

Commissioner of Political Practices Program Goals	Agency/Program #: 3202-02-G2	
	Division:	
	Program:	Administration
Agency Name:	Commissioner of Political Practices	
Agency Contact:	Dennis Unsworth	444-2942
LFC Contact:	Representative Sesso, Representative Taylor	
LFD Liaison:	Matt Stayner	444-5834
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Program or Project Description:

This project involves providing an electronic filing system and additional resources on the web for political campaigns in order to simplify reporting, reduce campaign reporting errors, enhance public disclosure, and improve compliance with the law.

Fund Name:	Appropriation, Expenditure and Source				Approp & Expenditure numbers are as of June 30, 2009
	2008		2009		
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended	
General Fund	58,101	58,101	57,195	7,300	
State Special					
Federal Funds					
Total:	\$58,101	\$58,101	\$57,195	\$7,300	

Legislative Goal(s):

Facilitate accurate and timely filing of the required campaign finance reports.

Legislative Performance Measures:

Reduce filing errors by 25 percent by December 2008.

Point those with questions to the website and maintain timely and topical information so that fewer than 25 percent of callers call back with more questions.

2009 Biennium Significant Milestones:

		Completion Dates	
		Target	Actual
1	Testing for candidate registration and reporting is underway.	12/21/2007	Registration -- 12/7/2007
2	Launch of candidate registration and reporting is planned for early in the new year.	1/10/2008	Registration -- 12/12/2007
3	Development of committee registration is underway with launch planned for March '08 Revised Target Date:	12/15/2009	
4	Testing continues for both committee and candidate reporting. Services will be launched as soon as they're ready. Revised Target Date:	12/15/2009	
5	The degree of success in meeting our goal will be evident following reporting on the Nov '08 election. Goals for reducing filing errors won't be met.	12/23/2008	failed
6	Remake the CPP website; provide more information and an enhanced 'search' function.	12/15/2008	6/23/2008

Agency Performance Report:

CPP staff and a few select users are testing candidate reporting and upload services. We hope to complete testing November 16th, 2009 with launch set for early December.

Testing of committee registration, reporting, and upload is scheduled to begin November 17th. Launch is planned for mid-December, and our goal is to have all services launched by the end of the year.

Search and Download, the public side of the service, will be the last to complete. The utility of this piece is quite limited, as it will be useful for research of past elections only. Experience in the other states shows it's likely most candidates will not use the online service. For all those continuing to file on paper, staffing and budget preclude us from entering the data until the year following the election.

Current year election reports will continue to be scanned and available as image files in our FileNet service for public access.

Additional status notes since we reported last:

1. MI agreed to remove troublesome calendar functionality at a reduced cost, based on shared concerns.
2. Cumbersome "blessing" process in the registration service: with a change order, one step was removed and an e-mail verification added that explains the remaining steps.
3. Amended filings on-line: we had to give up this functionality in the interest of launching a system prior to the 2010 election cycle. We heard concerns about this during the last legislative session, and it's been our concern. But the design of the services do not account for it, so adding this functionality will be expensive and time-consuming. For the foreseeable future, campaigns and committees must amend filings on paper and CPP staff will have to make the changes manually.
4. Users moving from paper to electronic filing or electronic to paper: This was a priority change, given all the anticipated problems. It was addressed with a change order, though there is still potential for problems if a user switches back and forth between paper and electronic filing.
5. Upload services have been improved, with templates and improved instructions. The process remains complex however. The desired ease-of-use for this and other parts of the service was not achieved.
6. Search and download: Goal not met. This is the public side of the service and the public is likely to be disappointed.
7. Problem report was forcing users into a cumbersome fix: resolved at no cost to the agency.
8. Candidate loans to their own campaign: system was generating an erroneous error. Fixed.
9. Candidate registration and reporting is written in PERL; other systems are written in JAVA. Maintenance concerns remain.

LFD Narrative:

LFD Assessment: On-Track as revised

Data Relevance: The information provided by the agency relates to the legislative goals and performance measures.

Appropriation Status: Appropriation and expenditure data were provided, although no expenditure data was provided for FY10

Options:

- 1) Dismiss from further review
- 2) Review again in June, 2010
- 3) Request additional information
- 4) Upgrade or Downgrade the rating

Potential Questions for the Committee:

- What actions were taken by the agency to resolve the functional problems and time delay problems with the contractor to bring the project back on track?
- Additional status notes #6 states: "Search and download: Goal not met. This is the public side of the service and the public is likely to be disappointed." Please explain what this means and the programs intent to address the shortfall in functionality.
- The agency performance report states: "Experience in the other states shows it's likely most candidates will not use the online service." What is the basis for this statement and if so, why did the agency pursue the program?

Version	Date	Author
	11/23/2009	Stayner

Change Description
Load agency report and LFD Narrative