



MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

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James Klahr
Executive Director

March 28, 2017

Kristi Fulnecky
Fulnecky for Springfield
1530 E Primrose Suite E
Springfield MO 65804

Re: File No. 17-0013-I

Dear Ms. Fulnecky:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaint filed against you and Citizens for Kristi Fulnecky at its March 27, 2017 meeting.¹ The complaint alleged that you and Citizens for Kristi Fulnecky accepted a contribution from a corporation in violation of the Missouri Constitution, Art. VIII, Sec. 23.

On November 8, 2016, Missouri voters approved Amendment 2, related to campaign finance, and which added Art. VIII, Section 23 to the Missouri Constitution. Art. VIII, Sec. 23.3(3)(a) of the Missouri Constitution provides:

It shall be unlawful for a corporation or labor organization to make contributions to a campaign committee, candidate committee, exploratory committee, political party committee or a political party; except that a corporation or labor organization may establish a continuing committee which may accept contributions or dues from members, officers, directors, employees or security holders.

Pursuant to Art. XII, Sec. 2(b), the provisions of Amendment 2 took effect on December 8, 2017.

Staff review of the complaint determined that Citizens for Kristi Fulnecky received a contribution from Fire Master Fire Equipment, Inc. on February 14, 2017. On March 7, 2017, the committee returned the contribution to the contributor.


In this instance, Citizens for Kristi Fulnecky was not allowed to receive a check from a corporation as set out in Art. VIII, Sec. 23.3(3)(a). Staff investigation established that you contacted staff to determine if the committee could receive such a check and, upon learning that it could not, returned the check to the contributor. The committee returned the check prior to the Commission receiving the complaint.

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation Art. VIII, Sec. 23 of the Missouri Constitution and dismiss the complaint. The

¹ The committee's name was originally registered in May 2014 with MEC as Citizens for Kristi Fulnecky, amended in February 2016 to Fulnecky for Springfield and then amended back to Citizens for Kristi Fulnecky in May 2016.

Commission advises the committee to carefully review these new provisions as well as recent Commission opinions interpreting those provisions.

Sincerely,



James Klahr
Executive Director