

Legislative Update

Ethics Bill SB844 Passes Legislature On May 14, 2010 Senate Bill 844 passed both the House and Senate. This bill contains changes to Missouri's ethics and campaign finance laws. Bills which are passed by the Legislature and then signed by the Governor will go into effect August 28, 2010. You may view the Truly Agreed and Finally Passed version of Senate Bill 844 on our [website](#). The Commission is currently reviewing the bill's provisions and will communicate with the committees, individuals, and public officials affected by the new provisions.

Campaign Finance

July 15th July Qtrly Report Deadline Required for all committees. Report all activity from last report through June 30th. Postmark by July 14th—electronic filers file by 5 p.m. on July 15th. (Section 130.046.8, RSMo).



Aug 3rd Primary Election Deadlines:

8 Day Before Election Report—July 26th All committees participating in Aug 3rd election; covers the committee's activity from last report through July 22nd. (Section 130.046.1(1), RSMo)

24 Hour Late Notice of Late Contributions/Loans Received Receipt of contribution (or loan) > \$250 between July 23rd—Aug 2nd; must be reported within 24 hours of receipt, by any written means and also reported on next subsequently filed full disclosure report. (Section 130.050.3, RSMo)

24 Hr Late Expenditure Report A continuing committee, between July 23rd—Aug 2nd, making total expenditures other than contributions to a committee of \$250 or more must file a 24 Hour Late Expenditure Report within 24 hours after making the expenditure. (Section 130.046.3(2), RSMo)

Campaign Finance Q&A

Who Must File A 15-Day After Petition Deadline Report? (Section 130.046.2, RSMo) A committee, other than a continuing committee, that is raising or spending \$ for a ballot measure to be qualified on the ballot by initiative/referendum petitions *or* recall petition seeking to remove incumbent from office must:

- ✓ File an initial disclosure report 15 days after committee begins process of raising or spending \$; time period begins on day committee 1st accepted or spent \$ to support or oppose petition effort & ends on the 5th day before the report's date.
- ✓ After initial report, committee must file reports as required in Section 130.046 and Chapter 130, RSMo.
- ✓ File a 2nd disclosure report no later than the 15th day after the deadline date for submitting the petition.



Complaints

Is there a time frame where the Commission cannot accept a complaint related to a candidate?

(Section 130.054, RSMo.) **Yes**, the Commission cannot accept a complaint alleging misconduct on the part of a candidate for public office, other than an allegation of failure to file timely and accurately, a Personal Financial Disclosure statement or campaign finance disclosure reports, within 60 days before the primary election until after the general election. The Commission may not accept a complaint filed against a candidate or candidate committee within 15 days prior to the primary or general election in which the candidate is running for office.

Lobbying

Lobbyists' Monthly Expenditure Report Lobbyists' expenditures are reported by the 10th of the following month. Remember to keep your receipts of when the expenditure occurred rather than relying on credit card statements for expenses and amending previously filed reports.

Personal Financial Disclosure

Political Subdivisions' Annual Operating Budget/ Required Filers List In July, the Commission will request by mail, the filing of your Annual Operating Budget (AOB) and Required Filers List. [Electronically](#) submit this information using the your subdivision ID and password provided in the mailing.

What information do I submit?

- ✓ Submit whether your AOB is under \$1 million dollars or over \$1 million dollars.
- ✓ If your AOB is over \$1 million dollars, electronically update the list of individuals required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure statement. This information will include their name, position, mailing address, and end date, if no longer serving in this position. You will also add any newly required filers and update any incorrect information in the system.

Ordinance Adoption A political subdivision may adopt an ordinance biennially, at an open meeting, by September 15th. A signed copy must be filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission within 10 days of its adoption. Section 105.484.5 RSMo provides the minimum requirements for the Ordinance, [a sample](#) is provided on our [website](#).

Sample Code of Ethics

The following is a sample of a policy pertaining to conflicts of interest. This policy meets the minimum requirements outlined in Section 105.484.5 RSMo and allows each political subdivision the option of adopting their own code of interest and personal financial disclosure. If your subdivision chooses to require that this be adopted every other year by September 15th. A certified copy must be filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission within 10 days of adoption.

Coming Soon

It's Here! - Commission Cases—Final Action Search This new search shows the Commission's final actions related to investigations involving:

- Campaign Finance
- Conflict of Interest
- Lobbyists
- Personal Financial Disclosure
- Constitution, Statutes, Orders or Ordinances

Individuals can search for the Commission's final actions by the action date, respondent, committee or organization, and city or county. Data is available on this search as of January 1, 2010. Prior Commission actions can be viewed on the website under Commission meetings.

The Commission's online *Case Action Search* can be accessed at www.mec.mo.gov under Commission Actions or Common Searches.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Commission Case Action Search". It includes a "Please note" section stating that data is only available as of 1/1/2010. The form is divided into three steps: Step 1 - Limit Your Search by Year (optional), Step 2 - Limit Your Search Period (optional), and Step 3 - Specify Your Search By (required). Step 3 includes fields for "Complaint Category", "Name of Respondent / Organization or Committee", "Last Name", "Committee or Organization", "County or City of Respondent", "City Name", and "County Name". There are also "Search" and "Clear Page" buttons.

Tech Talk

Tips for using our web site at www.mec.mo.gov

Pop Up blocker – Be sure and allow pop-ups when searching our web site. Many search functions open results in a new window or “pop-up”. This is to help ensure that you don't lose your place within the web-site.

Can't find what you're looking for? Use the site search feature located in the upper left hand corner of each page.

MEC is now on twitter – follow us now at <http://twitter.com/MOEthics>.