

**Agency Budget Comparison**

The following table compares the 2021 biennium appropriated budget and the 2023 biennium adopted budget by type of expenditure and source of funding.

Agency Budget Comparison				
Budget Item	Appropriated Budget 20-21	Legislative Budget 22-23	Biennium Change	Biennium % Change
Personal Services	1,069,551	1,099,998	30,447	2.85 %
Operating Expenses	686,564	519,680	(166,884)	(24.31)%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,756,115</b>	<b>\$1,619,678</b>	<b>(\$136,437)</b>	<b>(7.77)%</b>
General Fund	1,756,115	1,619,678	(136,437)	(7.77)%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$1,756,115</b>	<b>\$1,619,678</b>	<b>(\$136,437)</b>	<b>(7.77)%</b>
<b>Total Ongoing</b>	<b>\$1,531,620</b>	<b>\$1,395,878</b>	<b>(\$135,742)</b>	<b>(8.86)%</b>
<b>Total OTO</b>	<b>\$224,495</b>	<b>\$223,800</b>	<b>(\$695)</b>	<b>(0.31)%</b>

**Agency Description**

The mission of the Commissioner of Political Practices is 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 foregoing. The Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) has responsibilities that were defined by a legislative initiative in 1980 requiring disclosure of acts by lobbyists and business interests of elected officials. COPP also has responsibility for the ethical standards of conduct for legislators, public officers, and state employees pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 2, MCA.

**Agency Highlights**

<b>Commissioner of Political Practices Major Budget Highlights</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commissioner of Political Practices' 2023 biennium budget is about \$136,000 or 7.8% less than the 2021 biennium budget. Changes include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Decrease in general fund for statewide present law adjustments for fixed costs, and inflation/deflation</li> <li>◦ Increase in general fund for the reauthorization of 1.00 FTE for a legal counsel, which is funded as one-time-only</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Agency Actuals and Budget Comparison**

The following table compares FY 2020 actual expenditures to the 2021 biennium appropriated budget and the 2023 biennium adopted budget by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Agency Actuals and Budget Comparison					
Budget Item	Actuals Fiscal 2020	Approp. Fiscal 2020	Approp. Fiscal 2021	Legislative Fiscal 2022	Legislative Fiscal 2023
FTE	0.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00
Personal Services	495,626	518,041	551,510	541,923	558,075
Operating Expenses	270,904	349,154	337,410	268,185	251,495
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$766,530</b>	<b>\$867,195</b>	<b>\$888,920</b>	<b>\$810,108</b>	<b>\$809,570</b>
General Fund	766,530	867,195	888,920	810,108	809,570
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$766,530</b>	<b>\$867,195</b>	<b>\$888,920</b>	<b>\$810,108</b>	<b>\$809,570</b>
<b>Total Ongoing</b>	<b>\$667,103</b>	<b>\$767,410</b>	<b>\$764,210</b>	<b>\$705,148</b>	<b>\$690,730</b>
<b>Total OTO</b>	<b>\$99,427</b>	<b>\$99,785</b>	<b>\$124,710</b>	<b>\$104,960</b>	<b>\$118,840</b>

**Summary of Legislative Action**

The legislature adopted a decrease to the Commissioner of Political Practice's total biennial appropriations of approximately \$136,000 or 7.8% less than the 2021 biennium budget. The primary reason for the decrease was due to changes in operating expenses. Operating expenses are about \$520,000 or 32.1% of the total 2023 biennium appropriations. The legislature adopted a decrease of about \$69,000 in FY 2022 and \$86,000 in FY 2023. The decrease is included in the statewide present law adjustments for fixed costs associated with lower costs for information technology services provided by the State Information Technology Services Division of about \$73,000 a year. The decrease includes the completion of a software/database upgrade project. The reduction is offset by an appropriation for legislative audit costs in FY 2022.

In addition, the legislature approved a one-time-only general fund appropriation for 1.00 FTE and personal services for a legal counsel. Finally, the legislature reduced general fund in FY 2022 for a two month suspension of state share health insurance payments made on behalf of employees.

**Funding**

The following table shows adopted agency funding by source of authority.

