

Terminating a Committee

When to Terminate a Committee

Successful candidates: may terminate committee at any time, including at the conclusion of their term of office. To keep your committee open and continue receiving contributions, amend your *Statement of Committee Organization*, updating your election information.

Unsuccessful candidates: must terminate committee within 30 days of election if the committee has more money on hand than debt.

Campaign committee: terminate the later of 30 days after the general election or upon the satisfaction of all debt.

Debt service committee: terminate no later than 18 months after converting to a debt service committee or within 30 days of receiving contributions exceeding the amount of committee debt.

- After retiring debt, return any excess money to the original contributor. If the contributor is unknown, funds are turned over to the State Treasurer.
- No debt service committee can engage in any activities other than retiring committee debt.

Dissolving Committee Funds (§ 130.034, RSMo, MO Const., Art. VIII, § 23)

Contributions may be used for any purpose allowed by law, including, but not limited to:

- The return of a contribution to the original contributor (subject to certain restrictions).
- Contributions to a political organization or committee as allowed by law (see limitations in MO Const. Art. VIII, § 23).
- Funds to establish a new campaign finance committee.
- An unconditional gift to any charitable, fraternal, or civic organization or association.

Campaign contributions, including when dissolving committee funds, cannot be converted to personal use.

Lobbyists dissolving their candidate committee have additional requirements. See § 105.465, RSMo.



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Steps to Terminate a Committee

(§§ 130.046.7 and 130.021.8, RSMo)

1. Distribute any excess funds and/or satisfy committee debt.
2. File a *Termination Statement* within 10 days of the committee's dissolution (30 days for debt service committees).
 - Report the distribution of any surplus funds.
 - Report the disposition of any outstanding debts (if a debt is forgiven, keep a signed statement from the creditor in your committee records).
 - Provide the name and contact information of the person responsible for preserving the committee's records and reports.
 - Complete a full disclosure report, including a *Termination Statement*, disclosing all campaign finance activity through the committee's dissolution date.
3. Close the committee's official bank account.
4. Preserve committee records and reports for at least three years after termination. Records and reports must be available for inspection by the MEC upon request.

Failure to Officially Terminate

If a *Termination Statement* and full disclosure report are not submitted, the committee must continue to submit any required campaign finance reports (including, at a minimum, *Quarterly Reports*). Failure to continue to submit reports in a timely manner could result in late fees of up to \$3,000.

A committee is not officially terminated until a *Termination Statement* and full disclosure report are filed with the MEC.



Related Resources

- [After Election Guidelines and Debt Service Committees](#)
- [Campaign Finance Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [After Election Guidelines Tutorial YouTube Series](#)
- [Chapter 130, RSMo.](#)



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