



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION

FINANCIAL-COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices

For the Two Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2012

OCTOBER 2012

12-21

REPORT SUMMARY

The Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices (office) issued formal decisions involving 11 campaign finance and practice complaints in each of fiscal years 2011 and 2012. Seventeen campaign complaints were dismissed and five ethics complaint decisions were issued in the two fiscal years. Four commissioners served during the two-year period from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2012.

Context

The office is responsible for enforcing campaign and lobbying disclosure laws, and code of ethics laws for state officials and employees. It performs these duties through campaign and political committee expenditure tracking, investigations of campaign finance and disclosure cases, registration of lobbyists and principle expenditure tracking, and formal ethics complaint proceedings.

The report also has a recommendation concerning use of administrative rules to adjust the minimum payments to lobbyists that triggers a financial reporting requirement.

Results

Our current audit resulted in two recommendations related to compliance with state accounting policy. The office successfully implemented a procedure to allocate revenue from multi-year lobbyist licenses to the three fiscal years covered by the 2011 and 2012 calendar year licensing period. However, the office did not detect and correct deferred revenue errors from the previous audit period. The office also accrued expenditures in fiscal year 2010-11 for which it did not have a contract in place by June 30, 2011.

| Recommendation Concurrence | |
|---|---|
| Concur | 3 |
| Partially Concur | 0 |
| Do Not Concur | 0 |
| Source: Agency audit response included in final report. | |

For a complete copy of the report 12-21 or for further information, contact the Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122; e-mail to lad@mt.gov; or check the web site at <http://leg.mt.gov/audit>
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