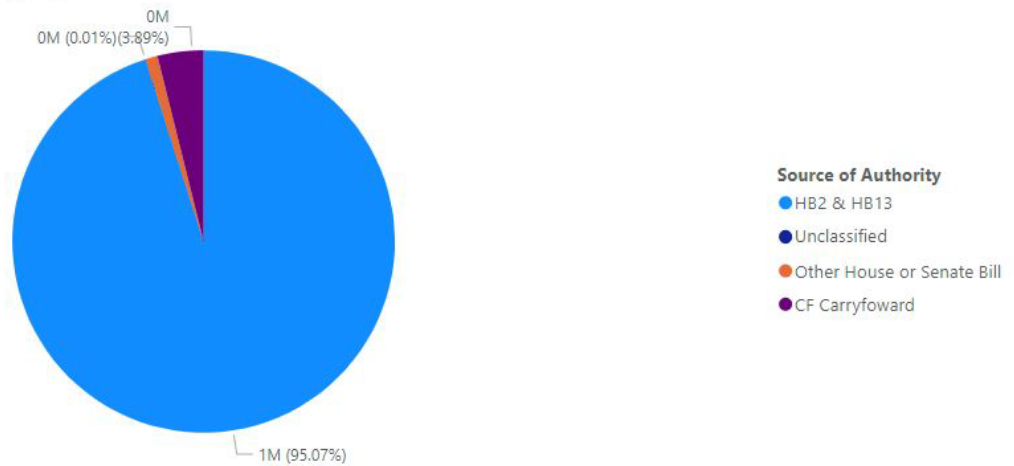


# COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

## TOTAL APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The total appropriation authority for the Commissioner of Political Practices is shown in the pie chart below. HB 2 and HB 13 provide 95.1% of the total authority for this agency. All types of appropriation authority for this agency are described below, including total budget and the percent expended by source of authority.

Total Modified Budget by Source of Authority



Source of Authority	FYE23 Modified Budget	FYE23 Expended Budget	Percent Expended
HB2 & HB13	832,077	738,099	88.7%
CF Carryforward	34,039	1,480	4.3%
Other House or Senate Bill	8,983	730	8.1%
Unclassified	105		
<b>Total</b>	<b>875,204</b>	<b>740,309</b>	<b>84.6%</b>

Report Period

- Jul
- Aug
- Sep
- Oct
- Nov
- Dec
- Jan
- Feb
- Mar
- Apr
- May
- Jun

## Carryforward Authority

The Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) has carryforward appropriation authority from FY 2022 of \$34,039 in general fund budgeted as operating expenses. As shown in the figure above, as of the end FY 2023, COPP has expended \$1,480, for legal fees, court costs, and a wireless handheld device. The remaining \$32,559 in FY 2022 carryforward authority will be available for FY 2024 expenditures.

## Other Bills

### SB 191 – Revise State Finance Laws

The 2021 Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million in general fund and \$1.0 million in state special revenue to the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) in the Governor’s Office for allocations to state agencies, mainly for costs associated with enacted legislation that did not provide appropriations. The Commissioner of Political

Practices received a total of \$24,000 general fund in FY 2022, including \$12,000 for SB 224 to amend the administrative rules manual to incorporate the changes in the campaign reporting requirement. Only \$730 for SB 224 remained at fiscal year-end (FYE) 2022 that was carried forward and utilized in FY 2023.

### HB 13 – State Employee Pay Plan

HB 13 (2023 Legislature) included a one-time, lump-sum payment to state employees. Full-time employees received a payment of \$1,040, which was prorated for employees that work less than full-time. This payment was effective in the first full pay period following HB 13 being enacted. The Commissioner of Political Practices did not utilize the \$8,253 appropriated in FY 2023 for these lump-sum payouts.

