

Proposal for Legislation -- 2009
(for the 2009 Legislative Session)

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http://test.leg.mt.gov/css/committees/interim/2007_2008/st_admin_vet_affairs/default.asp

PROPOSER'S NAME/TITLE: Brad Johnson
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ORGANIZATION: Secretary of State

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1. What is the problem or issue?

Filing deadline for candidate filings between the commissioner of political Practices and the Secretary of State should be better coordinated,

2. What do you want the legislation to do?

With the advent of online filing, accommodation should be made to allow candidates to change filing information such as the name as it will appear on the ballot. This date is not currently specified in law. We would propose that all candidates have until the date the candidate's paperwork is to be filed with the commissioner of political practices (but before the ballot has been certified) to modify this information. This would clarify when and how a candidate could make modifications to filing information such as his/her name.

In addition, the filing period for candidates should be shorter, allowing counties more time for ballot preparation and printing. Currently there is too short of a turn-around period between when the Secretary of State certifies the ballot to the counties, and when the counties must have ballots available. This proposal came out of a meeting between the election office and representatives from both major political parties. The proposal has also been discussed with the Commissioner of Political Practices.

3. If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.

MCA 13-10-201
MCA 13-10-208

4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose (e.g., an increase in or both)?

5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.

No

6. If you are a holdover senator or a legislative candidate running unopposed, do you want the Legislative Services Division staff to consider this a bill draft request?

PLEASE RETURN YOUR PROPOSAL FOR LEGISLATION by May 30, 2008

SAVA\Form for Legislation Proposal - 2009.wpd
C10425 8140dbxb.

Coordinate Filing Deadline SAVA Form (2) Final