

COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

Our Mission

We fairly and impartially carry out our assigned responsibilities monitoring and enforcing campaign finance and practices and government ethics standards. We serve the public and interested parties in a helpful and responsive way.

FY '08 & FY '09 Goals and Objectives

(Revised November 30, 2006)

Goal 1: Provide accurate and helpful information to the public and interested parties in a timely way.

Objectives and status

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Update the agency website to provide useful, understandable information about ethics, lobbying, and campaign finance and practices laws and rules. Develop a more user-oriented web listing and include more Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handouts.	On-going through August, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop web-based on-line filing and publicly-available search system for campaign financial reports	Under way, and continuing through December, '07
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Write staff development training goals and a training plan, and implement the plan.	By September, '07
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review procedures for capturing campaign reporting data; develop a plan for timely completion of biennial campaign finance report at the conclusion of the election cycle	By September, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Revise the office policy manual to reflect changes in office procedures brought about by the conversion to digital processes.	By February, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review operating budget and establish priorities for fiscal years beginning July, 2009 and July, 2010	By October, '08

Goal 2: Enforce the Code of Ethics as it applies to Public Officers, Legislators and Public Employees, and resolve complaints of alleged violations responsibly and as quickly as possible.

Objectives and status

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schedule required informal contested case hearings so that they're concluded within 45 days of accepting an Ethics complaint. 	Ongoing, beginning immediately
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop helpful FAQ handouts for the Ethics section of the website 	By February, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Code of Ethics in MCA, consult interested parties, research best practices, and develop proposed legislation to address any helpful changes prior to the '09 legislative session. 	By April, '08

GOAL 3: Facilitate accurate and timely filing of the required lobbyist and principal reports, and resolve complaints of alleged violations responsibly and expeditiously. Facilitate public disclosure of lobby-related activity under our jurisdiction.

Objectives and status

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review the Lobbying Act in MCA, consult interested parties, research best practices, and develop proposed legislation to address any helpful changes prior to the '09 legislative session. 	By April, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review lobbyist's handbook and add material that can clarify and provide useful guidance. Provide information to encourage on-line registration, fee payment, and financial reporting. 	By September, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop FAQ's for Lobbying section of website 	By September, '08

GOAL 4: Facilitate accurate and timely filing of the required campaign finance reports, and resolve complaints of alleged violations responsibly and expeditiously. Facilitate public disclosure of campaign-related activity under our jurisdiction.

Objectives and status

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete on-line registration services and candidates and political committee reporting, as well as the public search services. 	All services completed and fully tested by January, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and update instructions, guidance and task checklist for election administrators. Provide additional guidance regarding electioneering to address complaints from the '06 general election. 	By February 1, '08 in order to be available for SOS' election training.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop FAQ's for Campaign Finance & Practices section of website 	By March, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update website descriptions of the complaint procedure and the decision processes to provide more helpful guidance and reduce filing errors and misdirected or erroneous complaints. 	By March, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update the disclaimer brochure and website disclaimer information with the intent of clarifying requirements and reducing the number of complaints in this area. 	By March, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and implement a communication plan that will clarify disclaimer requirements and help reduce the number of complaints in this area. 	Implemented by April 1, '08
Review candidate and political committee accounting and reporting manuals and revise as necessary to accommodate for new on-line filing programs	By March, '08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review candidate and political committee form letters; revise as necessary to reflect simplified letter format and more direct communication. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide CPP presence at campaign schools and other party functions; highly frequent questions, misunderstandings, and complaint areas. Seek new ideas and suggestions for better ways to conduct CPP business. 	Beginning in January, '08 and continuing into the campaign season.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review campaign finance and practices laws, consult interested parties, research best practices, and develop proposed legislation to address any helpful changes prior to the '09 legislative session. 	By April, '08