### **Unclassified**

Per 39-71-403(1)(b)(iv), MCA, when workers’ compensation premiums are lower than the previous year, state agencies shall reduce personal services appropriations by the amount of the premium reduction. To track the changes in appropriation authority, total appropriation is not reduced, instead the Governor’s Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) requires state agencies to:

- Reduce HB 2, statutory, and proprietary appropriations
- Create a separate offsetting entry on the financial statements in the same amount using an identifying number for workers’ compensation entries

The offsetting entries are identified as “frozen” appropriations, which means the appropriations will not be spent unless authorized by OBPP. The Commissioner of Political Practices reduced personal services appropriations by \$105 for workers’ compensation premium savings.

### **HB 2 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS**

The following chart shows the HB 2 budget as passed by the legislature, including the pay plan, and the HB 2 modified budget between July 1, 2022 and fiscal year end (FYE). Net modifications to the budget include operating plan changes from one expenditure account to another, program transfers, reorganizations, and agency transfers of authority. The **positive modifications** and **negative modifications** are shown by program, expenditure account, and fund type.

**Legislative Budget Compared to Modified Budget - HB 2 Only**

Agency Name	HB 2 Budget	FYE23 Modified Budget	Net Modifications
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Commissioner of Political Prac</b>	<b>815,729</b>	<b>832,077</b>	<b>16,348</b>
ADMINISTRATION	815,729	832,077	16,348
<b>Total</b>	<b>815,729</b>	<b>832,077</b>	<b>16,348</b>

Acct & Lvl 1 DESC	HB 2 Budget	FYE23 Modified Budget	Net Modifications
<input type="checkbox"/> 61000 Personal Services	564,234	564,129	-105
<input type="checkbox"/> 62000 Operating Expenses	251,495	261,948	10,453
<input type="checkbox"/> 68000 Transfers-out		6,000	6,000

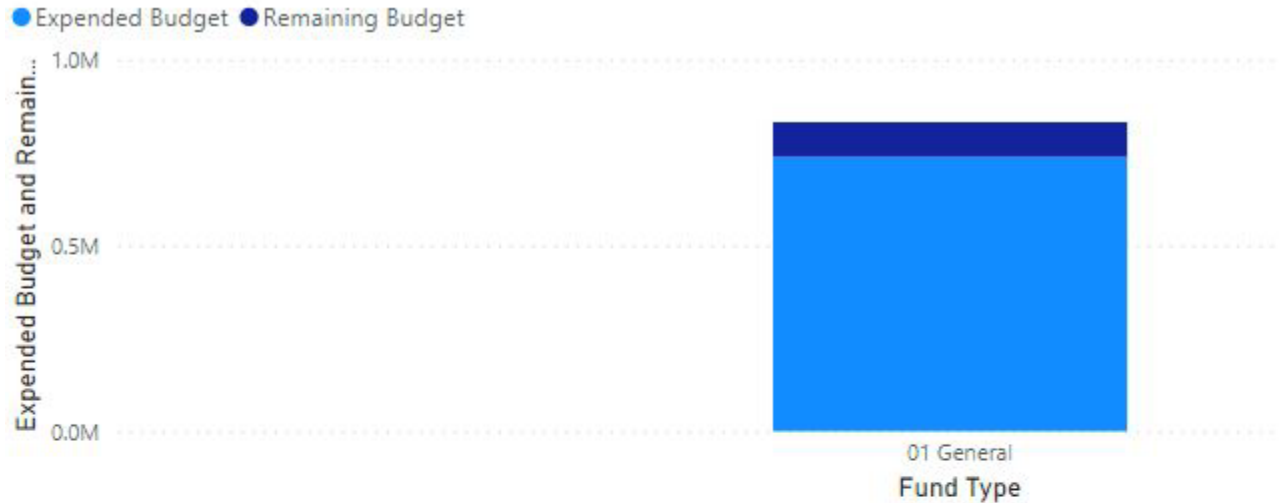
Fund Type	HB 2 Budget	FYE23 Modified Budget	Net Modifications
<input type="checkbox"/> 01 General	815,729	832,077	16,348

The COPP was delegated \$17,243 in restricted, biennial operating authority for legislative audit services. Only \$790 was utilized in FY 2022, the remaining \$16,453 was carried forward into FY 2023. In addition, the COPP moved \$6,000 in operating authority to transfer authority for an interagency service agreement with the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for accounting services. Personal services was reduced by the \$105 workers' compensation premium savings.

