

# MEC News

Missouri Ethics Commission  
Elizabeth L. Ziegler, Executive Director

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## Commission Update: New Commissioners



On January 31, 2019, the Missouri Senate confirmed our two newest Commissioners: Sherman "Bill" Birkes of Joplin, and Cheryl D.S. Walker of St. Louis.

Commissioner Birkes is a retired banker and financial analyst with over 30 years of experience. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Army Reserves and Missouri National Guard. He graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and a certificate from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. Commissioner Birkes is a former member of the Jasper County Central Fire District Board of Directors.

He is also a current member of the Rotary Club of Webb City and Carl Junction and a member of the Military Officers Association of America.

Commissioner Walker is Of Counsel to Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP. She received her Juris Doctorate from Washington University School of Law and Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at Missouri University of Science & Technology. She previously served on The University of Missouri Board of Curators from January 2003-July 2009, serving as Chair in 2008. She is a member of the Missouri Bar Association, American Bar Association, Mound City Bar Association, and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis. She is also President of the Board of Commissioners of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission, President of the Board of Directors of the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being, and a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Deaconess Foundation, where she served as President for two years. Her love for the arts is evidenced in her service as the Vice President of the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission.

### Political Subdivisions: Is your contact information up to date? If not, log in and update.

#### Check Status of your filers:

- Go to [our website](#).
- Log in to the [Political Subdivision Filing System](#) Use your subdivision log in information. (HINT: the MEC Online ID begins with the letter "S")
- Select the "Filer Status" GO button and view each filer's status. Verify that your designated required filers have submitted their PFD.

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## Personal Financial Disclosure - Have you filed?

### Annual Filers: May 1 deadline is fast approaching!

If your name was submitted to our office by a political subdivision (ex: state agency, county, city, board, school district, etc.) as a person required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) statement because of a position you held or now hold with that subdivision, then you must electronically file your PFD by **5:00 pm on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019** (or have it post-marked by April 30, 2019). Time period covered is from Jan 1, 2018 - Dec 31, 2018 (or portion of year that you served).

### E-File your PFD

Use ID and password sent to you in January to [log-in](#) and file PFD

*If you don't recall your ID/password click [HERE](#) to have them emailed to the address on file.*



**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.

## List of Principals & Legislative Action Report - Due May 30th

### Avoid these common reporting errors:

Only one report is required per principal; any one of multiple lobbyists that are registered to lobby on behalf of a principal may report for that principal.

Must include general description of the proposed action; may provide the bill number but also include brief description of the bill.

Report includes the lobbying of any action by an official agency, board or commission of state government  
(ex: if lobbying the head of a state agency, that action is reportable).



## MEC Employee Spotlight

### Brian Hamilton: MEC Attorney

Brian Hamilton has been the Staff Attorney for MEC since November 2016. Brian currently lives in Jefferson City with his wife and two children. Brian is an avid Cardinals fan. He is also an alumni of Missouri State and Mizzou. Brian has previously worked for the Department of Social Services and the Department of Labor. Brian enjoys working for the Commission as it affords him the opportunity to work directly with the public and helping them to understand our campaign finance laws. Brian said, "I enjoy working for the Commission because we promote open dialogue, transparency, and fairness. Promoting transparency is perhaps the most important element of my job because transparency builds trust. Trust is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy."

### Kindra Beiseman: New Team Member

Kindra Beiseman joined the Missouri Ethics Commission on January 22, 2019, as a Legal Assistant. She moved to Jefferson City in March of 2015 from De Soto, MO. Prior to coming to the MEC, she worked for the Department of Social Services for eleven years in various capacities, and prior to that she worked as a legal assistant for several years in a family law practice. Kindra has a Bachelor's degree in General Studies with a Business minor from Columbia College, and she recently applied to the Masters of Public Affairs program at Mizzou. In her free time, she likes to explore the outdoors with her dog, Chewbacca.

### Glenda Elliot: Retiree

Glenda Elliott retired after serving at the MEC for nine years. Glenda provided thousands of hours of assistance to candidates, treasurers, public officials, and interested citizens by answering questions and providing guidance in campaign finance reporting.

Glenda was well respected by the campaign finance community for her willingness to patiently assist a caller by taking the necessary time to ensure the filer pushes the submit button for an accurate and timely report.

We thank Glenda for her service and wish her well in retirement!

## Improved Lobbyist Search

MEC online lobbyist searches enable users to view registered lobbyist information such as contact information, list of principals, and monthly expenditure reports. Did you know you can change search types to get more specific search results?

In addition to Name Search, you may also search by the following criteria:

**Lobbyist Status :** Search results will list all Active or Terminated lobbyists.

**Lobbyist Registration Type:** Yields results specific to Executive, Legislative, Judicial, Local Government, and State Employee registration types.

**Lobbyist Company Name:** Use to view all registered lobbyists employed by a specific company.



Try it yourself: [MEC Lobbyist Search](https://mec.mo.gov/lobbyist-search)

### 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](mailto:helpdesk@mec.mo.gov)

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



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## Training Information

### Campaign Finance Webinars

Online training for new candidates/committees and their treasurers covering fundamental campaign finance topics.

#### 2019 Webinars:

Now on-demand!

- [Record Keeping](#)
- [Reporting](#)



### Is your organization, association, or political subdivision having a meeting or conference?

The Missouri Ethics Commission can conduct trainings on topics such as conflict of interest, use of public funds, personal financial disclosure, and campaign disclosure requirements.

To schedule, send a request to:  
[training@mec.mo.gov](mailto:training@mec.mo.gov)

## Contribution Limits Updates and Reminders

The Missouri Secretary of State issued an [emergency rule](#) effective March 30, 2019, (15.CSR 30-14.010) adjusting campaign contribution limits passed in November 2016 to \$2,650.

The Secretary has announced that he is seeking an Attorney General's Opinion regarding which contribution limits are in effect for the offices of State Senator and State Representative, given the passage of Amendment 1 in November 2018.

The Commission recommends that committees follow the contribution limits in Amendment 1 until the AGO issues its opinion. Those limits (per election) are:

**Statewide and judicial offices: \$2,650**

**State Senator: \$2,500**

**State Representative: \$2,000**

**Political party committees: \$25,550**

- There are no contribution limits on candidates for local offices. Some municipalities have local contribution limits (e.g., 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 PACs
- Labor organizations are prohibited from making contributions (monetary or in-kind) to political parties or candidate committees, exploratory committees, and political party committees
- 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 political parties or candidate committees, exploratory committees, and political party committees.

For more information, see the [Advisory Opinions](#) and the [FAQs](#) related to MO Constitutional Article VIII, Sec. 23 and the [FAQs](#) related to Constitutional Article III, Section 2.

## Campaign Finance Requirements and Tips

Successful candidates in the April 2 General Municipal Election must file the 30 Day After Election Report (if have expenditures or contributions made) BEFORE being sworn in. Time period is from day after last report closed through the day before the swearing-in.

**Did  
you  
know?**

You can import data from Microsoft Excel into the following designated reporting sections:

- Contributions and Loans Received (form CD1 section A)
- Itemized Expenditures all Over \$100 (form CD3 section B)
- Contributions Made – Regardless of Amount (form CD3 section C)

The following are provided to aid in recording and importing this data:  
[Excel Template](#), [Import Function Tutorial](#), and [Import Specifications](#).

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