

Additional Publications Available:

- ✓ A Guide to Record-Keeping for all Candidates and Committees
- ✓ After Election Requirements & Debt Service Committees
- ✓ Campaign Committees
- ✓ Campaign Materials Identification Requirements
- ✓ Fund-Raising Activity
- ✓ Guide to Continuing Committees (PACS)
- ✓ Statement of Limited Activity Requirements
- ✓ Terminating a Committee
- ✓ Treasurer's Guide for Campaign Finance
- ✓ When to Form & Register a Committee
- ✓ Guide to Ethics Law — A Plain English Summary

*Visit our website for training tutorials, FAQs and more!!*

[www.mec.mo.gov](http://www.mec.mo.gov)

Violation:

Violations of Chapter 130 are within the Missouri Ethics Commission's jurisdiction and, in the event a complaint is filed, may result in an enforcement action.



This brochure is intended only as a guide to aid understanding of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Law.

For the Law's complete requirements, consult the law itself codified at Chapter 130 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

## Exempt Candidates

### MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION



Revised 7/2016

**Missouri Ethics Commission**

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# Exempt Candidates (§ 130.016 RSMo)

## Record-Keeping

All candidates must keep records of their campaign finance activity regardless of their reporting requirements.

## What is an exempt candidate?

(§130.016 RSMo.)

An exempt candidate is a candidate running for

- ⇒ statewide elected office (ie. Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Attorney General)
- ⇒ the general assembly (ie. State Senator or Representative), OR
- ⇒ a municipal office in a city with a population of more than 100,000;

## and

- ⇒ Neither the aggregate of contributions received nor the aggregate of expenditures made by or on behalf of such candidate exceeds **\$500**; and no single contributor, other than the candidate, contributes more than **\$325** (\$500/\$325).

**TIP:** MEC advises candidates that meet the requirements to file as exempt candidates that anticipate accepting contributions or making expenditures over \$500 to proceed with forming and registering a campaign finance committee.

## Does an exempt candidate have to file anything?

**Yes**, a candidate that meets the definition of an exempt candidate must file with the MEC, a:

- *Statement of Exemption (or Rejection) form & an Electronic Filing Agreement* at the beginning of their campaign stating they have no intention of exceeding the \$500/\$325 thresholds; **and**
- Each reporting period, an *Exemption Statement of Limited Activity (for Candidate Who Filed Statement of Exemption)*. This statement indicates the candidate is still below the \$500/\$325 thresholds for that reporting period (this is filed electronically).

**Further**, if the exempt candidate exceeds the \$500/\$325 thresholds, they must form a committee and:

- File a *Statement of (Exemption or) Rejection* stating they are **rejecting** the exempt status along with a *Statement of Committee Organization & Electronic Filing Agreement* form no later than 30 days

before the election; and

- File all required campaign finance reports that would have been required if the candidate had not filed a *Statement of Exemption*; and
- Report **all** contributions received and/or expenditures made (including those received/spent before filing the *Statement of Committee Organization*).

View **Candidate Reporting Requirements Tutorial** on our website for more information.

**REPORTING PERIODS:** Exempt candidates and campaign finance committees must file disclosure reports as required by law, which may include:

- ⇒ 40 Day Before Election,
- ⇒ 8 Day Before Election,
- ⇒ 30 Day After Election,
- ⇒ Quarterly Reports; and
- ⇒ any additional “as needed” reports (i.e. *48 Hour Report of Contributions over \$5,000, 24 Hour Notice of Late Contribution, Late Expenditure Report (PACS)*).

See filing **calendars** on our website for exact dates specific to an election.