## HB 2 APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The following chart shows the appropriated budget for the agency compared to expenditures through FYE 2023.

Expended Budget and Remaining Budget by Fund Type - HB 2 Only



acclv1_descr	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	Percent Expended
Personal Services	564,129	508,564	90.2%
Operating Expenses	261,948	229,535	87.6%
Transfers-out	6,000		

Program Name	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	Percent Expended
ADMINISTRATION	832,077	738,099	88.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>832,077</b>	<b>738,099</b>	<b>88.7%</b>

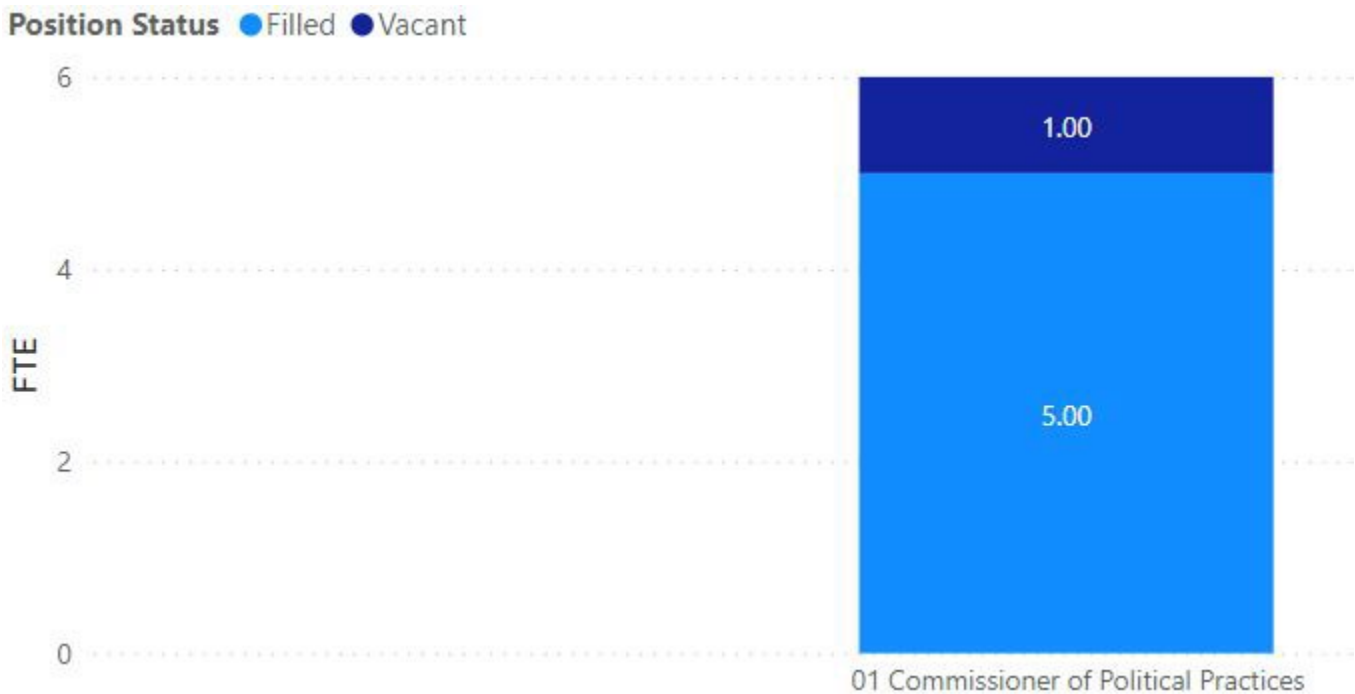
The Commissioner of Political Practices is completely funded through general fund. At FYE 2023, 88.7% of the HB 2 modified budget had been expended. The following table shows the HB 2 expended budget and remaining budget for the past two biennia.

