

## NEW in 2017

Under **SB 786**, passed during the 2016 legislative session, beginning January 1, 2017, all committees, except campaign committees for local ballot measures, will be required to:

- [register](#) with the Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC),
- file reports electronically with the MEC, and
- pay any late fees for the late filing of reports.

Committees required to register and file with the MEC will no longer register the committee with the local election authority.

### Local Candidate Committees

If a committee for a local office is currently registered with the local election authority the committee will be transferred to the MEC. Local campaign committees will still have the option of registering and filing reports with the MEC, but must also register with the local election authority.

### Constitutional Amendment 2

On November 8, 2016, Missouri voters approved Constitutional Amendment 2 which, among its provisions, imposes campaign contribution limits on certain candidates for state office including statewide offices, legislative offices and judicial offices. The full text of [Amendment 2](#) can be viewed on the Secretary of State's website. The Commission has posted a summary of [questions and answers](#) regarding some aspects of Amendment 2. The Commission has also posted a summary of [advisory opinions](#), but has withheld issuing formal opinions due to pending litigation challenging certain provisions. Continue to watch our website for updates on the status of litigation as well as any opinions the Commission might issue.



### Campaign Finance Tip

[Candidate Central](#) has a useful [Committee Checklist](#) including steps for forming and registering a committee

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## Are you required to file a PFD?

### Annual Filers:

If your name was submitted to our office by a political subdivision (county, city, school district, fire district, etc.) as a person required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) due to a position held in 2016, then you must file your PFD by **5:00 pm on May 1, 2017**. Annual filers must file for each year (or portion of a year) for which they hold a position that requires the filing of a PFD.

Letters with instructions for e-filing along with your MEC Online ID and Password to [e-file](#) will be sent this month.

If you fail to file by May 1, 2017, 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.

The time period covered on the PFD for an annual filer is Jan. 1st, 2016-Dec 31st, 2016\*.

### Candidate Filers:

If you are required to file a PFD due to the office you are seeking in the April or August elections, then you must file your PFD **by an earlier due date**. The due date for the April election is Jan 31, 2017. Failure to file by this date will result in late fees, failure to file by Feb. 7, 2017, will result in disqualification and removal from the ballot, **unless** your subdivision has a conflict of interest ordinance or policy on file with the MEC. If filing deadlines are then not met, penalties (if any) are assessed by the subdivision according to its ordinance.

\*Time period covered for an incumbent candidate, or candidate who is also an annual filer, is Jan. 1, 2016—Jan. 17, 2017 for candidates in the April election.

Time period covered for a new candidate, or candidate who is **not** also an annual filer, is Jan. 17, 2016—Jan. 17, 2017 for candidates in the April election.

**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.

## Lobbyist Reminders

- **Lobbyist Renewal** was due Jan 5th, 2017. If lobbying, must register **within five days** of beginning lobbying activity.
- **Verify current registration** info by logging-in to [lobbyist e-file](#) system.
- **List of Principals and Legislative Action Report:**  
This report is filed twice each year due on March 15 and May 30 and filed with MEC. Include general description of proposed legislative action which the lobbyist (or lobbyist principal) supported or opposed.

### Lobbying: New Requirements

Sections [105.465](#) and [130.097](#), RSMo

Any person who registers as a lobbyist and also has a candidate committee must dissolve the candidate committee and disburse all money of the committee by:

- Returning a contribution to the person or entity making the contribution,
- Donating to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity, or
- Transferring funds to a political party committee.

No person who registers as a lobbyist can transfer funds from any committee such person controls to another committee controlled by a candidate or public official. (Also see MEC advisory opinions)

## MEC Employee Spotlight

### Bryan Mantle (Information Technologist I): Employee of the Quarter

Nominated for his work with the [Higher Education Institutions Out-of-State Travel Report](#). With the passage of [SB 997](#), if the spouse of any full-time employee of a public institution of higher education incurs out-of-state travel costs that are paid for or reimbursed by the institution then the employee has certain reporting requirements with the Commission. Bryan came into the office as a new employee and designed this new online filing system under a very critical deadline. Through the completion of his design, very few modifications had to be made to satisfy the Business Services Unit. Bryan trained staff on how to use this online filing system to assist outside filers in complying with the new requirements. Thank you, Bryan, for your hard work on this project and training fellow staff on learning this new system!

## Ballot Measures: Use of Public Funds

### Is your jurisdiction placing a question on the ballot?

If your public body anticipates putting a ballot measure before the voters in 2017, please be aware of Section 115.646, RSMo. That law provides that:

No contribution or expenditure of public funds shall be made directly by any officer, employee or agent of any political subdivision to advocate, support, or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office. This section shall not be construed to prohibit any public official of a political subdivision from making public appearances or from issuing press releases concerning any such ballot measure.

### How to:

Search "Use of Public funds" decisions

1. Go to the [MEC website](#)
2. Choose [Commission Business](#) at the top of the page.
3. At the very bottom of the Commission Business page click [Commission Actions](#)
4. Click **Advanced Search** (third gray tab on the right)
5. Go to **Step 3** and select Complaint Category, Use of Public Funds
6. Click **Search**

### Advisory Opinions

The Commission has also issued previous opinions about Use of Public Funds. To view them:

1. Go to the MEC [Conflict of Interest Page](#)
2. Next select the [Advisory Opinions](#) link
3. Then choose **Opinion Topic:** Conflict of Interest
4. Choose **Category:** Use of Public Funds

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