



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-414.2

Summary

The Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) has amended ARM 44.10.621, 44.11.202, 44.11.203, 44.11.204, and 44.11.305 pertaining to business disclosure, political committee definitions and classifications, and federally filing and nonresident political committee reports.

Previous Notice(s) and Hearing Information

On November 21, 2025, the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) published MAR Notice No. 2025-414.1 pertaining to the proposed amendment of the agency's rules in the 2025 Montana Administrative Register, Issue Number 22.

Final Rulemaking Action – Effective January 10, 2026

AMEND AS PROPOSED

The agency has amended the following rules as proposed:

44.10.621 BUSINESS DISCLOSURE

44.11.202 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, DEFINITION AND TYPES

44.11.203 PRIMARY PURPOSE

44.11.305 NONRESIDENT AND FEDERALLY FILING COMMITTEES, REPORTS

AMEND WITH CHANGES

The agency has amended the following rules with the following changes from the original proposal, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

44.11.204 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, CLASSIFICATION

- (1) ~~The commissioner shall classify a political committee upon the basis of information including the statement of organization as defined in these rules. The commissioner shall notify a political committee of its classification.~~
- (2)(1) ~~A political committee shall be classified as a ballot issue committee, incidental committee, independent committee, or political party committee as defined in 13-1-101, MCA one of the types of political committee specified in ARM 44.11.202.~~
- (3) The commissioner may review a political committee's classification and may reclassify a political committee upon the basis of the statement of organization as defined in these rules. The commissioner shall notify a political committee of any reclassification reclassify a political committee if the status of that committee should change.
- (4) If the commissioner, based upon the information provided on the statement of organization, is unable to ~~classify a political committee~~determine a political committee's classification, additional information may be requested by the commissioner may request additional information regarding the political committee's primary purpose pursuant to ARM 44.11.203. If additional information is requested, a political committee shall provide the requested information within 10 business days after receipt of the request.
- (5) A political committee, ~~after it has received notice of its classification that is reclassified~~, may supply additional information and request to be ~~reclassified~~reconsideration by the commissioner.

~~The December 2015 poll of the Montana Legislature on proposed amendment of 44.10.329 (ARM 44.11.204) POLITICAL COMMITTEE, CLASSIFICATION in MAR Notice No. 44-2-207 was as follows: 26 Senators voted the proposed rule is consistent with legislative intent; 20 Senators voted the proposed rule is contrary to legislative intent; 49 Representatives voted the proposed rule is consistent with legislative intent; and 36 Representatives voted the proposed rule is contrary to legislative intent.~~

Authorizing statute(s): 13-37-114, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 13-37-226, MCA

Statement of Reasons

No comments were received.

Contact

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Rule Reviewer

Scott Cook

Approval

Chris J. Gallus, Commissioner of Political Practices