



COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

STATE OF MONTANA

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Info on Montana 2024 Candidate filing and COPP filings:

Filing for Office:

You File for Office with the Secretary of State (Statewide, State District), or Election Administrator (County) or District Clerk (School Trustees).

- Election calendars available on the MT SOS website here:
<https://sosmt.gov/elections/calendars/>
- Filing for Office occurs - Statewide, State District, County 1/11/24 – 3/11/24.
Filing opens on 1/11/2024 at 8:00 a.m. and closes on 3/11/2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Filing with the COPP is separate and required by Montana Law:

When you become a candidate*

**An individual who has filed a declaration or petition for nomination, acceptance of contributions, made expenditures...see definition 13-1-101, MCA.*

If you are soliciting or accepting contributions, spending money, or have filed with the SOS/EA/DC, you need to:

- Within 5 days, file form C1 / C1A, the Statement of Candidate, with the COPP. File electronically, using the Campaign Electronic Reporting System (CERS). CERS can be accessed via the COPP's website, www.politicalpractices.mt.gov, click the "**ACCESS CERS**" icon (all candidates are required to file electronically);
- County, (& School board) candidates – select reporting status. Select "B" box if total activity will not exceed \$500 or "C" box if activity will exceed \$500.
- All Statewide and State District candidates and "C" box candidates will need to file form C-5, campaign finance reports, **electronically** when due, following the appropriate even-year reporting calendar that cover specific reporting periods. Reporting for the 2024 Calendar Year begins March 20, 2024. *If candidates register prior to 2024, they need to follow the quarterly reports through 1/5/24.* (2024 Reporting Candidate Calendar attached to this printout)

Note: All Statewide and State District candidates **file D1 Business Disclosure** statement with COPP within 5 days of filing for Office. Note, this form must be printed, signed and returned to the COPP by mail, scanned and/or email.

As always, direct campaign finance & practices questions to the COPP at cpphelp@mt.gov or call 406.444.3919

Direct election related filing questions to the SOS <https://sosmt.gov/elections/>; Election Administrator [Election Administrators Contact List \(sosmt.gov\)](https://sosmt.gov/elections/contact); and School District Clerk https://opi.mt.gov/School_Finance_Upload/Elections?folderId=45233

CANDIDATE 2024 ELECTION YEAR CALENDAR

June Primary / November General Elections

Report form C-5 must be filed for **each** reporting period to disclose all transactions that occurred during the specific reporting period (even if \$0)

REPORT DUE ON THIS DATE	REPORTING PERIOD FOR C5 REPORT DUE	13-37-226 MCA
*Odd year before the election (2023)		13-37-226. Time for filing reports, MCA (mt.gov)
April 5*	Quarterly- Date of first contribution/expenditure through March 31, 2023	13-37-226 (1)(a)
July 5*	Quarterly- April 1 through June 30, 2023	13-37-226 (1)(a)
October 5*	Quarterly- July 1 through Sept. 30, 2023	13-37-226 (1)(a)
January 5*	Quarterly- Oct. 1 through December 31	13-37-226 (1)(a)
13-37-226(1)(a) MCA ---- *Pre-election year reporting	(a) quarterly, due on the 5th day following a calendar quarter, beginning with the calendar quarter in which funds are received or expended during the year or years prior to the election year that the candidate expects to be on the ballot and ending in the final quarter of the year preceding the year of an election in which the candidate participates;	
Year of the election reporting (2024)		
March 20	Monthly- January 1 through March 15	13-37-226 (1)(b)
April 20	Monthly- March 16 through April 15	13-37-226 (1)(b)
May 15 through primary election date (C-7 and C-7E Reporting Period)	File form C-7 within 2 business days if a contribution of \$700 - statewide candidates; \$400 - State District/County candidates is received from a single source between between May 15 and the day before the primary election (June 3rd)	13-37-226 (1)(c.)
	File form C-7E within 2 business days if an expenditure of \$700 - statewide candidates; \$400 - State District/County candidates is received from a single source between between May 15 and the day before the primary election (June 3rd)	13-37-226 (1)(d)
May 20	Monthly- April 16 through May 14	13-37-226 (1)(b)
June 4, 2024	PRIMARY ELECTION	13-1-107 MCA
June 20	Post Primary- May 15 through June 15	13-37-226 (1)(b)
August 20	Monthly- June 16 through August 15	13-37-226 (1)(b)
September 20	Monthly- August 16 through September 15	13-37-226 (1)(b)
October 15 through general election date (C-7 and C-7E Reporting Period)	File form C-7 within 2 business days if a contribution of \$700 - statewide candidates; \$400 - State District/County candidates is received from a single source between between Oct 15 and the day before the primary election (Nov 4th)	13-37-226 (1)(c.)
	File form C-7E within 2 business days if an expenditure of \$700 - statewide candidates; \$400 - State District/County candidates is received from a single source between between Oct 15 and the day before the primary election (Nov 4th)	13-37-226 (1)(d)
October 20	Monthly- September 16 through October 14	13-37-226 (1)(b)
November 5, 2024	GENERAL ELECTION	
November 20	Monthly- October 15 through November 15	13-37-226 (1)(b)
March 10, 2025	Reference 13-37-226(1)(e), Mont. Code Ann. for post election year reporting dates: (e) semiannually on the 10th day of March and September, starting in the year following an election in which the candidate participates until the candidate files a closing report as specified in	13-37-226 (1)(e.)
September 10, 2025	13-37-228(3)	13-37-226 (1)(e.)