

Commissioner of Political Practices  
1205 Eighth Avenue  
Post Office Box 202401  
Helena, MT 59620-2401  
Phone: 406-444-2942  
Fax: 406-444-1643  
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

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CERTIFIED MAIL

SIGNED/NOTARIZED

### Campaign Finance and Practices

### Complaint Form (10/09)

Type or print in ink all information on this form except for verification signature

#### Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Mary Caferro  
Complete Mailing Address 607 N. Davis ST.  
Helena, MT 59601  
Phone Numbers: Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home 406-461-2384

#### Person or organization against whom complaint is brought (Respondent):

Complete Name Ruth "Caron" Cooper  
Complete Mailing Address PO Box 123  
Livingston, MT 59047  
Phone Numbers: Work 222-5151 Home \_\_\_\_\_

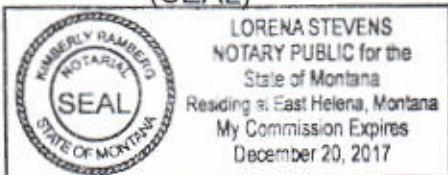
**Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alleged violation.**

#### Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Lewis and Clark

I, Mary Caferro, being duly sworn, state that the information in this Complaint is complete, true, and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(SEAL)



Mary Caferro  
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6 day of October, 2016.  
Lorena Stevens  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

**Statement of facts:**

Describe in detail the alleged violation(s) and cite the statute or statutes you believe have been violated. Please attach copies of documentary evidence to support the facts alleged in your statement.

If the space provided below is insufficient, you may attach additional pages as necessary.

I am filing this complaint against Ruth "Caran" Cooper, Candidate for Public Service Commissioner in District 3 in the state of Montana. Ms. Cooper has failed her legal obligation to file a C-5 form, Campaign Finance Report, for the reporting period covering June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 to September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices. Additionally, Ms. Cooper has ~~also~~ failed her legal obligation to submit a completed and finalized C-5 form, Campaign Finance Report, covering the reporting period May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 to June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. The other candidates have met their deadlines for reporting of their Campaign finances for Public Service Commission in District 3. Candidate Cooper has failed to file her Campaign Finance Reports.

**Complaints must be:**

- signed
- notarized
- delivered in person or by certified mail.

# Montana Code Annotated 2015

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**13-37-225. Reports of contributions and expenditures required.** (1) Except as provided in [13-37-206](#), each candidate and political committee shall file with the commissioner periodic reports of contributions and expenditures made by or on the behalf of a candidate or political committee.

(2) In lieu of all contribution and expenditure reports required by this chapter, the commissioner shall accept copies of the reports filed by candidates for congress and president of the United States and their political committees pursuant to the requirements of federal law.

(3) A person who makes an election communication, electioneering communication, or independent expenditure is subject to reporting and disclosure requirements as provided in chapters 35 and 37 of this title.

**History:** En. 23-4778 by Sec. 3, Ch. 480, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 23-4778(1), (2); amd. Sec. 255, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 591, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 132, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 259, L. 2015.

*Provided by Montana Legislative Services*

# Montana Code Annotated 2015

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**13-37-226. Time for filing reports.** (1) Candidates for a state office filled by a statewide vote of all the electors of Montana, statewide ballot issue committees, and political committees that receive a contribution or make an expenditure supporting or opposing a candidate for statewide office or a statewide ballot issue shall file reports electronically as follows:

(a) quarterly, due on the 5th day following a calendar quarter, beginning with the calendar quarter in which:

(i) funds are received or expended during the year or years prior to the election year that the candidate expects to be on the ballot; or

(ii) an issue becomes a ballot issue, as defined in [13-1-101\(6\)\(b\)](#);

(b) on the 1st day of each month from March through November during a year in which an election is held;

(c) on the 15th day preceding the date on which an election is held;

(d) within 2 business days after receiving a contribution of \$200 or more if received between the 20th day before the election and the day of the election;

(e) not more than 20 days after the date of the election; and

(f) on the 10th day of March and September of each year following an election until the candidate or political committee files a closing report as specified in [13-37-228\(3\)](#).

(2) Candidates for a state district office, including but not limited to candidates for the legislature, the public service commission, or a district court judge, and political committees that receive contributions or make expenditures to support or oppose a particular state district candidate or issue, unless the political committee is already reporting under the provisions of subsection (1), shall file reports as follows:

(a) on the 35th and 12th days preceding the date on which an election is held;

(b) within 2 business days after receiving a contribution of \$100 or more if received between the 17th day before the election and the day of the election;

(c) not more than 20 days after the date of the election; and

(d) on the 10th day of March and September of each year following an election until the candidate or political committee files a closing report as specified in [13-37-228\(3\)](#).

(3) Candidates for any other public office and political committees that receive contributions or make expenditures to support or oppose a particular local issue shall file the reports specified in subsection (2) only if the total amount of contributions received or the total amount of funds expended for all elections in a campaign, excluding the filing fee paid by the candidate, exceeds \$500, except as provided in [13-37-206](#).

(4) Independent and political party committees not required to report under subsection (1) or (2) shall file:

(a) a report on the 90th, 35th, and 12th days preceding the date of an election in which they participate by making an expenditure;

(b) a report within 2 business days of receiving a contribution of \$500 or more if received between the 17th day before the election and the day of the election;

(c) a report within 2 business days of making an expenditure of \$500 or more for an electioneering communication if the expenditure is made between the 17th day before the election and the day of the election;

(d) a report not more than 20 days after the date of the election in which they participate by making an expenditure; and