MEC News

Missouri Ethics Commission Elizabeth L. Ziegler, Executive Director

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Federal PAC Rules Amended

On August 8, 2019, the MEC filed emergency amendments to the rules relating to registration and reporting by federal political action committees. These rules were amended to incorporate recent Constitutional Amendments prohibiting candidates for the General Assembly from accepting contributions from federal PACs unless those PACs register and file disclosure reports with the MEC. The existing monetary thresholds remain for all other federal PACs. In addition, it will no longer be necessary to put "Federal Committee" in the name of the committee (see Online Committee, users will select 'Continuing (Fed PAC)' as the committee type.

Online Committee Registration

Coming very soon, all new committees will be able to electronically submit the *Statement of Committee Organization* (CO1). Committees will still file amended CO1's on paper until further notice.

Visit our <u>website</u> to access more details and complete copies of all MEC proposed rules.



Personal Financial Disclosure Annual Filers

Political subdivisions with an annual operating budget (AOB) over \$1 million will <u>electronically</u> submit their list of required annual Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) filers to the MEC by December 2, 2019.

Upon logging in to the <u>Political Sub-</u> <u>division e-Filer system</u>, 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 2019, they are required to file for the time period served. Each political subdivision must notify designated filers that their names have been submitted. The MEC will also send notice to each filer in January.

PFDs are due by May 1, 2020, unless the annual filer is also a candidate. If the annual filer is a candidate, their PFD is due 14 days after closing of filing for candidacy.

Inside this issue: Amended MEC Rules PFD Annual Filers 2020 Election News FAQ System Late Filing Fees Lobbyist How To MEC Survey Results Employee Spotlight Contact Us

2020 Election News

ATTENTION ELECTION AUTHORITIES: 2020 Election Packets are Coming Soon!

•**Review the entire packet:** Instruction letter; 2020 Guide to Ethics Law; PFD Forms (AOB>\$1mil); and Notice to Candidate.

•**Review your Candidate Declaration form!** It should include that candidates have no outstanding campaign disclosure reports due from any prior elections. Contact the MEC for more information. § 130.071.2, RSMo.

•Remember: § 130.071.1, RSMo prohibits candidates from taking office until all reports are filed.

Be sure to discard all old election materials and only use the 2020 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.

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New FAQ System

We are proud to announce the newest updates to our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) system! The new system will allow users to easily access the answers to their general ethics questions 24/7.

MEC & Home		Search All FAQ's	Q Search 🝷	MEC	🛱 Home	Search All FAQ's Q Search -
Lobbying	Financial Disclosure	Conflict of Interest	Enforcement Actions		Clear Filters Print Results	What laws govern lobbyist gifts and reporting? Lobbyleg - Owniew Casper 107, 5050
Lobbying A tate lobyist is an individual who attempts to influence state executive state legislative, or state judicial actions and meets one or more of the following: all acting in the ordinary course of business or bit engaged in any as a lobbyist or of designated to act as a lobbyist by a person, business entity, governmental entity, religious equivalent comparation, association or other entity or of upperds 500 or more so behalf of public officials, annualy. An elected local government official lobbyist 6 an individual who is employed for the purpose of attempting to influence any action by a local government official elected in a county, city, town, or village with an annual operating budget of over 510 million. View All Lobbying FAQ's				Tggs Fide All Tugs ES GRI Restriction 401k Advisory Opinion Addreparion Addreparion Addreparion Addreparion Addreparion Beddeng Requirements Beach Member Beachers Relationship Candidate Chapter 105. R5Mo		How does the Missouri Constitution provision relate to the statutes?
Categories Popular Questions						Lobbying - Overview Orthwizy (Teachive Lobbyint) (Teachive Local Government Official Lobbyint) (Teachive Lobbyint) (Teachive Lobbyint)
Overview		Who is a lobbyist?		Categories Lobbying Deventew Registering as a Lobbyist Registering as a More as a Registering as a Registe		Who is not considered a lobbyist? Lobbying - Overview
Registering as a Lobbyist		When are a lobbyist's monthly ex	penditure reports due?			(Defining)
Reporting Requirements		How is an individual, group, or so	licitation expenditure defined?			What is a lobbyist principal?
Reporting Deadlines		What information is reported on	he monthly expenditure reports?			Defining Lobiyist Principal
Restrictions on Lobbyist	Gifts	Where can I find Commission adv	isory opinions regarding lobbying			Can a private association be a lobbyist principal?
Penalties		laws?	Candidate for Elected Office Filing Requirements	Lobbying - Overview Addwory Optimications: Tablayid Principal		

The new system will provide users the opportunity to tailor their experience by searching by topic and keyword or browsing the system to find exactly what they are looking for. Users can also suggest questions of interest or ways to make answers more helpful.

