



MEC News

Missouri Ethics Commission Elizabeth L. Ziegler, Executive Director

VOLUME 48

January 2021

2021 Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) Filing Deadlines

2021 Candidates

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

April 6, 2021:

14-Day Deadline* → February 2, 2021

21-Day Deadline** → February 9, 2021



*Failure to file by the 14-day deadline results in \$10/day late fees

**Failure to file by the 21-day deadline results in candidate disqualification, removal from ballot

2021 Annual Filers

If your name was submitted to our office by a political subdivision as a person required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) due to a position held in 2020, you must file your PFD no later than **May 3, 2021**. You should have received a letter with instructions for e-filing along with your MEC Online ID and Password.

An annual filer who is also a candidate should adhere to the earlier 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.

IMPORTANT PFD REMINDER

The MEC **cannot** enforce a political subdivision's conflict of interest ordinance.

If a political subdivision has a conflict of interest ordinance on file and PFD deadlines are not met, **penalties can only be enforced by the political subdivision according to its ordinance.**

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS:

Submit your list of candidates in the April election who are required to file a PFD with the MEC by **Friday, January 22, 2021**.

To learn how to complete/submit this list, attend one of our Candidate Filers List webinars! Click [here](#) for details and registration information.

Inside this issue:

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COVID-19 Response

The MEC remains ready and able to assist you during the unique challenges posed by COVID-19.



In-person
3411 A Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109



Via Phone
800-392-8660



Via Email
Helpdesk@mec.mo.gov

To protect your health and ours, please wear a mask/face covering and follow CDC social distancing recommendations when visiting our office.

Take advantage of the on demand [educational resources](#) available on our website, view our [training schedule](#) to learn about upcoming virtual learning opportunities, and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).

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.

Conflict of Interest FAQs

Can public officials/employees act/vote on decisions that may financially impact themselves or their family?

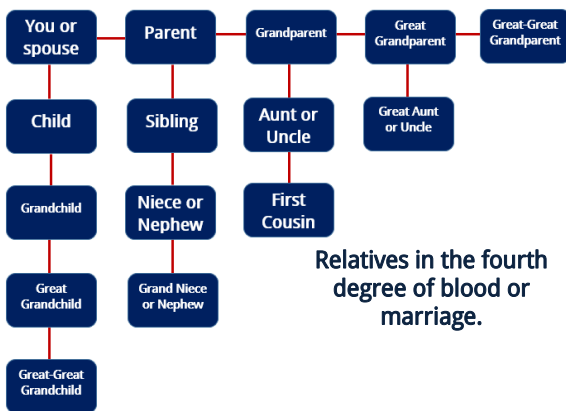
Public officials and employees:

Cannot participate in decisions that could provide themselves, their spouse, or their dependent children with a special monetary benefit. (See §105.452(4), RSMo for the definition of a special monetary benefit.)

Cannot use their decision-making authority to materially enrich themselves, their spouse, or dependent children for the purpose of coercing or extorting anything of actual monetary value.

Cannot attempt to influence the decision of any state or local agency when they know the decision could result in the acceptance of the performance of a service, or the sale, rental, or lease of any property to that agency for consideration over \$500/transaction or \$5,000/year to:

- **Themselves, their spouse, or dependent children** (unless the transaction is made after public notice and competitive bidding (other than real property), and the bid accepted is the lowest bid); or
- **Any business with which they are associated** (unless transaction is made after public notice or competitive bidding for other property). The official/employee's bid must be the lowest bid received.



What is governmental nepotism?

Defined in Article VII, Section 6 of the Missouri Constitution, nepotism occurs when a public official or employee in Missouri names or appoints a relative within the fourth degree of blood or marriage to public office or employment.

Violation of the Missouri Constitution leads to automatic forfeiture of office or employment.

Consult your local ordinances, policies, and procedures for any further requirements related to nepotism.

Can former officials/employees who worked in executive/administrative capacities take positions that may influence the decisions of their former agencies/departments immediately upon leaving public employment?

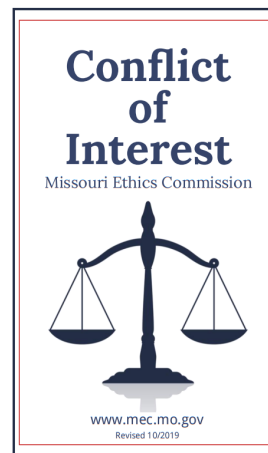
No, elected and appointed officials/employees serving in an executive or administrative capacity **may not** be paid to perform any service for their political subdivision one year after they leave public employment, by which they attempt to influence a decision of any state agency or political subdivision in which they were an officer, employee, or over which they had supervisory authority.

Exceptions: Former officials and employees:

- Can** appear in an adversary proceeding.
- Can** prepare or file a public document.
- Can** be employed by another department, division, or agency of the executive branch of state government.

More questions?

Check out our Conflict of Interest Guide [here](#).
View all of our conflict of interest FAQs [here](#).



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

Contribution Limits and Lobbyist Gift Restrictions in Effect

Voters approved Constitutional Amendment 3, adjusting campaign contribution limits and prohibiting lobbyist gifts to members and employees of the General Assembly. These provisions went into effect on **December 3, 2020**.

Contribution Limits

- Amendment 3 sets new limits on the amount of contributions a state senate candidate and a state representative candidate can receive from a single contributor.
 - State Senate candidates:** \$2,400
 - State Representative candidates:** \$2,000
- These contribution limits apply each election cycle.
- These limits apply to exploratory committees.

Lobbyist Gifts

- Amendment 3 prohibits “gifts of tangible and intangible items, services, or things of value from paid lobbyists or lobbyist principals.”
- Provisions only prohibit gifts to members and persons employed by the General Assembly.
- Candidates for the General Assembly may still accept campaign contributions according to acceptable limits.
- Individuals may still receive gifts, family support, or anything of value from relatives within the fourth degree by blood or marriage (see pg. 2).
- Lobbyists are still required to file monthly expenditure reports under §105.473, RSMo.

Calendar Check

Register for Virtual Training

View the MEC’s [Training Schedule](#) for information about upcoming webinars including:

- Report-specific information;
- When to form and register a committee;
- How to submit a political subdivision’s PFD filers lists, and more!

Click [here](#) for registration information.



April 6, 2021 Election Report Deadlines

Report	Due Date
40 Day Before Report	2/25/21
8 Day Before Report	3/29/21
30 Day After Report	5/6/21

NOTE:

The 2021 January Quarterly Report is optional (but recommended, for ease of reporting). Late fees are not assessed for this report

Remember: a filer’s next report must include all activity since their last report.



Lobbyist Monthly Expenditure Reports Due by 5:00 p.m. on

- ⇒ 1/11/21
- ⇒ 2/10/21
- ⇒ 3/10/21

