MEC News

Elizabeth Ziegler | Executive Director

Personal Financial Disclosure:

Have you filed?

Many public employees and officials must annually file a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) statement with the MEC to prevent any potential conflicts of interest.

If you are an annual filer under Missouri law or designated as an annual PFD filer by your political subdivision (ex: city, county, district, etc.), you must file your PFD with the MEC no later than Monday, May 1, 2023.

Electronically File Your PFD:

- Click here to log-in to the PFD e-filing system.
- The MEC sent your ID and password in January.
- Can't find your login info? Click <u>here</u> to send your ID and password to your registered email address.

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Annual Filer Deadline:

May 1, 2023



Time Period Covered:

Disclose financial interests from 1/1/2022— 12/31/2022. If you only served a portion of the year, 1/1/2022—the last day you held the position.

In this issue:

- 2023 PFD Reminders
- New Advisory Opinion Issued
- Local Election Authorities: Register for MEC Training!
- Employee Spotlight: Casey
 Lawrence
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MEC Issues New Advisory Opinion

Upon written request, the Commission may issue advisory opinions, which act as legal direction to the person requesting the opinion. Anyone can review MEC Advisory Opinions to learn about the Commission's interpretation of the law. However, please note that MEC opinions deal only with the specific request to which the opinion responded and only as to the law as it existed at the date of the response.

The MEC recently issued <u>Advisory Opinion 2023.02.L.001</u>, which discusses the definition of a lobbyist and activities that constitute lobbying. You can view the opinion <u>here</u>. You can search for additional advisory opinions <u>here</u>.

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.

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Campaign Finance: What to do after the election

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES:

- Successful candidates must file the 30 Day After *Election Report* before being sworn-in to office.
- Successful candidates may choose to either terminate their committee or keep their committee open.
- Successful candidates who choose to keep their committee open should amend their *Statement* of Committee Organization to reflect their next election date to receive important filing reminders.
- Successful candidates who choose to terminate must disburse remaining funds or settle remaining debt, close their bank account and file a Ter*mination Statement* along with a full disclosure report.

UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES:

- Unsuccessful candidates with more money on hand than debt must terminate within 30 days.
- Unsuccessful candidates with more debt than money on hand may convert to a debt service committee to retire committee debt.
- To terminate your committee, disburse any remaining funds, settle any committee debt, close your committee's bank account, and file a full disclosure campaign finance report that includes a Termination Statement. You can terminate your committee using the *30 Day After Election* Report.
- To amend to a debt service committee, amend your Statement of Committee Organization to reflect that your committee is now a debt service committee.



Attention Local Election Authorities! MEC Training Opportunities

Join the MEC for a training session designed to assist clerks and local election authorities. The MEC's training team will discuss the process of preparing your political subdivision for a local election. Topics covered include reporting your annual operating budget, passing a conflict of interest ordinance, and important deadlines for 2023.

Register for a session today!

 IN-PERSON: Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 Time: 10:00—11:30 a.m. (30-minute Q&A session to follow) Location: James C. Kirkpatrick Information Center, 600 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65101 Register here 	WEBINAR:• Wednesday, June 21, 2023—10:00 a.m. (approx. 45-minute session)• Register here• Thursday, June 22, 2023—2:00 p.m. (approx. 45-minute session)• Register here		
Physical Address: 3411 A. Knipp Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109 Mailing Address: PO Box 1370, Jefferson City, MO 65102	Phone: 800-392-8660 or 573-751-2020 Email: helpdesk@mec.mo.gov Website: www.mec.mo.gov		

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Employee Spotlight: Casey Lawrence

Casey Lawrence is a Compliance and Education Specialist and newest member of the MEC team. Prior to her work at the Commission, Casey was the Director of Sunshine Law Compliance and Records Management for the Missouri Attorney General's Office, and gave Sunshine Law trainings throughout Missouri. When she is not educating constituents on behalf of the MEC Casey enjoys spending time with her family, baking, and reading mystery novels.

APRIL 2023						
	4/10	Lobbyist monthly expenditure report due				
	4/17	Mandatory April Quarterly Report due				
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30						

MEC Tip: Make sure to add deadlines to a calendar you check regularly to avoid late fees and penalties.

MAY 2023							
	5/1	Annual PFD Filer Deadline					
	5/4	30 Day After April 4 Election Report Due					
	5/8	Harry Truman Day—State offices closed					
	5/10	Lobbyist monthly expenditure report due					
	5/29	Memorial Day—State offices closed					
	5/30	List of Principals & Legislative Action Report due					
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

Calendar Check

JUNE 2023						
	6/12	Lobbyist monthly expenditure report due				
	6/19	Juneteenth—State offices closed				
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	



Coming Soon:

Mandatory July Quarterly Report due July 17, 2023



