

COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES

EXHIBIT 7  
DATE 01/09/2013  
HB \_\_\_\_\_



STATE OF MONTANA

JAMES W "JIM" MURRY  
COMMISSIONER  
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942  
FAX (406) 444-1643

1205 Eighth Avenue  
PO BOX 202401  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2401  
[www.politicalpractices.mt.gov](http://www.politicalpractices.mt.gov)

**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 forgoing.

**Candidates/IT**

- Implemented mandatory electronic filing for all statewide candidates on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- Worked with several entities to provide Candidate Campaign Schools for the 2012 election cycle.
- Staff attended and instructed at the 2012 Council on Governmental Ethics Conference in Columbus, Oh.
- Processed, Audited and Certified the following:
  - a. 872 Candidates
  - b. 160 Ballot Issue Committees/Incidental Committees
  - c. 156 PAC's
  - d. 126 Party Committees

**2013 Lobbyists/Principals**

- Registered approx. 243 lobbyists (as of 1/8/13)
- Registered approx. 295 principals (as of 1/8/13)

**Complaints and Decisions**

- 40 campaign finance complaints on the docket (10 since the November election)
- 1 ethics complaint of the docket
- 1 lobbying complaint
- 10 Investigations are complete
- 5 campaign finance complaints are stayed pending District Court
- 18 decisions issued
- 13 dismissed

### **Litigation**

- Western Tradition Partnership I – resolved
- Western Tradition Partnership II – 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals
- Western Tradition Partnership II – set for trial in March 2013
- MRP v. COPP – 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court
- MRP v. Schweitzer, COPP
- Lefer v. COPP
- Berry v. Gallik - resolved
- Fox v. Molnar- appealed Supreme Court decision
- Zastrow v. COPP, AG, McCulloch, Yellowstone County
- Sanders County Republican Central Committee v. COPP - Resolved
- National Association for Gun Rights v. COPP- Resolved

### **Budget Proposal**

COPP requested a full time agency legal counsel, at a cost of \$71,503 per fiscal year. The 2007 Legislature granted us a full time investigator, which has helped with the backlog of cases. However, the contracted attorney at the Department of Justice can't keep up with the investigator. The contract attorney is only available for one quarter of his time. In addition to the complaint docket, COPP has seen a significant increase in litigation. An agency legal counsel would result in an \$85,000 cost reduction in contracted attorney's fees.

### **Contact Information**

James W. Murry  
Commissioner  
406-444-3919  
[jmurry@mt.gov](mailto:jmurry@mt.gov)

Mary Baker  
Program Specialist  
406-444-7416  
[mabaker@mt.gov](mailto:mabaker@mt.gov)

Julie Steab  
Investigator  
406-444-4270  
[jsteab@mt.gov](mailto:jsteab@mt.gov)