



New Advisory Opinions Issued

[2021.02.L.002](#)

This advisory opinion discusses restrictions on lobbying activities for former members of the General Assembly and limited liability companies (LLCs).

[2021.02.CI.003](#)

This advisory opinion discusses several conflict of interest provisions, including public notice, competitive bidding, and voting.

[2021.01.L.001](#)

This advisory opinion discusses lobbyists who serve as treasurers for political action committees (PACs).

To explore other Advisory Opinions issued by the MEC, view our Advisory Opinion Search [here](#).

Inside this issue:

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- PFD Reminders and FAQs
- List of Principals and Legislative Action Report Due
- Post-Election Campaign Finance Tips
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Personal Financial Disclosure - Have you filed?

Annual Filers:

Deadline  **May 3, 2021**

Time Period Covered:  **January 1, 2020—December 31, 2020**

Am I an annual filer?

Each year, all designating agencies and/or political subdivisions with an annual operating budget (AOB) over \$1 million are required by law to provide the MEC with a list of all individuals required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD).

Each year, annual filers (including many former officials or employees) receive notification of their filing requirement from the MEC and the political subdivision or agency that designates them as required to file. If you received a letter or other notification regarding your filing requirement, you must submit a PFD.

E-File your PFD

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

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



Frequently Asked Personal Financial Disclosure Questions

What if I'm an annual filer and a 2021 candidate?

You are only required to submit one PFD per calendar year. If you have already filed a PFD due to your status as a candidate in a 2021 election, you do not need to submit an additional disclosure.

What if I no longer hold the position that required me to file a PFD?

If you held the position at any point in 2020, you must submit a PFD. The PFD will disclose your financial interests from January 1, 2020 through the last day you held the position.

How do I update my name and/or address with the MEC?

To update your contact information with the MEC, email PFDOnline@mec.mo.gov

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 June 1, 2021 — 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 a general description of the proposed action; may provide the bill number, but also include a 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).



Campaign Finance Requirements and Tips

Successful candidates in the April 6 General Municipal Election must file the 30 Day After Election Report **before** being sworn in (if have expenditures or contributions made).

Deadline: May 6, 2021

Time Period Covered: Close of last full disclosure report—May 1, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions: Post-Election Campaign Finance

Do I need to keep my committee's records and reports?

A committee must preserve, for at least **three years** after the date of the election, or last report, to which the records pertain, all records and accounts of receipts and expenditures.

Keep these records available for inspection by the MEC.

If I am an unsuccessful candidate, what are my options?

An unsuccessful candidate committee is either required to:

- Terminate the committee if money on hand > debt; or
- Form a [debt service committee](#) if debt > money on hand

How do I terminate a committee?

A termination report must be filed within 10 days of dissolving the committee, along with the required full disclosure report, using the MEC's Campaign Finance Electronic Filing System.

Local ballot measure committees that file on paper with their local election authority, must file a full disclosure report and termination statement with their local election authority.

For more information, please refer to our [brochure](#).

What can I do with leftover committee funds?

- ✓ If **successful**, pay for necessary and ordinary expenses in connection with the duties of office
- ✓ Return excess contributions to the contributors who made them
- ✓ Make an unconditional gift to any charitable, fraternal, or civic type organization or association
- ✓ Contribute to a political organization
- ✓ Establish a new campaign finance committee
- ✗ Campaign contributions, including when dissolving committee funds, **cannot** be used for personal expenses
- ✗ Candidate committees **cannot** give to PACs or other candidate committees

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Employee Spotlight: Betsy Byers Retires



Following a lifetime of public service in Missouri, the MEC's Director of Compliance and Education, Betsy Byers, has retired.

Betsy joined the MEC staff in 2009. In her role as Director of Compliance and Education, Betsy

helped countless Missourians understand and comply with the state's governmental ethics laws.

Betsy's knowledge of the law, dedication to fairness, and endless supply of patience earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and the public.

Prior to joining the Commission, Betsy served as a public school teacher, a county clerk, and worked at the Missouri Secretary of State's office.

We wish Betsy all the best in the next phase of her life!

Training Update

With in-person training opportunities limited due to COVID-19, the MEC has expanded its [virtual training](#) opportunities.

Check your inbox for upcoming webinars about required reports, after-election guidelines, conflict of interest, and more.

To request an MEC presentation at your organization's (virtual or in-person) event, email Training@mec.mo.gov

Calendar Check

May 2021

- 5/3/2021: Annual Filer PFD due
- 5/6/2021: 30 Day After General Municipal Election Report due
- 5/7/2021: Harry Truman Day—State offices closed
- 5/10/2021: Lobbyist Monthly Expenditure report due
- 5/31/2021: Memorial Day—State offices closed

June 2021

- 6/1/2021: Lobbyist List of Principals and Legislative Action Report due
- 6/10/2021: Lobbyist Monthly Expenditure Report due

MAY 2021							JUNE 2021						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

Key

- [Campaign Finance Report Due](#)
- [Lobbyist Report Due](#)
- [Annual Filer PFD Due](#)
- Election Day—Go vote!
- MEC Office Closed

