

Missouri Ethics Commission Elizabeth L. Ziegler, Executive Director

VOLUME 44

January 2020

2020 Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) filing deadlines

2020 Candidates:

If you are required to file a PFD as a candidate in the April or August elections, the due dates are:

Election Date	14-Day Due Date	21-Day Due Date
April 7, 2020 Municipal Election	February 4, 2020	February 11, 2020
August 4, 2020 Primary Election	April 14, 2020	April 21, 2020

If you are a candidate in a city with a Primary Election, please refer to the *Notice to Candidate* form 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 political subdivision has a conflict of interest ordinance/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 2019, you should have received a letter with instructions for efiling along with your MEC Online ID and Password. You must file your PFD by **5:00 pm on May 1, 2020**.

If you fail to file by May 1, 2020, 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 file their PFD by the earliest due date. 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.

TIP: Time period covered is the calendar year of 2019, unless you are a candidate, in which case the covered date extends through the last day of candidate filing for your position.

MEC Calculates New Contribution Limits

New limits apply to candidates for General Assembly

The Missouri Ethics Commission calculated new contribution limits in accordance with the Constitution and determined that the following limits are in effect beginning January 1, 2020:

For the office of state senator: \$2,559;

For the office of state representative: \$2,046.

These contribution limits apply to the August 2020 Primary and November 2020 General Election.

A primary election and the succeeding general election are considered two separate elections.

Contributions for the general election cannot be received until after the primary election.

Article III, Section 2(c), contains campaign contribution limits and a methodology for regular adjustments. This new provision to the Missouri Constitution established the initial contribution limits and base year amounts as follows: \$2,500 for

the office of state senator, and \$2,000 for the office of state representative.

These limits are to "be adjusted on the first day of January in each even-numbered year hereafter by multiplying the base year amount by the cumulative Consumer Price Index and rounded to the nearest dollar amount, for all years after 2018."

View a full listing of Contribution Limits HERE

Inside this issue:

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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.

Paid for By Requirements for Printed Materials

It is important to be aware of laws related to "paid for by" requirements on printed materials.

The law requires that any pamphlet, circular, handbill, sample ballot, advertisement including newspaper or other periodical advertisement, sign, including signs for display on motor vehicles, or other imprinted or lettered material <u>relative</u> to a candidate or ballot measure, must contain the proper "Paid for By" information.

It is often misunderstood that informational materials for ballot issues do not require a "paid for by" disclaimer, but they do.

See <u>Paid For By Requirements</u> brochure and <u>tutorial</u> for the proper statement and exclusions.

SIGNS - Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use my old signs from a past election? Yes, but you must assign them a fair market value and record/report them as an in-kind contribution. The "paid-for-by" on the signs must be correct as of the time the signs were originally paid for (prior election info).

Where can I put up my signs?

MEC has no authority to govern placement of campaign signs, however, does recommend that candidates have the permission of the property owner before placing signs. Also verify with municipality if an ordinance exists and with MoDOT for their regulations.

***** **Required Sponsor Who Paid For the Information** Campaign (following the words **Material?** "Paid for by") Candidate from First name and last name by which personal funds candidate is known (no candidate (Ex: Paid for by (First committee exists) Name) (Last Name)) *****

***** **Required Sponsor** Who Paid For the **Information** Campaign (following the words **Material?** "Paid for by") Official name of the committee, followed by Candidate the name of the treasurer (EX: Paid for by (committee Committee name), (treasurer name), Treasurer) *****



WANTED BY THE MEC

The Missouri Ethics Commission is currently searching for an individual matching the description of Training Assistant, a professional with an aptitude for written, verbal, and social media

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT THE MEC.

LOBBYIST

Monthly Expenditure Reports

Due by 5pm on 2/10 & 3/10

List of Principals and Legislative ActionDue 3/15

START TODAY.

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: helpdesk@mec.mo.gov

Website: www.mec.mo.gov



Rules and Advisory Opinions

Orders of Rulemaking were published in the February 3, 2020 *Missouri Register*, scheduled to go into effect March 30, 2020. Some of the <u>rules</u> relate to the registration and reporting requirements of out-of-state committees, committees domiciled outside of the state of Missouri, and federal political action committees which make contributions or expenditures to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures in Missouri.

These rules are consistent with Article III, Section 2(f) of the Missouri Constitution. This provision prohibits candidates for the General Assembly from accepting contributions from any federal political action committee unless the committee files disclosure reports with the MEC.



Recently Issued Advisory Opinions

2020.01.CI.001 - 105.456.1(3)

Section 105.456.1(3), RSMo, does not prohibit an elected official from accepting compensation to represent a client appealing a state agency decision to the Administrative Hearing Commission. Once such an adversary proceeding has begun, the elected official would not be prohibited from engaging in settlement negotiations with the state agency.

2019.12.L.008 - 105.470, 105.473

The members of the University of Missouri Board of Curators are not required to register as legislative lobbyists by virtue of their appointment in and of itself, and they are not required to register in order to respond to inquiries from the General Assembly. The opinion gives additional guidance as to registration requirement

2019.10.CI.007 - 105.456.1(3)

Section 105.456.1(3) prohibits members of the general assembly and statewide elected officials, who are also attorneys, from negotiating on behalf of paying clients with state agencies prior to the formal initiation of an adversary proceeding. The statute does not prohibit negotiation and informal contact after the filing of a complaint or petition or other similar pleading, nor does it prohibit such contact when no consideration is given.

MEC Employee Spotlight: Shelley Hughey

Shelley Hughey has worked for the state of Missouri, Office of Administration for 21 years, 11 of those as an Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of the Missouri Ethics Commission. Shelley is a native of Kansas City, Kansas and is a life-long, diehard fan of the Chiefs and Royals. When not at work, you can find Shelley playing volleyball or enjoying the outdoors where she loves to fish, camp, and kayak with her daughter and husband.



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A resource for navigating through record-keeping, reporting, and committee requirements. **Get started**

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