# MEC News

Missouri Ethics Commission Elizabeth L. Ziegler, Executive Director

VOLUME 40

January 2019

## 2019 Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) filing deadlines

## 2019 Candidates:

If you are required to file a PFD as a candidate in the April election the due dates are:

<b>Election Date</b>	14-Day Due Date	21-Day Due Date
April 2, 2019	January 29, 2019	February 5, 2019

If you are a candidate in a city with a Primary Election, please refer to the "Notice to Candidate" you received when filing for office for the PFD deadlines.

Failure to file by the 14-day due date will result in \$10 per day late fees. Failure to file by the 21-day due date 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.

## **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 2018, you should have received a letter with instructions for e-filing along with your MEC Online ID and Password. You must file your PFD by **5:00 pm on May 1, 2019**.

If you fail to file by May 1, 2019, 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.

An annual filer who is also a candidate should refer to the due dates above which are earlier. 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.

## 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 2019, 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

## Inside this issue:

PFD Filing Requirements Use of Public Funds Amendment 1 Lobbyist System Candidate Central/FAQs MEC Employee Spotlight 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 <u>MEC website</u>
- 2. Choose <u>Commission Business</u> at the top of the page.
- 3. At the very bottom of the Commission Business page click <u>Commission Actions</u>
- 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 advisory opinions about Use of Public Funds. To view them:

- 1. Go to the MEC <u>Conflict of Interest Page</u>
- 2. Next select the <u>Advisory Opinions</u> link
- 3. Then choose **Opinion Topic**: Conflict of Interest
- 4. Choose Category: Use of Public Funds

**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.

## MEC NEWS: January 2019

## **Lobbyist Search**

The Commission has recently updated its lobbyist and principal registration system and is in the process of completing the Internet searches for 2019 data. You can currently search for lobbyist and principal information as reported in 2019, and we will be rolling out additional searches in the future.

Please continue to watch our website for new searches, You may also contact our office at <u>helpdesk@mec.mo.gov</u> for information not already available on our site.

#### View MEC Lobbyist Searches here.

#### Searches

The Commission has recently updated its lobbyist and principal registration system and is in the process of completing the internet search functionality for 2019 data. All searches will be restored in the near future. In the meantime, please contact our office at helpdesk@mec.mo.gov for information not already available on our site.

#### Current Searches

Lobbyist Search registred lobbyists to view a lobbyist summary, including contact information, registration type, etc., a list of principals, and monthly expenditure reports.

Principal Search principals and their associated lobbyist.

2018 & Prior Archive Searches

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Principal Search principals and their associated lobbyist

## **Lobbyist Reporting**

With the well-appreciated assistance of lobbyists who volunteered their input, the Missouri Ethics Commission's IT Department has been working this past year to design a system that is mobile friendly and has features that include:

- Electronic filing of principal reports,
- Ability to enter an expenditure at the time it occurs using a mobile device, then saving it for reporting at a later date,
- Recording multiple recipients for a single expenditure to be pro-rated,
- Filing a No Expenditure Report in just three simple clicks,
- Submitting a lobbyist registration and paying the registration fee online.

For 2019, each lobbyist must separately register using the Lobbyist Electronic Filing System with a unique email address (not associated with any other lobbyist account). Once registered, a lobbyist will be able to add email addresses to their lobbyist account, such as an assistant's.

MEC Lobbyist		Start Over
	line Registrati	
Have you ever been a registered lobby: Yes No	st in the State of Missouri?	
🖀 Missouri Ethics Commission	♥ PO Box 1370 Jefferson City, MO 65102	J (573) 751-2020 (☐) (573) 526-4506

## However, you must use the lobbyist's unique email address when accessing the system.

Payment of the registration fee may be submitted electronically or by printing an invoice and mailing a \$10.00 check or money order made payable to the State of Missouri. If paying electronically, there will be an additional convenience fee and a lobbyist will have immediate access to the system. If paying by check or money order, access to the system will occur upon receipt by the MEC of your payment.

The system is active and users are now able to enter expenditures as needed. Early reporting is encouraged in order to become familiar with the filing system prior to the due date. Check it out <u>here</u>.

Need assistance? Please contact us at 800-392-8660 or helpdesk@mec.mo.gov

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: <u>helpdesk@mec.mo.gov</u> Website: <u>www.mec.mo.gov</u>



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## Amendment 1 - Article III, Section 2

On November 6, 2018, Missouri voters approved Constitutional Amendment 1, which, among its provisions, imposes a two-year limitation before members and employees of the general assembly can register as a lobbyist, adjusts campaign contribution limits on candidates for the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives, establishes rules for Missouri committees receiving contributions from federal political action committees, and restricts the value of lobbyist gifts given to members of the General Assembly.



We realize there are questions about the application of the lobbyist gift limit to certain situations and whether the reporting of lobbyist expenditures has changed under the Amendment. While Amendment 1 places a limit on lobbyist gifts to employees and members of the general assembly, lobbyist reporting requirements remain unchanged under Section 105.473, RSMo. Commission Advisory Opinions regarding lobbyist reporting can be found on the Commission <u>website</u>.

#### Find additional information about Amendment 1 <u>here</u>.

## MEC Employee Spotlight: Brenda Luadzers

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If you've called or visited the MEC in the last 8 years you may already be familiar with Brenda. Known for her professional and pleasant demeanor as the MEC Receptionist, she has 25 years of customer service experience; with over 15 of those years at the Office of Administration, Facilities Management. Brenda is a loyal Cardinals fan, music enthusiast, and supporter of the Red Cross Missouri State Employees Blood Drive.



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A resource for navigating through record-keeping, Reporting, and committee requirements. <u>Get started</u>



## Campaign Finance FAQs

Candidates and committees can find answers to common questions <u>here</u>

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