

Committees CANNOT:

- Receive contributions from any natural person who is not a citizen of the United States
- Receive contributions from any foreign government

Committees CAN:

- Receive contributions from political action committees (PACs)/continuing committees subject to contribution limits (if they apply)
- Make contributions to and receive contributions from political party committees
- Pay late fees incurred by their committee

Additional Restrictions for Candidate Committees:

- **Cannot** accept from or make contributions to another candidate committee, including federal candidate committees
- **Cannot** make contributions to political action committees (PACs)/continuing committees
- **Cannot** receive contributions from corporations (with some exceptions) and labor organizations directly

Violation:

Violations of Chapter 130, RSMo 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 and in Article VIII, Section 23 of the Missouri Constitution.

Use of Campaign Contributions

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION



1/2020

Missouri Ethics Commission
PO Box 1370
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-751-2020
800-392-8660
www.mec.mo.gov

Use of Campaign Contributions (§ 130.034, RSMo, Art. VIII, Sec. 23)

What is a Campaign Contribution?

(§ 130.011, RSMo)

A payment, gift, loan, advance, deposit or donation of money or anything of value for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot measure. A contribution can be in the form of money (monetary) or in a form other than money (in-kind).

Monetary Contributions:

- All monies contributed for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures. Examples include loans, advances, and a candidate's own money used in support of the person's candidacy (with specific exceptions noted in the law).

In-Kind Contributions:

- Contributions made, in a form other than money, for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures. Examples include gifts or donations of anything of value. In-kind contributions are reported at their fair market value.

Visit our website for additional resources, such as the *Ethics Guide* and *Guide to Record Keeping*.

www.mec.mo.gov

Allowable Uses of Campaign Contributions

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

- Expenses incurred and related to a campaign;
- Expenses incurred in connection with the duties of an elected office holder;
- Expenses associated with the duties of candidacy or of elective office pertaining to the entertaining of or providing social courtesies to constituents, professional associations, or other holders of elective office;
- The return of a contribution to the person who made the contribution to the candidate or elected office holder (subject to certain restrictions);
- Contributions to a political organization or candidate committee as allowed by law;
- Funds to establish a new committee, defined in Chapter 130, RSMo;
- An unconditional gift to any charitable, fraternal or civic organization or other association formed to provide for some good in the order of benevolence if such candidate, former candidate or holder of elective office or such person's immediate family gain no direct financial benefit from the unconditional gift; and/or
- Payment of reasonable attorney's fees accrued by a person who is the subject of a complaint and/or investigation arising from holding or running for public office.

Campaign contributions shall not be converted to personal use.

Lobbyists Dissolving Committee Funds

Any person who registers as a lobbyist and also has a candidate committee must dissolve the candidate committee and disburse all money of the committee by:

- Returning the contribution(s) to the person or entity that made the contribution;
- Donating to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity; or
- Transferring funds to a political party committee. § 105.465, RSMo.

No person who registers as a lobbyist can transfer funds from any committee such person controls to another committee controlled by a candidate or public official. § 130.097.2, RSMo.