MEC staff are constantly monitoring customer questions and adding popular questions to the FAQ system.

Visit our <u>website</u> to view the new FAQ system!

Assessment of Late Fees

For filers required to file their campaign finance reports with the MEC, Missouri law establishes a \$10 per day late fee for all reports, with the exception of a candidate's 8 Day Before Election Report. The late fee for the 8 Day Before Election Report is assessed at \$100 per day for the first 8 days and \$10 per day thereafter. There is a \$3,000 maximum late fee for each report.

Late fees are imposed by statute and cannot be adjusted by the MEC. However, there is an appeals process in which candidate committees may appeal fees to the Missouri Ethics Commission. Other types of committees must appeal to the Administrative Hearing Commission.

The only way to avoid late filing fees is to timely file all reports!

MEC Tip

The Missouri Ethics Commission recommends adding all reporting deadlines to a personal calendar that will notify you of upcoming due dates. The MEC attempts to email reminders for campaign finance reports and lobbyist monthly expenditure reports, but reminders are not guaranteed. For example, in the event of system failure reminders may not be able to be sent.

Adding all deadlines to a personal calendar is advised.



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MEC NEWS: October 2019 Page 2 Lobbyist How To **Removing a Lobbyist Principal** Log in to your lobbyist account Select the principal you want to remove and click as you normally would. Remove. 🛨 Login ouri Ethics Commi ncipal Information 3411A Knipp Drive Jefferson City MO, 6510 (573) 636-2121 Sign In Month-To-Dat Contact Person N/A Relationship Started 01/01/2019 Scroll down to the bottom of your dashboard and click View All Principals. Enter the date the business relationship ended 1 and click Remove again. Principals Relationship End Date: 👕 Remove O Cancel **Changing or Adding Email Accounts** To change an email address, replace the old Log in to your lobbyist account address in the Email field. Scroll down and click as you normally would. Save to save the new address. - Logi mail Testaccount@mec.mo.gov Sign In Save In the upper right hand corner click on To add an email, click Additional Email on the left your name, then select *My Account*. and enter the email address you would like to add. 🚨 My Account Address & Phone Number \$ Fees Change Password Registration Information C Logout **Lobbyist Registration** Lobbyist Monthly DON'T WAIT, Beginning December 1, 2019, lobbyists will be able to Expenditure START register for 2020. TODAY. **Reports** State law requires lobbyists to register annually by January 5. To register, log in to your lobbyist Due by 5pm on account, submit the registration form, and pay the \$10 registration fee. 10/10, 11/12, & 12/10 MEC Be the first to know about the latest MEC news, follow us on **Twitter @moethics**

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📑 Strongly Agree 📕 Agree 📑 Somewhat Agree 📕 Neutral 📕 Somewhat Disagree 📕 Disagree 📑 Strongly Disagree

The MEC always welcomes feedback or suggestions for improvements. Completing future MEC surveys can help us understand how to better serve you!

Employee Spotlight

Shawna Hillen: Personal Financial Disclosure Reporting Specialist

Shawna Hillen joined the MEC team in July, 2019. She was born and raised in Jefferson City and now lives in Holts Summit with her husband, eight children, and four cats. After graduating from Jefferson City High School in 2003, Shawna immediately began working at the State Auditor's Office, where she worked for six years until she decided to be a stay-at-home mother. Shawna returned to the State at the Department of Social Services and worked there for four years before coming to the MEC. In her free time, Shawna loves to read, swim, and watch movies/television shows with her husband and kids.

Debbie Pate: Campaign Finance Reporting Specialist

Debbie Pate joined our team in September, 2019, replacing Glenda Elliott as a campaign finance reporting specialist. Debbie grew up in New Haven, Missouri, then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota to attend cosmetology school. After working for several years as a cosmetologist, she worked as a state contractor researching and correcting MoHealth Net cases before coming to the MEC. Debbie is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Columbia College, all while working full-time and raising her two sons, Lucien and Roman. In her free time, she enjoys watching documentaries, bike-riding, reading, and finding new adventures with her sons.

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