

MEC News

Missouri Ethics Commission
Elizabeth L. Ziegler, Executive Director

VOLUME 45

April 2020

Meet Commissioner Cook

The Missouri Ethics Commission is pleased to announce that Robert C. Cook was recently named our newest Commissioner.

Commissioner Cook is retired from the U.S. Postal Service, holding a variety of positions throughout his career for over 30 years.

Commissioner Cook has resided in Boone County his entire life. He served on the Hallsville School Board from 1990 to 1998, and he is a former member of the Hallsville Park Board. He has been an active participant in civic activities, including the Hallsville Jaycees, the Hallsville Lion's Club, and the Hallsville Little League. He also has served as a high school sports official

He serves from the Fourth Congressional District, for a term through March 15, 2024.

Welcome

Inside this issue:

- Commission Update
- Training
- Have you filed your PFD?
- Employee Spotlight
- Campaign Finance Reminders
- Lobbying Report Due
- When To Form a Committee
- MEC Website Survey

Training Information

Assist and Educate Video Series launches on MEC YouTube Channel

As part of our efforts to increase awareness and understanding of the law, the MEC is excited to announce new training videos related to ethics laws. Named the Assist and Educate series, these videos can be viewed on the official [MEC YouTube channel](#).

The videos average just a few minutes each. Videos are also grouped by topic into playlists for more comprehensive study.

Our first playlist in the series covers "[paid for by](#)" disclosures for printed campaign material, such as yard signs and flyers.

New Candidate Training

As an alternative to in-person trainings the MEC also created a YouTube version of our Campaign Finance Training for Candidates and Treasurers. This fundamental training will provide candidates and committees with information related to record-keeping, reporting, and other campaign finance topics.

By clicking subscribe below you will be automatically notified when new videos become available.

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



Covid-19 Update

Filing deadlines and late fee assessments remain in effect. We understand that this time can be a challenge for our filers. MEC employees are working hard to assist filers and the public over the phone and through email to comply with these deadlines. Please reach out for assistance, if necessary, to help you comply with the deadlines. While campaign finance and lobbyist filings are electronic, personal financial disclosures (PFD) can be filed electronically or by mail. We strongly encourage those who can to file personal financial disclosures electronically. A link to obtain an ID to file a PFD is available on our website.

Personal Financial Disclosure - Have you filed?

Annual Filers: May 1 deadline is here!

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 1st, 2020** (or have it post-marked by April 30, 2020).

Time period covered is from Jan 1, 2019 - Dec 31, 2019 (or the portion of the 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.

See [PFD FAQs](#) for more info.

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 were adjusted** in January of 2020 and are as follows. Candidates for:

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

June 2, 2020 General Municipal Election

Forming a Committee

- Continuing (PAC) form by 04/03/20
- Other committees form by 5/03/20

April Quarterly (mandatory for all committees)

- Closes 3/31/20
- Due 04/15/20

8 Day Before *

- Closes 05/21/20
- Due 05/26/20

★ 06/02/2020 Election

30 Day After**

- Closes 06/27/20
- Due 07/02/20

- **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.
- **Successful candidates: although the report** is called the 30 Day After Election Report, if you are successful and had expenditures, the report must be filed BEFORE being sworn-in. Time period is from day after last report closed through the day before the swearing-in.
- **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](#).
- Business cards used for campaign purposes are considered printed material, see [Campaign Materials Identification Requirements](#) (Paid-for-by) Brochure.
- **Examples of miscellaneous receipts** include interest on the committee's bank account, receipt of a rejected contribution, refund of overpayment to a vendor.
- **Before opening a bank account for the committee** learn the bank's requirements. If the bank requires an EIN number go to [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov). Campaign finance law requires a bank account when registering a committee with MEC.
- **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.

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



Follow us!

Employee Spotlight

Tory Post : MEC Network Administrator

Tory Post is the Network Administrator for the MEC, employed since August 2015. Many in the office would describe Tory as the office problem solver. He can be relied on to go the extra mile when needed. Tory's positive attitude motivates everyone around him. Tory lives in Argyle with his wife and 3 children. He is an avid hockey fan, "Lets Go Blues", enjoys spending time in the outdoors, and going on ATV rides with friends and family.

Lobbyist

Monthly Expenditure Reports

Due by 5pm on 5/11 & 6/10

List of Principals and Legislative Action

Due 5/30

When to Form and Register a Committee

If you are not certain whether or not you need to form and register a committee, the MEC has resources to assist you in making that determination. If you know you are going to form and register a committee, use the Committee Checklist to ensure all the steps are completed.



Trying to decide if forming a committee is right for you?

Review our [When to Form & Register a Committee](#) brochure



Have you already decided to form a committee?

Use the [Committee Checklist](#) to navigate the requirements of forming and registering a committee.

MEC Website Survey

The MEC is conducting a short survey about our website and we'd like to hear from you.

We value every response and will consider each suggestion for future decisions.

Help make our website easier to use, take the survey now!

[Take Survey](#)



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



Follow us!