

MEC News

Missouri Ethics Commission
Elizabeth L. Ziegler, Executive Director

VOLUME 46

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Meet Commissioner Frischer

The Missouri Ethics Commission is pleased to announce that Helene Frischer was recently named our newest Commissioner.

Commissioner Frischer is the owner of Law Office of Helene Frischer in St. Charles, Missouri. She began practicing law in Missouri in 1994 after practicing in Ohio. She received her Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from Drake University.

She serves from the Second Congressional District, for a term through March 15, 2024.

To learn more about Commissioner Frischer, visit her bio on our [web-site](#).

Welcome

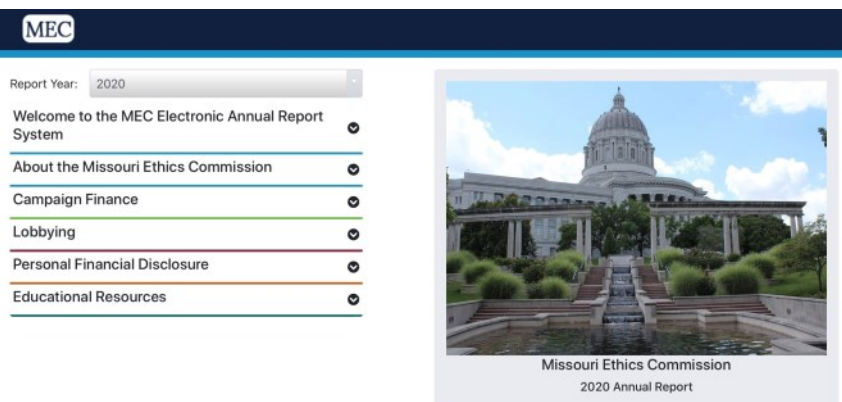
New Annual Report System

The MEC recently announced its launch of an online reporting system for annual statistics in the areas of campaign finance, lobbying, and personal financial disclosure information for public officials.

The MEC Annual Report System includes real-time data, in both graphic and table form, reported to the Commission during a calendar year. Electronic information can be found from calendar years 2017 forward. Because this is real-time data, this information is updated as reports are filed or amended, even for a prior year. Information provided for the current year is displayed as available.

"This system is part of an ongoing effort by the MEC team to provide up-to-date information to the public on its website. We continuously seek ways to further the mission of the Commission by promoting transparency, and by educating and increasing awareness of these important laws concerning public elections and officials," stated Elizabeth Ziegler, Executive Director.

While the Commission's final actions in enforcement cases are available on its website, additional statistical information on enforcement will be added in the future.



Inside this issue:

- New Annual Report System
- Annual Operating Budget
- Campaign Finance Reminders
- Employee Spotlight
- Political Subdivision Ordinances
- Lobbying Report Due
- E-filing Tutorials

Annual Operating Budget

Political subdivisions must confirm to the MEC whether their Annual Operating Budget (AOB) is:

- Over \$1 million or
- \$1 million or under

You should have received an email with the Subdivision ID and password. Please note, passwords are case-sensitive.

To e-file your subdivision's AOB

Starting July 1, through August 15, go to our [website](#) and:

1. Under Login, enter your Subdivision ID, then click Sign In. On the next page enter your password, then click Log-In. (use your political subdivision's log-in information)
2. Update subdivision contact information, if necessary.
3. Confirm your AOB.
(you will receive email confirmation)

Our Mission: The MEC serves the public interest by promoting and maintaining transparency, accountability, and compliance with campaign finance, lobbying, and conflict of interest laws. We educate and assist the citizens of Missouri, public officials, lobbyists, and those participating in public elections by increasing awareness and understanding of the law. We investigate and enforce these laws consistently.

Campaign Finance Reminders and Tips

- **Contribution limits in effect** for candidates for statewide, judicial office, and the General Assembly are as follows:

Statewide office: \$2,650;

Judicial office: \$2,650;

State Senator: \$2,559;

State Representative: \$2,046;

- **These contribution limits apply to the August 2020 Primary Election** and then the November 2020 General Election. A primary election and the succeeding general election are considered two separate elections. Contributions for the general election cannot be received until after the primary election.
- **There are no contribution limits on candidates for local offices.** (Some cities and counties have local contribution limits for their candidates (e.g., St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Kansas City). Verify with governing body.)
- **While the contributions limits** do not apply to local candidates, there are numerous provisions that apply to all candidate committees, including local candidates. Under these provisions, candidate committees:
 - **Cannot** accept contributions from another candidate committee
 - **Cannot** make contributions to another candidate committee
 - **Cannot** make contributions to PACs
 - **Cannot** accept contributions from corporations or labor organizations
 - **Can** receive contributions from PACs
 - **Can** make contributions to political party committees
 - **Can** receive contributions from political party committees



- **Labor organizations, corporations, and Missouri LLCs that** elect to be classified as a corporation under federal tax code are prohibited from making contributions (monetary or in-kind) to candidate committees, exploratory committees, political parties, and political party committees.

