### Missouri Ethics Commission

Julie Allen, Executive Director

# **MEC News**

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### MISSION

We serve the public interest. We assist and educate the citizens of Missouri, public officials, lobbyists, and those participating in public elections. We create transparency and accountability and consistently enforce campaign finance, conflict of interest, and lobbying laws.

# Website Updates

- 2013 Guide to Ethics Laws
- + 2013 Candidate Central (General Municipal)
- Deadlines & Reminders for Feb 5 & Apr 2 (General Municipal) Elections



E-file

# Are you required to file a PFD?

### **Annual Filers:**

If your name was submitted to our office by a political subdivision (county, city, board, school district, etc.) as a person required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) due to a position held in 2012, then you must file your PFD by **5:00 pm on May 1, 2013**.

Watch your mail for a letter with instructions for e-filing

### Campaign Finance January Quarterly Report

Report

- Time period is from the day after the close of your last full disclosure report through Dec 31
- Report due Jan 15

along with your MEC Online ID and Password.

Time period covered is from January I, 2012-December 31, 2012.

If you fail to file by May I, 2013, you will be assessed a late filing fee of \$10.00 per day. After 30 days the fee increases to \$100.00 per day, not to exceed \$6,000.00. Additional penalties may also apply.

### Incumbent Municipal Candidates:

As an incumbent municipal candidate your deadline for filing is by **5:00 pm on January 29, 2013**.

Time period covered is from January 1st, 2012 through January 15th, 2013.

Failure to file by the required deadline results in late fees and removal from the ballot.

### **Campaign Finance Reminders**

### Are you a candidate for 2013?

- View 2013 Candidate Central for information on PFD, committee requirements, campaign materials identification (paid-for-by) requirements and more!
- View <u>Deadlines & Reminders for Feb 5 and Apr 2 (General</u> <u>Municipal) Elections</u> for reports specific to the election date.
- Keep email addresses current with MEC
- <u>Register</u> for candidate training webinars
- Candidate committee treasurers must reside in district or county in which the committee is domiciled.

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# About the Commission

A note from Julie Allen-During my tenure as Executive Director, outreach & education, increasing transparency & accountability, and consistently administering MO's ethics laws have been a priority. I know the Commission will continue to serve MO's citizens well and I wish the Commission the best of luck as they perform the work established by the Legislature. Opportunities exist to serve our citizens better by improving MO's ethics laws. This includes providing greater transparency and accountability, simplifying the law's requirements when possible, & improving the integrity of the Commission's daily operations and authority. These are important factors, worthy of legislative action.

About the Commission—At the Commission, we serve the public interest. We assist and educate our customers, create transparency and accountability, and consistently enforce MO's ethics laws. Transparency and public information is a priority. We hope you find our website, searches, and resources useful.

Lobbyist

We are a 22-person, professional, and non-partisan staff. The Commissioners serve in a non-partisan manner and are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor, from the Congressional Districts.

Candidates, lobbyists, and public officials register and file with the Commission (2,500 campaign finance committees, 1,000 lobbyists, 10,000 Personal Financial Disclosure statements filed annually). We assist this community. Our responsibility includes enforcing the laws. We conduct investigations related to those filing reports with us and from received complaints. The Commission's authority and jurisdiction are defined in MO law. A case is investigated factually and the Commissioners' decisions are based on the investigative facts and law.

As we administer the ethics laws, we are a resource to the Legislature as it looks to improve financial transparency, accountability, and fairness in the election process. The Commission is committed to strengthening Missouri's ethics laws and the Commission's integrity.

Come visit our website and learn more about the Commission.

> Don't forget to view Lobbyist Tutorials

- What is a lobbyist expenditure? Money spent (or solicited) for public official, their staff or family or for group. See Lobbyist FAOS for more information
- What is the "List of Principals & Legislative Action Report"? This is a bi-annual report required to be filed by all lobbyists
  - \* Due March 15 & May 30 of each year.
  - \* File with MEC.
  - \* Include general description of proposed legislative action...which the lobbyist (or lobbyist principal) supported or opposed

## **Advisory Opinions**

Upon written request, the Commission issues advisory opinions about campaign finance disclosure, conflict of interest, lobbying and personal financial disclosure laws.

### **Recent Opinions:** 2012.12.CI.004 -

Ch 105 requires a hospital board to engage in competitive bidding when negotiating the purchase, sale or lease of a physician board members practice and that practice must be the lowest bid received. Also physician

### Training News

### **WEBINARS**

### **REGISTER NOW!** www.mec.mo.gov/training

- Session A: Campaign Finance Record-Keeping Webinar
- Session B: Campaign Finance Reporting Webinar
- ◆ Session C: PFD for Candidates Webinar

### **TUTORIALS**

- Political Subdivision Duties & Responsibilities—for county & city clerks and other officials regarding their duties related to MEC.
- Follow the Campaign Money-provides overview of MEC's searches
- Other Topics— Campaign Finance (for candidates, committees, & e-filing)
  - Paid-for-by

PFD

Lobbyists

#### Email training @ training@mec.mo.gov

cannot attempt to influence board for one year after resigning from board.

### 2012.12.CI.005 -

Former county commission can't influence decision of county commission in the event commission becomes legal advisor for another elected official in the same county.





### 3411 A Knipp Dr Jefferson City MO 65109

Mail: PO Box 1370 Jefferson City MO 65102

Email: helpdesk@mec.mo.gov

Phone: 800-392-8660 573-751-2020

Website: www.mec.mo.gov

Follow us on Twitter: @MOEthics

