



2026 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In 2026, the Missouri General Assembly passed, and Governor Kehoe subsequently signed two bills impacting campaign finance requirements: [House Bill 1871](#) and [Senate Bill 1572](#). This legislation includes:

- A new contribution solicitation disclaimer
- Recurring contributions requirements
- Restrictions on how special districts may use public funds related to elections
- New allowable uses of campaign finance contributions
- Campaign finance requirements for lobbyists running for office

Contribution solicitation disclaimer

House Bill 1871 added [§ 130.031.13, RSMo](#), requiring all contribution solicitations to include a clear and conspicuous disclaimer identifying the committee(s) that will benefit from the funds received as a result of the solicitation. The disclaimer must also indicate what percentage of each contribution will be received by the committee, and what percentage of each contribution will be received by any other entity.

[Read more](#)

Recurring contributions

House Bill 1871 added [§ 130.031.14, RSMo](#), requiring committees to obtain affirmative consent prior to accepting recurring contributions and provide contributors with a receipt containing specific information after each recurring contribution. Committees must discontinue recurring contributions upon request and recurring contributions made to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures must end after the relevant election.

[Read more](#)

Use of public funds – special districts

House Bill 1871 extended use of public funds restrictions in [§ 115.646, RSMo](#), to special districts in addition to political subdivisions and charter schools. Special districts include “any school district, water district, fire protection district, hospital district, health center, nursing district, or other districts formed pursuant to the laws of Missouri to provide limited, specific services.”

Per [§ 115.646, RSMo](#), no contribution or expenditure of public funds can be made by an officer, employee, or agent, of a political subdivision, special district, or charter school to advocate, support or oppose any ballot measure or candidate. Officials may issue press releases and make public appearances related to a ballot measure. Political subdivisions, special districts, and charter schools should consult with their attorney when crafting information related to a ballot measure to avoid using public funds and resources for advocacy purposes.

Any printed material related to a ballot measure or candidate (not just material supporting or opposing the measure or candidate) must include a paid for by disclaimer. See the MEC’s [Paid for By Disclosure Requirements Information Sheet](#) for details.

Use of public retirement system funds

Senate Bill 1572 added [§ 105.695, RSMo](#), preventing any public pension system from using system funds to make contributions or expenditures to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure. This restriction extends to any retirement system established by the state of Missouri or any political subdivision or instrumentality of the state for the purpose of providing plan benefits for elected or appointed officials or employees of the state or any political subdivision or instrumentality of the state. Retirement systems and their employees may educate and inform members and the public about potential impacts to the system through regular system programs, processes, and job duties.

Retirement systems should consult with their attorney when crafting information related to a ballot measure or candidate to avoid using system funds and resources for advocacy purposes.

Any printed material related to a candidate or ballot measure (not just material supporting or opposing) must include a paid for by disclaimer. See the MEC’s [Paid for By Disclosure Requirements Information Sheet](#) for details.

Use of campaign contributions

House Bill 1871 expanded the list of acceptable uses of campaign contributions under [§ 130.034, RSMo](#), to include any expenses associated with the personal security of an elected officeholder and any childcare expenses that result directly from campaigning for or holding elected office. No childcare expenses may be made to a member of the candidate or officeholder's household.

Committees should ensure that their recordkeeping thoroughly documents all childcare expenses.

For example, committees should keep any log sheets, timesheets, and/or any other documentation which substantiates that the childcare expenses would not have been incurred but for your campaign or official duties.

Lobbyists running for office

House Bill 1871 added [§ 105.465.2, RSMo](#), which allows registered lobbyists who are candidates for county, municipal, or school board office to maintain a candidate committee supporting their candidacy, so long as the individual never simultaneously lobbies the political subdivision in which he or she is running for office.

However, an individual may not simultaneously act as a registered lobbyist and maintain a candidate committee to support a bid for General Assembly or statewide office.

Lobbyists who are maintaining or dissolving their candidate committee may only use committee funds to support the individual's candidacy (only if the committee is maintained), return contributions to the original contributor, donate to a 501(c)(3), or transfer funds to a political party.