Total Commissioner of Political Practices Funding by Source of Authority 2023 Biennium Budget Request - Commissioner of Political Practices						
Funds	HB2 Ongoing	HB2 OTO	Non-Budgeted Proprietary	Statutory Appropriation	Total All Sources	% Total All Funds
General Fund	1,395,878	223,800	0	0	1,619,678	100.00 %
State Special Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Federal Special Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Proprietary Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Other Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$1,395,878</b>	<b>\$223,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,619,678</b>	
<b>Percent - Total All Sources</b>	<b>86.18 %</b>	<b>13.82 %</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>		

The Commissioner of Political Practices is entirely funded with general fund.

**Budget Summary by Category**

The following table summarizes the total budget by base, present law adjustments, and new proposals. For a description of these categories, please see the [glossary](#).

Budget Summary by Category								
Budget Item	-----General Fund-----				-----Total Funds-----			
	Budget Fiscal 2022	Budget Fiscal 2023	Biennium Fiscal 22-23	Percent of Budget	Budget Fiscal 2022	Budget Fiscal 2023	Biennium Fiscal 22-23	Percent of Budget
2021 Base Budget	764,210	764,210	1,528,420	94.37 %	764,210	764,210	1,528,420	94.37 %
SWPL Adjustments	(59,192)	(73,609)	(132,801)	(8.20)%	(59,192)	(73,609)	(132,801)	(8.20)%
PL Adjustments	130	129	259	0.02 %	130	129	259	0.02 %
New Proposals	104,960	118,840	223,800	13.82 %	104,960	118,840	223,800	13.82 %
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$810,108</b>	<b>\$809,570</b>	<b>\$1,619,678</b>		<b>\$810,108</b>	<b>\$809,570</b>	<b>\$1,619,678</b>	

**Other Legislation**

HB 689 - This legislation revises campaign finance and campaign practice laws by establishing reporting requirements for contributions and expenditures from political committees that lease property from the State of Montana or the Montana University System. The bill requires the Legislative Services Division to provide the report generated by the Commissioner of Political Practices to the State Administration and Veteran's Affairs Interim Committee and the applicable standing committees.

SB 319 - This legislation revises campaign finance laws by authorizing joint fundraising committees for statewide candidates and political committees. These joint fundraising committees would be required to file committee finance reports with the Commissioner of Political Practices.

**Executive Budget Comparison**

Executive Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Approp. Fiscal 2021	Executive Budget Fiscal 2022	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2022	Leg — Exec. Difference Fiscal 2022	Executive Budget Fiscal 2023	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2023	Leg — Exec. Difference Fiscal 2023	Biennium Difference Fiscal 22-23
FTE	6.00	7.00	7.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00
Personal Services	551,510	541,923	541,923	0	558,075	558,075	0	0
Operating Expenses	337,410	268,055	268,185	130	251,366	251,495	129	259
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$888,920</b>	<b>\$809,978</b>	<b>\$810,108</b>	<b>\$130</b>	<b>\$809,441</b>	<b>\$809,570</b>	<b>\$129</b>	<b>\$259</b>
General Fund	888,920	809,978	810,108	130	809,441	809,570	129	259
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$888,920</b>	<b>\$809,978</b>	<b>\$810,108</b>	<b>\$130</b>	<b>\$809,441</b>	<b>\$809,570</b>	<b>\$129</b>	<b>\$259</b>
<b>Total Ongoing</b>	<b>\$764,210</b>	<b>\$823,767</b>	<b>\$705,148</b>	<b>(\$118,619)</b>	<b>\$809,441</b>	<b>\$690,730</b>	<b>(\$118,711)</b>	<b>(\$237,330)</b>
<b>Total OTO</b>	<b>\$124,710</b>	<b>(\$13,789)</b>	<b>\$104,960</b>	<b>\$118,749</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$118,840</b>	<b>\$118,840</b>	<b>\$237,589</b>

The legislature adopted ongoing appropriations that are about \$237,000 lower than proposed appropriations for the 2023 biennium. The primary driver of the lower ongoing appropriation level is the adoption of a proposal for 1.00 FTE for legal counsel for the Commissioner of Political Practices as one-time-only, though it was proposed as an ongoing appropriation. The legislature adopted changes to fixed costs that adjusted appropriations for information technology services.

