

## MEET THE MEC – SENIOR STAFF

### Liz Ziegler – Executive Director

Liz joined the staff of the Missouri Ethics Commission as General Counsel in August 2006. She was the Commission's first attorney on staff. She served 8 years as a Missouri Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division and over 13 years as the Executive Director of the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services. Liz began her duties as Executive Director in July of 2018.

### Stacey Heislen – Assistant Director

Stacey has served continuously with the Missouri Ethics Commission since May 1994. She was named Assistant Director in 2008. She has served in many different capacities throughout her tenure with her primary duties focused on fiscal and human resources. Stacey also oversees late fee as-

essment, monitors Sunshine Law compliance with the many requests for information received by the Commission, and assists members of the public with daily inquiries about Commission responsibilities.

### Betsy Byers – Director of Business Services

Betsy has been the Director of Business Services for the Missouri Ethics Commissions since 2009. Betsy manages the Campaign Finance, Personal Financial Disclosure, Lobbyist and Training divisions of the Commission. Betsy is a former educator and County Clerk and Election Authority of Shelby County. Between 1999 and 2009, she headed up the Elections Division in the Secretary of State's office for Secretaries Cook, Blunt, and Carnahan.

(Continued on page 3)

## PFD Annual Filers



Political subdivisions with an annual operating budget (AOB) over \$1 million will be able to [electronically](#) submit their list of required annual Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) filers to MEC (password info will be sent in November).

Upon logging in to the [Political Subdivision e-Filer system](#), 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.

**Reminder:** if an annual filer held the position at any time in 2018, that person is still required to file for the time period served. Each subdivision must notify those people whose names have been submitted. The MEC will also send notice to each filer in January. PFDs are due by May 1, 2019 (earlier if a candidate).

### Inside this issue:

- Meet the MEC
- PFD Annual Filers
- Election News
- Campaign Finance
- Employee Spotlight
- In Case You Missed It
- Lobbyist Filing System

## ELECTION NEWS

### ATTENTION: Officials Accepting Declarations of Candidacy: Packets for 2019 Elections coming soon

- **Review the packet**  
includes instruction letter, 2019 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 prohibits candidates from taking office until all reports are filed.

! **Be sure to discard all old election materials!**

### 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.

## Campaign Finance

### OCTOBER

**Committee Registration** - If registering a new committee or amending current committee information use the new online Statement of Committee Organization.

**REMEMBER** to Print, Sign, and Mail to the MEC.

**Campaign Finance Disclosure** - In addition to the October Quarterly Report (due Oct 15th), the following reports may need to be filed for the Nov 6th General Election, even if a candidate is unopposed:

**8 Day Before Election Report** - only required if spent money (made contributions or expenditures (whether paid or incurred for that election.))

**30 Day After Election Report** - only required if:

1. spent money (made contributions or expenditures (whether paid or incurred)) for that election; **or,**
2. debt is more than \$1,000; and, if required, must be filed before taking office.

To determine if a committee must file an upcoming report, carefully answer the questions included in the reminder email sent to every committee for every election.

### NOVEMBER

#### After Election Reminder

Candidates cannot take office until all campaign finance disclosure reports have been filed.

If unsuccessful, and have more money on hand than debt, terminate the committee. Sitting office-holders may keep their committee open until the end of term.

If more debt than money on hand, can convert to Debt Service Committee (may only accept contributions to pay off debt, no other activity).

If terminating a committee, any remaining funds must be dispersed.

#### See also brochures:

[After Election Requirements](#)

[Terminating a Committee](#)

[Contact the MEC](#) for additional guidance.

## MEC Employee Spotlight: Mellisa Berger & Brooke Bell

The Commission welcomes two new investigators, Mellisa Berger and Brooke Bell. Mellisa has experience in law enforcement and most recently was with the Special Investigations Unit at the Department of Health and Senior Services. She has also owned and operated her own business.

Brooke Bell comes to the Commission from the Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions. Prior to that she was with the Department of Revenue. Brooke has experience in investigations, audits, and governmental and business accounting.

## In Case You Missed It

### Article VIII, Sec. 23 Reminder

As provided in Art. VIII, Sec. 23 candidate, exploratory and political party committees cannot accept monetary or in-kind contributions from corporations or labor organizations. See [website](#) for more info.

### PAC to PAC Ruling

Portions of Article VIII, §23 have been challenged in federal litigation. On May 5, 2017, the Federal District Court issued [the ruling](#). The state appealed an injunction on PACs contributing to other PACs. That was the sole issue pending in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. 17-2239 Free and Fair Election Fund vs. Missouri Ethics Commission.



On September 10, 2018, the Eighth Circuit upheld the injunction in [the opinion](#), finding the PAC to PAC prohibition unconstitutional. The state is considering whether or not to appeal.

See also, Article VII, Section 23 FAQ [here](#)

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## New Lobbyist Filing System

Beginning February 1, 2019, lobbyist expenditure reports will be filed in a new filing system. Lobbyists renewing their registrations in December of 2018 will have an opportunity to use the new system to begin the transition.

With the well-appreciated assistance of lobbyists who volunteered their input, the MEC 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 new lobbyist registration and paying the registration fee online.

Registered lobbyists are welcome to test the system before it goes live by contacting the IT Department at [mecit@mec.mo.gov](mailto:mecit@mec.mo.gov).



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(Continued from page 1)

### Laura Elsbury – General Counsel

Laura is the Commission's new General Counsel. She is a graduate of Stephens College who spent 25 years in banking before attending the University of Missouri School of Law. For the past ten years, she was with the Missouri Attorney General's Office; which included collaboration with the MEC on several cases.

### Craig Hollis – Director of Information Technology Services

Craig joined the Commission in April 2000 and has led the IT team since June 2015. Craig directs and supports the implementation of new electronic filing applications, hardware and software operations, and provides assistance to members of the public with various data requests and electronic filing assistance.

### Della Luaders - Supervisor of Investigations

Della Luaders joined the MEC in 2006 after serving seven years as a Field Investigator in the Consumer Protection Unit of the Attorney General's office. Della has extensive experience in investigations and audits with a Masters in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Business Management.



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