporting entity