Commissioner of Political Practices HB 2 Budget Utilization			
	Modified	Expended	Percent
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>
FY 2023	832,077	738,099	88.7%
FY 2022	809,560	690,100	85.2%
FY 2021	901,305	811,646	90.1%
<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>867,195</u>	<u>766,527</u>	<u>88.4%</u>
Average	852,534	751,593	88.2%

### Personal Services

Personal services budget makes up 67.8% of the total HB 2 modified budget and was 90.2% expended as of FYE 2023.

The following chart shows the filled and vacant FTE within the agency as of June 1, 2023.



The COPP has one vacant public relations specialist position, that has been vacant since November 5, 2022. The chart above only reflects the ongoing FTE funded in HB 2.

### Turnover

The Governor appointed a new commissioner on January 23, 2023. SR 49 was adopted on February 13, 2023, confirming Chris Gallus as the Commissioner of Political Practices until January 1, 2029. The public relations specialist position experienced turnover in November 2022.

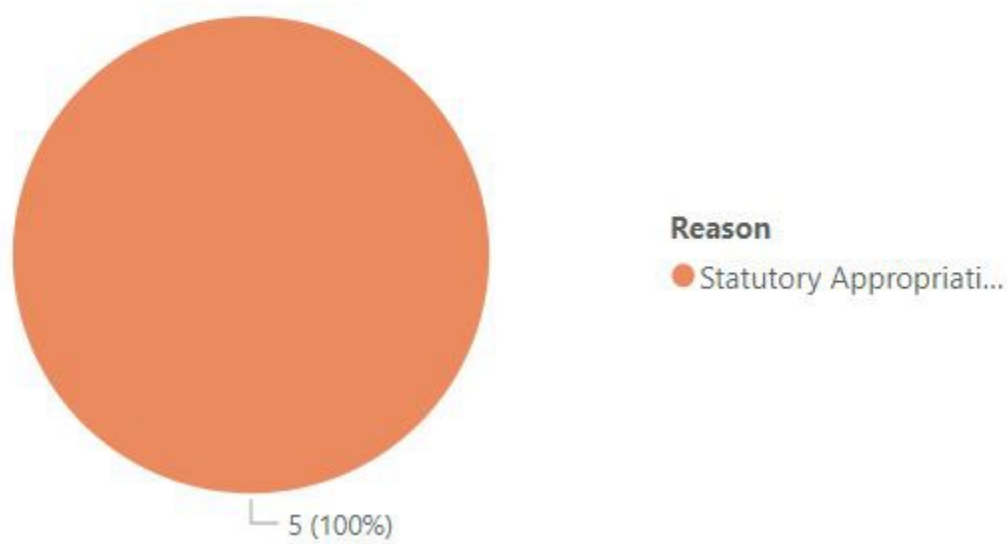
**Utilization Rate**

Of the total personal services budgeted in FY 2023, COPP utilized 90.2% of its budgeted personal service hours.

**Pay Rate Changes**

The following figure shows pay adjustments within the Commissioner of Political Practices in FY 2023. All pay changes issued in FY 2023 were legislatively approved pay changes for the HB 13 pay plan.

**Number of Positions that Received Pay Changes**



**Operating Expenses**

Operating expenses budget makes up 31.5% of the total HB 2 modified budget and was 87.6% expended as of the end of June. Consulting and professional services, state information technology services, and rent for office space make up 79.9% of the operating expenses.

**OTHER ISSUES**

**Required Reports**

The Commissioner of Political Practices did not have any budget amendments, operating plan changes, or program transfers that require reporting to the Legislative Finance Committee.