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## Campaign Accounts and Banking Requirements – Guidance

### What documentation will my bank require from me in establishing my campaign account?

- **Montana banks now require an EIN number.** COPP requires that all campaigns use a bank located in Montana.

### Can I raise money for both the primary and the general, and if so, how do contribution limits apply?

- **Contribution limits apply per election.** As defined in MCA 13-37-216(5), "... election means the general election or primary election that involves two or more candidates for the same nomination. If there is not a contested primary, there is only one election to which the contribution limits apply. If there is a contested primary, then there are two elections to which the contribution limits apply."
  - Example: I am running for the State Senate. The contribution limit per election per contributor is \$180. I do not have an opponent in the primary. Because of this, there is only one election to which the contribution limits apply, which is the general election. I can therefore accept up to \$180 per contributor.

### Do I need to establish separate bank accounts for both the primary and the general election?

- **Yes.** Contribution limits now apply per election, which means that fund raising for the primary election and fund raising for the general election must be completely separate, and a candidate must therefore establish separate bank accounts for each.

### Can I raise funds for my general election campaign while I'm still running in the primary?

- **Yes.** However, because these are separate elections, a candidate must properly report each contribution received as either a primary or general contribution, and the money raised for each election must be kept in separate campaign accounts (see above).
  - Say for example, I am running for State House. I can receive \$180 per election from an individual contributor. A friend wants to contribute \$360 to my campaign, \$180 for both primary and general. I must deposit \$180 into my primary account, \$180 into my general account, and report the contribution on my C-5 finance report as two separate contributions: one for primary, and one for general.

### What happens to money left over in my primary election account if I don't advance to the general after the primary takes place on June 5, 2018?

- A candidate must dispose of any surplus campaign funds within 120 days of filing a closing campaign finance report. Within 135 days of filing a closing campaign finance report, Form C-118 must be filed, reporting the disposition of the surplus funds. A candidate may not contribute surplus funds to another campaign, including the candidate's own future campaign (for example, running for the same office during the next election), or use the funds for personal benefit. A candidate may:
  - Return funds to a contributor,
  - Donate funds to a non-profit,

### Can I carry leftover money from my primary election forward to the general?

- **Yes.** Leftover funds may be moved from a candidate's primary account to the general account. This is reported as a primary expenditure under Schedule B, and a general fundraiser contribution under Schedule A.