

PROPOSAL FOR AGENCY LEGISLATION

(for the 2011 Legislative Session)

RETURN TO: Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst
Legislative Services Division

PROPOSER'S NAME/TITLE: Dennis Unsworth, Commissioner

ORGANIZATION: Commissioner of Political Practices

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1. What is the problem or issue? Legislative and statewide candidates are required to file their campaign registration and disclosure forms with both the Commissioner of Political Practices and their county election administrator. They're often not filed with the county. But Montana law requires the filing, or the candidate can't be certified for the ballot. A great deal of time and effort is spent following up to facilitate the filing of these forms, despite the fact that the responsibility lies with the candidate. In the end, some candidates are not certified. Others are certified only through extraordinary effort.
2. What do you want the legislation to do? Since the filing made with the Commissioner of Political Practices is available on the web now, the disclosure forms are readily available to local citizens and interested parties statewide. Local filing is no longer required to ensure good public disclosure. We propose to eliminate local filing for legislative and statewide races only, since that information is readily available on the web.
3. If possible, please list the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) sections that would need to be amended. Section 13-37-225, MCA.
4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose? No need for funding. This should ease some of the workload for CPP staff and local election administrators.
5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been considered in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact. Not that we're aware of. This should be a simple change to Montana's statutes and we will propose specific language.
6. If you are a holdover senator or a legislative candidate running unopposed, do you want the Legislative Services Division staff to consider this a bill draft request? Not applicable.