

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 20 & FY 21 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

(Issued September 2018)

GOAL 1: INCREASE TRANSPARENCY

GOAL 1 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The goal is to provide efficient public access to candidate & committee reports, lobbyist reports, COPP decisions and advisory opinions. Provide access to candidate and committee education and resource materials for proper and timely reporting. Objectives are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintain and update CERS and Lobbyist database2. Maintain and update COPP website and resources	Target: 6/21
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GOAL 2: PROPER STAFFING LEVELS and EDUCATION

GOAL 2 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The goal and objective to properly train staff on those agency tasks that are essential and required<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. COPP Attorney position in base budget2. Present budget and related activities to OBPP in a timely manner as required.3. Hire an additional Compliance Specialist to ensure timely campaign finance inspections and exams4. Seek appropriate funding from 2019 Legislature	Target: 6/21

GOAL 3: CANDIDATE and COMMITTEE EDUCATION

GOAL 3 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<p>The goal and objective is to establish an education and training program for all candidates and candidate and committee treasurers for the proper and timely reporting that meet Montana campaign finance law. Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hire an Education and Training Specialist2. Use COPP website, social media, and video channels to better communicate resources and answer questions	<p>Target: 12/20</p>

GOAL 4: BRING CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION CAMPAIGN PRACTICE DECISIONS

GOAL 4 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<p>▪ The goal is to settle or advance to litigation outstanding sufficiency Decisions. The COPP must next resolve any such sufficiency Decision by settlement or advance the Decision to judicial enforcement where settlement may not be 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administratively resolve new sufficiency Decisions within six months of the date of the Decision.	<p>Target: 12/20</p>
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GOAL 5: WORK ON COPP RESPONSIBILITIES OTHER THAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE

GOAL 5 OBJECTIVES & STATUS

<p>▪ The goal is to increase the amount and focus of the work that the COPP is conducting in the areas 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:</p> <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.4. Update ethics laws to reflect recent court decisions5. Update lobbyist code of conduct and standards for licensure review	<p>Target: 6/21</p>
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GOAL 6: DISCUSS ROLE OF COPP

GOAL 6 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 (including the addition of lobbyist reports in such as system)3. Continue to work with the Legislature on issues such as sexual harassment, reporting of such complaints, and a process to investigate and make determinations	<p>Target: 6/21</p>
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