- **No candidate for the General Assembly** can accept a contribution from a federal PAC unless the federal PAC has a registered committee with the MEC 60 days prior to the election.

- **To aid in recording and importing contributions** and loans received, itemized expenditures all over \$100, and contributions made, filers can use the Import Function in the e-filing system. View [Excel Template](#), [Import Function Tutorial](#), and [Import Specifications](#).
- **Examples of miscellaneous receipts** include interest on the committee's bank account, receipt of a rejected contribution, and the refund of overpayment to a vendor. A miscellaneous disbursement is a returned contribution.
- **State law does not** regulate when campaign signs can be displayed in cities or counties. Contact the city or county for their requirements, if any.
- **PACs and political party committees** which make an expenditure in support/opposition of a candidate/ ballot measure would report the expense under the expenditures section and also on the supplemental form.

August 4, 2020 Primary Election

Forming a Committee

- Continuing (PAC) form by 06/05/20
- Other committees form by 07/05/20

40 Day Before*

- Not required for this election

July Quarterly

- Close 06/30/20
- Due 07/15/20

8 Day Before**

- Close 07/23/20
- Due 07/27/20

★ 08/04/2020 Election

30 Day After***

- Close 08/29/20
- Due 09/03/20

Physical address:

3411 A Knipp Dr. Jefferson City MO 65109

Mailing address:

PO Box 1370 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: 800-392-8660 573-751-2020

Email: helpdesk@mec.mo.gov

Website: www.mec.mo.gov

Employee Spotlight

Kaley Burroughs—Training Assistant

Kaley Burroughs is the Training Assistant and newest member of the MEC team. Kaley recently graduated with "purple pride" from Truman State University as a political science and communication double major. A St. Louis native, Kaley just moved to Jefferson City where she likes to spend her time reading historical fiction, going for a jog, and experimenting in the kitchen.

Political Subdivision Ordinances

Section 105.485.4, RSMo allows each political subdivision the option of adopting their own method of disclosing conflicts of interest and personal financial disclosure. If your subdivision chooses to adopt an ordinance, state statute requires that the ordinance be adopted every other year by September 15. A certified copy of the ordinance must be filed with the MEC within 10 days of adoption.

Please note—the minimum requirements outlined in statute for an ordinance do not include penalties. Any penalties that the subdivision is authorized to enforce should be established by the ordinance. Upon adopting the ordinance, the political subdivision becomes responsible for enforcing it.

All candidates must file a Financial Interest Statement for Political Subdivisions if they have any transactions over \$500 with the political subdivision, even if candidates are not listed specifically in the ordinance. If candidates do not have any transactions, consult ordinance for filing requirements. Make sure to review the ordinance prior to adoption to ensure it includes all of the aspects desired by the political subdivision.

To access a sample ordinance, complete the following steps:

1. From the top of the MEC [homepage](#), click the "Financial Disclosure" tab



2. Once on the "Financial Disclosure" [tab](#), scroll to the "Popular Topics" section near the bottom of the page and select "Sample Ordinance."

Popular Topics

Reporting Schedule

A calendar of upcoming deadlines for filing your personal financial disclosure statement.

Guide to PFD

Use the guide to complete your personal financial disclosure.

Sample Ordinance

A sample of an ordinance/resolution/policy pertaining to conflicts of interest and personal financial disclosure.

Lobbyists

Monthly Expenditure Reports

Due by 5 p.m. on

7/10, 8/10, & 9/10

New candidate?

When it comes to filing your reports, you have questions. Our tutorials have answers!

Click "[Watch Now](#)" to view a step-by-step overview explaining how to file your reports. Then, click on the "[Educational Resources](#)" tab on the MEC homepage to explore more detailed information.

[Watch Now](#)