**Program Actuals and Budget Comparison**

The following table compares FY 2020 actual expenditures to the 2021 biennium appropriated budget and the 2023 biennium adopted budget by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Program Actuals and Budget Comparison					
Budget Item	Actuals Fiscal 2020	Approp. Fiscal 2020	Approp. Fiscal 2021	Legislative Fiscal 2022	Legislative Fiscal 2023
FTE	0.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00
Personal Services	495,626	518,041	551,510	541,923	558,075
Operating Expenses	270,904	349,154	337,410	268,185	251,495
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$766,530</b>	<b>\$867,195</b>	<b>\$888,920</b>	<b>\$810,108</b>	<b>\$809,570</b>
General Fund	766,530	867,195	888,920	810,108	809,570
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$766,530</b>	<b>\$867,195</b>	<b>\$888,920</b>	<b>\$810,108</b>	<b>\$809,570</b>
<b>Total Ongoing</b>	<b>\$667,103</b>	<b>\$767,410</b>	<b>\$764,210</b>	<b>\$705,148</b>	<b>\$690,730</b>
<b>Total OTO</b>	<b>\$99,427</b>	<b>\$99,785</b>	<b>\$124,710</b>	<b>\$104,960</b>	<b>\$118,840</b>

**Present Law Adjustments**

The "Present Law" Adjustments table shows the changes from the base appropriation to the adopted budget. "Statewide Present Law" adjustments (DP 1, DP 2, DP 3) are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies.

	-----Fiscal 2022-----					-----Fiscal 2023-----				
	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 1 - Personal Services	0.00	10,163	0	0	10,163	0.00	12,435	0	0	12,435
DP 2 - Fixed Costs	0.00	(69,291)	0	0	(69,291)	0.00	(86,004)	0	0	(86,004)
DP 3 - Inflation Deflation	0.00	(64)	0	0	(64)	0.00	(40)	0	0	(40)
DP 50 - SWPLA Fixed Cost Reductions	0.00	130	0	0	130	0.00	129	0	0	129
<b>Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(\$59,062)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$59,062)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(\$73,480)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$73,480)</b>

\*"Total Funds" amount includes funding from sources other than General Fund, State Special, or Federal Special (i.e. Proprietary).

DP 1 - Personal Services -

The legislature made adjustments to the present law personal services budget for expected changes, management decisions, and budget modifications.

DP 2 - Fixed Costs -

The legislature made adjustments to fixed costs assessed by other agencies within state government for the services they provide. Examples include: warrant writer, motor pool, etc. The rates charged for these services are approved in the section of the budget that provides the services.

DP 3 - Inflation Deflation -

The legislature made adjustments to reflect budgetary changes generated from the application of inflation and deflation factors to specific expenditure accounts. Affected accounts include food, postage, gasoline, and others.

DP 50 - SWPLA Fixed Cost Reductions -

The legislature changed fixed costs for warehouses, storage rooms, and information technology.

**New Proposals**

The New Proposals table shows new changes to spending

New Proposals	-----Fiscal 2022-----					-----Fiscal 2023-----				
	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 3201 - Attorney Position (OTO)	1.00	118,749	0	0	118,749	1.00	118,840	0	0	118,840
DP 5555 - Reduce GF Budget for State Share Holiday (OTO)	0.00	(13,789)	0	0	(13,789)	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>\$104,960</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$104,960</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>\$118,840</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$118,840</b>

\*"Total Funds" amount includes funding from sources other than General Fund, State Special, or Federal Special (i.e. Proprietary).

DP 3201 - Attorney Position (OTO) -

The legislature reestablished 1.00 FTE for a legal counsel for the Commissioner of Political Practices as a one-time-only general fund appropriation.

DP 5555 - Reduce GF Budget for State Share Holiday (OTO) -

The legislature eliminated the state share contribution to the state employee group benefit plan for two months. Reserves are used to pay benefits during the holiday. This change package removes the general fund portion of the savings generated by the suspension of the contributions. Savings from other funding sources, if applicable, remain in agency personal services budgets.