

Political Subdivisions: Annual Filers List Reminder

Political subdivisions with an annual operating budget over \$1 million will electronically submit their list of required annual Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) filers to the MEC by December 3, 2020.

Upon logging into the Political Subdivision E-filing 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 2020, 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 3, 2021 unless the filer is also a candidate. If so, their PFD is due 14 days after the close of filing for candidacy.

New MEC Logo Announced

The MEC adopted its new logo in the fall of 2020, born out of a branding initiative to define and visually express the values of the Commission. The new logo is intended to serve as a beacon for those in need of guidance as they navigate Missouri's ethics laws. The radial symmetry of the design is designed to convey balance, consistency, and fairness.

Ethos Icon Design Elements



Four primary points (in vertical and horizontal orientation) represent the categories of our duty: campaign finance, lobbying, conflict of interest, and financial disclosure.



In the negative space between those points are four diagonal points which represent a commitment to Missouri citizens and our efforts to reach the far corners of the Show Me State.



The abstract center element was influenced by federal era convex mirrors. Conceptually, the mirror represents the relationship between ethics and the individual. This element coincides with our branding themes of ethics, education, and enforcement.



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ATTENTION ELECTION AUTHORITIES: 2021 Election Packets Coming Soon

- **Review the entire packet:** Instruction letter, 2021 Guide to Ethics Laws, PFD Forms (AOB > \$1 million), 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.
- **Remember:** § 130.071.1, RSMo prohibits candidates from taking office until all reports are filed.



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 Reminders and Tips

- **Contribution limits** for candidates for statewide, judicial office, and the General Assembly are:
Statewide office: \$2,650; Judicial office: \$2,650;
State Senator: \$2,559; State Representative: \$2,046;
- **While these contributions limits** do not apply to local candidates, there are numerous provisions that apply to all candidate committees, including local candidates. Under these provisions:

Candidate Committees CAN	Candidate Committees CANNOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive contributions from PACs; • Make contributions to political party committees; and • Receive contributions from political party committees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept contributions from another candidate committee; • Make contributions to another candidate committee; • Make contributions to PACs; or • Accept contributions from corporations or labor organizations.

(Some cities and counties have local contribution limits for their candidates. Verify with governing body)

- **Labor organizations, corporations, and Missouri LLCs** that elect to be classified as a corporation under federal tax code are prohibited from making contributions (monetary or in-kind) to candidate committees, exploratory committees, political parties, and political party committees.
- **A corporation or labor organization** cannot contribute its own treasury funds to its connected PAC. However, the corporation or labor organization may contribute its own funds to an unconnected PAC.
- **PACs and political party committees** making an expenditure in support/opposition of a candidate/ballot measure must report the expense under the expenditures section and on the supplemental form.
- **Any out-of-state or foreign corporation** must be registered to do business in Missouri to contribute to any campaign finance committee.
- **Successful candidates moving on to the November 3, 2020 general election** need to remember to reset their prior election totals on the *2020 October Quarterly Report*.
- **The general election cycle** ends at 11:59 p.m. on November 3, 2020. At 12:00 a.m. on November 4, 2020, the next primary cycle begins.
- **To aid in recording and importing contributions** and loans received, itemized expenditures over \$100, and contributions made, filers can use the Import Function in the e-filing system. View [Excel Template](#), [Import Function Tutorial](#), and [Import Specifications](#).

Training Update

With in-person training opportunities limited due to COVID-19, the MEC has expanded its virtual training options!

Check your inbox for upcoming webinars about required reports, after-election guidelines, conflict of interest, and more.

To request an MEC presentation at your organization's (virtual or in-person) event, email Training@mec.mo.gov



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

Employee Spotlight

Morgan Hill—Investigator

Prior to joining the MEC earlier this year, Morgan worked in the fraud unit of the Department of Labor, conducting criminal investigations on identity theft and unemployment insurance theft. Her investigative history, associate's degree in accounting, bachelor's degree in business administration, and master's degree in criminal justice make her a valuable member of the MEC's investigations team. In her spare time, you can find Morgan playing board games with her son, watching his sporting events, reading, or cheering on her favorite team, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

2020 Legislative Update

Legislative Liaison Change

Starting August 2020, employees who meet the definition of a legislative liaison will no longer be classified as a legislative lobbyist, and will not be subject to prior restrictions and MEC requirements.

A legislative liaison is any state employee hired to communicate with members of the General Assembly on behalf of any elected official of the state; the judicial branch of state government; or any department, agency, board, or commission of the state, provided such entity is a part of the executive branch of state government.

PFD Redaction Request

State statute now allows for the redaction of a dependent child's name and employment information from a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) statement upon filing a written request.

Click [here](#) to access the redaction request form. This form is also linked under the "How Do I" section on our homepage.

(Section 105.485.5, RSMo.)

Calendar Check

Upcoming Filing Deadlines and Reminders:

November 3, 2020 General Election

October Quarterly Report

- Close 09/30/20
- Due 10/15/20

8 Day Before Election Report

- Close 10/22/20
- Due 10/26/20



11/03/20 Election

30 Day After Election Report

- Close 11/28/20
- Due 12/03/20



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

- ⇒ 10/13/20
- ⇒ 11/10/20
- ⇒ 12/10/20

MEC Tips

- **Beginning 10/23 through Election Day**, receipt of a contribution (including a loan) over \$250 must be reported **within 24 hours** of its receipt. You must also record this contribution in the committee's next filed report.
- Add 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.

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

