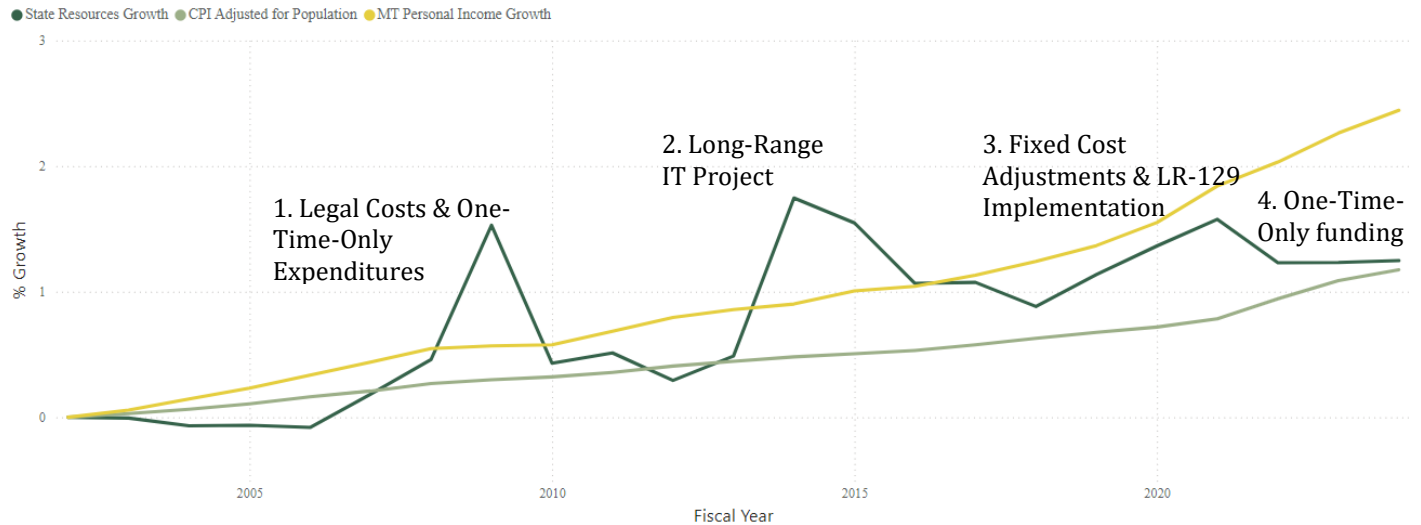


# Commissioner of Political Practices

The chart compares state resource expenditure growth to the growth in personal income and growth in inflation adjusted for population. Montana statute, 17-8-106, MCA, recommends using growth in personal income for comparison purposes. Personal income is a measure for growth in the economy. Comparing growth allows financial planners to consider past and future demands in services or changes in revenues.

The chart shows the growth in state resource expenditures compared to the growth in personal income and growth in inflation.



Growth in all fund's expenditures for the Commissioner of Political Practices generally parallels the growth in population and inflation, with the following exceptions:

1. For FY 2007 through FY 2009, expenses began to increase due to legal costs for the agency. Expenses continued to increase in FY 2008 and FY 2009 due to the one-time-only addition of 1.00 PB (position budgeted) for a campaign violation investigator and one-time-only expenses for a campaign filing system and lobbyist/principal system.
2. In the 2013 Legislative Session, HB 10 appropriated funds for a long-range information technology project for a campaign reporting service and database rewrite. This project was completed in FY 2015.
3. For FY 2020 and FY 2021, the legislature approved adjustments to fixed costs assessed by other agencies within state government for the services they provide. Additionally, the legislature adopted a one-time-only appropriation of general fund in FY 2021 only for personal services related to the implementation of Legislative Referendum 129 (LR-129). LR-129 was approved in the November 2018 General Election. This referendum created the Montana Ballot Interference Prevention Act, and it limits who can collect and convey a ballot belonging to another person to a polling place or to the election administrator's office. The legislature approved a one-time-only appropriation for a full-time position for six months in FY 2021 only (July 2020 – December 2020). The decrease in expenditures following this increase is due to the expiration of this funding in both legal services and information technology (IT) expenditures.
4. The Commissioner of Political Practices was provided one-time-only funding for 1.00 PB, an attorney, for the 2023 biennium. This position was then appropriated as ongoing by the 2023 Legislature.



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## General Fund

With the exception of the long-range IT project in the 2015 biennium, the Commissioner of Political Practices has been funded entirely with general fund for the last 20 years. The long-range IT project was funded through capital projects funds in HB 10.



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