

## VOLUME 50

July 2021

## **Legislative Update**

HB 271: On June 15, 2021, the Governor signed <u>House Bill 271</u>, relating to local government.

This bill amends Section 115.646, RSMo to include school districts, and prohibits the use of public funds for a variety of political issues.

This provision takes effect August 28, 2021.

A full list of the Governor's legislative actions can be found <u>here</u>.

## Inside this issue:

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## ATTENTION Political Subdivisions: Do you have a conflict of interest/ personal financial disclosure ordinance?

State statute allows each political subdivision the option of adopting their own method of disclosing conflicts of interest and personal financial disclosure. If your subdivision chooses to adopt an ordinance, state statute requires that the ordinance be adopted every other year by September 15. A certified copy of the ordinance must be filed with the MEC within 10 days of adoption.

Please note—the minimum requirements outlined in statute for an ordinance do not include penalties. Any penalties that the subdivision is authorized to enforce should be established by the ordinance. Upon adopting the ordinance, the political subdivision becomes responsible for enforcing it.

All candidates must file a Financial Interest Statement for Political Subdivisions if they have any transactions over \$500 with the political subdivision, even if candidates are not listed specifically in the ordinance. If candidates do not have any transactions, consult ordinance for filing requirements. Make sure to review the ordinance prior to adoption to ensure it includes all of the aspects desired by the political subdivision.

### View a sample political subdivision ordinance on our website:

- From <u>mec.mo.gov</u>, select the <u>"financial disclosure</u>" tab
- 2. Select "sample ordinance"



## Political Subdivisions: Confirm your Annual Operating Budget

Political subdivisions must confirm to the MEC whether their Annual Operating Budget (AOB) is:

- Over \$1 million or
- \$1 million or under

You should have received an email with your Subdivision ID and password. Please note, passwords are casesensitive. **Due July 19, 2021.** 

## To e-file your subdivision's AOB,

Go to our <u>website</u> and:

- Under Login, enter your Subdivision ID, then click Sign In. On the next page enter your password, then click Log-In (use your political subdivision's log-in information).
- 2. Update subdivision contact information, if necessary.
- 3. Confirm your AOB (you will receive email confirmation).

**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: July 2021

# **Educational Resources**

#### Search for Campaign Finance Data

If you are interested in viewing money received and spent by a committee, we encourage you to explore the MEC's searches. These searches allow you to track publicly-available campaign finance information, including contributions and expenditures for candidate committees, campaign (ballot measure) committees, PACs, political party committees, and more.

Simply scroll to the bottom of the MEC's homepage, <u>www.mec.mo.gov</u>, and select one of our eight campaign finance searches.

# Other searches include:

- <u>Lobbyist searches</u>
- <u>Commission</u> <u>Cases—Commission</u> <u>Actions</u>
- Advisory Opinions
- <u>Higher Ed. Out-of-</u> <u>State Travel Reports</u>



#### Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

The Missouri Ethics Commission's Assist and Educate <u>YouTube</u> <u>channel</u> is designed to provide you with short, educational videos related to Missouri's governmental ethics laws.



New videos and tutorials are added regularly.

Subscribe today to be notified as new videos and tutorials become available!

For deadlines/reminders, publications, law links, upcoming webinars, and more, visit our <u>Educational Resources</u> page.

# **MEC Reminders**

#### New Advisory Opinions Issued:

#### 2021.04.CI.005

This advisory opinion discusses the oneyear revolving door prohibition in Section 105.454(5), RSMo. The Commission determined that this provision applies to officials and employees serving in executive or administrative capacity only.

#### 2021.04.L.004

This advisory opinion discusses the application of the ban on lobbyist gifts to members and employees of the General Assembly outlined in Article III, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution.

#### FAQs Available 24/7

Ethics law is complicated. Find answers to your lobbying, campaign finance, financial disclosure, conflict of interest, and enforcement questions on our <u>FAQ page</u>.

#### Campaign Finance Committees: File the Mandatory July Quarterly Report

All campaign finance committees registered with the Missouri Ethics Commission are required to file their July Quarterly Report by **5:00 p.m**. on **Thursday**, **July 15, 2021**.

File your committee's report by the deadline to avoid late fees of \$10 per day.



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# MEC NEWS: July 2021

# Employee Spotlight: Brian Hamilton



In April 2021, Brian Hamilton became the MEC's Compliance and Education Manager. In his current position, Brian oversees the Campaign Finance, Personal Financial Disclosure, Lobbyist, and Training divisions for the Commission.

Brian joined the MEC staff in 2016 as Commission Counsel, where he handled administrative cases pending before the Commission and provided information and assistance to the Commission, its employees, and the general public.

Prior to joining the Commission, Brian served at the Department of Social Services as a Hearing Officer for the Division of Legal Services. In 2015, he transitioned to the Department of Labor as an Equal Opportunity Employer Officer.

Brian earned his undergraduate degree from Missouri State University where he received a double major in criminology and sociology, and a minor in psychology. Brian also earned a law degree in 2010 from the University of Missouri—Columbia.

Brian is a member of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) and he also serves on the advisory board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson City. Brian and his wife Jennifer have two children.

# **Calendar Check**

#### July 2021

- 7/12/2021 Lobbyist Monthly Expenditure Report due
- 7/15/2021 July Quarterly Report due
- **7/19/2021** Last day to e-file a political subdivision's annual operating budget (AOB)

#### August 2021

8/10/2021 Lobbyist Monthly Expenditure Report due

September 2021																		
	9	9/6/2021				Labor Day: Office Closed												
	9/	9/10/2021				Lobbyist Monthly Expenditure Report due												
	9/15/2021				Statutory deadline for a political subdivision to adopt a Conflict of Interest Ordinance													
			JU	LY 20	)21		AUGUST 2021											
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Campaign Finance Report Due								e				1	2	3	4			
	Lobbyist Report Due								5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
	PFD Deadline								12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
	MEC Office Closed								19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
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