



COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES

STATE OF MONTANA

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Commissioner of Political Practices
Guidance to Candidates on Lair Contributions
2018 and 2020 Elections

As of October 23, 2017 the COPP has record of candidates who may have received contributions in excess of the per election limits upheld in *Lair v. Motl*: 2018 Candidates (2 statewide, 68 state district, 11 county) and 2020 candidates (1 statewide). As of today, these candidates may no longer accept contributions over \$170 for the primary election (if contested) and \$170 for the general election for state district office, for statewide candidates the limit is \$330.

For *Lair Limit* contributions received prior to today's decision, the COPP will recognize the contributions received as correct under the prevailing law at the time, provided that the candidate documents the date the contribution as received by their campaign as required by as required by Mont. Code Ann. §§13-37-207 and 208. All *Lair Limit* contributions must be deposited in the campaign's bank account within 5 business days of October 23.

The primary and general contributions must be held in separate accounts, Mont. Admin. R. 44.11.224(2)(c). If a contributor "maxed out" their contribution to a 2018 or 2020 candidate under the old election cycle limits (*Lair Limit*), then the contributor may not give an additional general election contribution. If a contributor did not "max out" under the old election cycle limits, then the contributor may contribute up to the current limits ([Montana's Limits](#)).

2018 and 2020 Candidates may, of course, choose to voluntarily comply with the citizen enacted limits which were upheld by the 9th Circuit, and return what would be excess contributions to contributors under the current limits.

The COPP will be available to assist in answering specific questions cpphelp@mt.gov or 444-2942.