



COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

STATE OF MONTANA

CHRIS J. GALLUS
COMMISSIONER
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942
FAX (406) 444-1643
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

1209 EIGHTH AVENUE
P.O. BOX 202401
HELENA, MT 59620-2401

Info on Montana 2026 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 2/17/2026 – 3/04/26
Filing opens on 2/17/2026 at 8:00 a.m. and closes on 3/04/2026 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) per 13-37-201 (2)(a) MCA [13-37-201. Campaign treasurer, MCA](#) CERS can be accessed via the COPP's website, <https://politicalpractices.mt.gov/> click the **"ACCESS CERS"** icon / next page **ACCESS MY ACCOUNTS** icon (OKTA sign in). All candidates required to electronically file.
 - 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 2026 Calendar Year begins March 20, 2026. If candidates register prior to 2026, they need to follow the quarterly reports through 1/5/26. (2026 Reporting Candidate Calendar attached to this printout) <https://politicalpractices.mt.gov/Home/Even-year-2026-candidate-reporting-calendar.pdf>
 - Note: All Statewide and State District candidates file D1 Business Disclosure statement with COPP within 5 days of filing for Office per 2-2-106 (1)(b) MCA [2-2-106. Disclosure, MCA](#) 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 \(sosmt.gov\)](#); and School District Clerk https://opi.mt.gov/School_Finance_Upload/Elections?folderId=45233