

Commissioner of Political Practices

Agency Overview

June 2013

For the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

Commissioner of Political Practices: Jonathan Motl, appointed by Governor Bullock
 Term ends Jan. 1, 2017, 444-4622, JMotl@mt.gov

Agency Responsibilities:

Campaigns

- Monitors, investigates, and enforces laws related to:
 - campaign practices;
 - campaign finance disclosure;
 - lobbying disclosure; and
 - business interest disclosure of statewide and state district, candidates, elected state officials, and state department directors.

Lobbying

- Monitors, investigates, and enforces laws related to:
 - lobbying financial disclosure; and
 - lobbyist and principal registration.

Ethics

- Monitors and enforces laws related to ethical standards of conduct for:
 - legislators;
 - public officers; and
 - state employees.

Office Administration

- Hires and fires agency's staff.
- May hire prosecuting attorneys.
- Prepares, administers, and allocates the budget for the office.

Public Document Repository

- Develops appropriate forms related to its duties.
- Accepts, processes, and makes available for public review all reports and disclosures required from political committees, candidates, lobbyists, and public officials.

Programs, FTE, and Budgeted Funding - 2015 Biennium:

Programs	FTE FY 2014	General Fund	State Special	Federal Revenue	Proprietary	Other	Total Funding	% of Total Funds	% Generally Funded
Administration	5.25	\$1,144,533	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,144,533	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Legislative Fiscal Division

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Statutory Advisory Councils:

- None.

Administratively Attached Agencies:

- None, agency is administratively attached to the Secretary of State

Most Recent Legislative Audits:

- Financial compliance audit for FY 2011- 2012 Biennium
- Financial compliance audit for FY 2009-2010 Biennium

Agency Bills Passed During 2013 Session:

- HB 46 - revise contribution limit for candidate exploratory campaign
- HB 64 - clarify requirement for report filing
- HB 124 - clarify exemption for school districts and special districts in elections
- HB 125 - clarify when candidate's name held off ballot

Agency Bills that Failed During 2013 Session:

- HB 67 - revise laws related to inspection of campaign records

Committee Areas of Interest Previous Interim:

- Committee requested HJR 1 study of the selection of the Commissioner and the structure and duties of the Office.

Hot Topics of 2013 Session:

- Selection of the Commissioner and structure and duties of the office
- Campaign finance disclosure (e.g., dark money)
- Contribution limits

Statutorily Required Reports to the Committee:

- None.

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