

Greetings from James Klahr...

I want to use this opportunity in the MEC Newsletter to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the Missouri Ethics Commission. I have worked as a Staff Attorney for the Missouri Senate, an Assistant Attorney General in the Missouri Attorney General's Office and most recently

as Legislative Liaison for the Missouri Department of Public Safety. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the Commission and the larger community the Commission serves—candidates, elected and other public officials, lobbyists and the public. I hope

you will contact me if you have any suggestions about how the Commission can improve the services we provide. I look forward to hearing from you.

*James Klahr
Executive Director*

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2014 Election News

ATTN: Officials Accepting Declarations of Candidacy

Packets for 2014 Elections coming in October.

- Review the packet—includes instruction letter, 2014 Guide to Ethics Law, PFD forms (AOB >\$1mil) & Notice to Candidate.
- Review your Candidate Declaration form—may include wording that candidate has no outstanding campaign finance reports due from prior elections.
- Remember, [§130.071 RSMo](#) has restrictions for candidates taking office until all reports are filed.

Be sure to discard all old election materials.

Political Subdivisions

Beginning **November 16, 2013**, if AOB over \$1 million, political subdivisions will be able to [electronically](#) submit their list of required annual PFD filers to MEC. (Emails will be received at the end of October containing password information).

Both last year's annual filers and last year's candidates will be displayed. Carefully review each section, update each filer, and remove those no longer required to file.

Each subdivision must notify those people whose names have been submitted. They are required to file their PFD by May 1, 2014 or earlier if a candidate.

Use of Public Funds

Elected and public officials, their staff and employees are prohibited from using public funds to advocate, support or oppose ballot measures or candidates.

Examples: staff's time at work, office copiers, fax machine, paper, computers, printers, etc.

Public Funds may be used to make public appearances and/or issue press releases. (§115.646 RSMo & AG Opin 54-90).



Our Mission:

We serve the public interest. We assist and educate the citizens of Missouri, public officials, lobbyists, and those participating in public elections. We create transparency and accountability and consistently enforce campaign finance, conflict of interest, and lobbying laws.

Training News

Preparations for the **2014 Election Year** have begun! We will begin offering **online webinars** for Campaign Finance Record-Keeping and Reporting in November, 2013.

We will also begin scheduling **in-person trainings** with various counties throughout and across the state.

Watch our website for the [training schedule](#). If you are

going to be a candidate or a committee treasurer, we strongly encourage you to attend!

The [2014 Candidate Central](#) page on our website has been updated and is a great way for candidates to learn the basics required of them.

Our newest brochure, [Exempt Candidates](#), was recently released. If you are a candidate running for statewide elected

office, the general assembly, or for a municipal office in a city with a population of more than 100,000, make sure you know all the requirements if you choose to file as an exempt candidate.

We received a very positive response to the first editions of **MEC Highlights!** We had several suggestions for more topics and will continue to publish those to the website.

Lobbyist Renewal Reminders

- Lobbyist renewal period begins Dec 1, 2013 and runs through Jan 5, 2014.
- All lobbyists must renew their registration and pay a \$10 registration fee.
- Lobbyists who fail to renew by Jan 5 will be terminated retroactive to Dec 31, 2013.



Campaign Finance Disclosure Reminders

File an [Amended Statement of Committee Registration](#) form to **change an election date** (changing it on reports will not update the committee information).

A **miscellaneous receipt** is money coming in other than by contribution or loan received (ex: interest earned, receipt of a rejected contribution, refund for return of merchandise, etc.).

A **miscellaneous disbursement** is money spent other than by expenditure or contribution made (ex: rejecting a contribution (that's already been deposited) back to the original contributor, transfer of funds from one candidate committee to another controlled by the same candidate, etc.).

A donation given to a charity or similar type event is reported as an **expenditure made**; however, a contribution from one candidate or committee to another candidate or committee is reported as a **contribution made**.

If a committee files a *48 Hour Report of Contribution over \$5,000* or a *Late Contribution Report*, these contributions must **also be included** in the committee's next full campaign finance disclosure report.

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Don't forget...the October Quarterly Report is due from all committees October 15th.