#### Missouri Ethics Commission

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# **MEC News**

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#### MISSION

We serve the public interest. We assist and educate the citizens of Missouri, public officials, lobbyists and those participating in public elections. We create transparency and accountability and consistently enforce campaign finance, conflict of interest and lobbying laws.

### **Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD)**

#### **Annual Filers:**

May 1st deadline for filing fast approaching! PFDs can be electronically filed, mailed or hand delivered. Reports not electronically filed must contain an original signature. (Fax copies are not accepted).

- E-file by May 1st, 5:00 p.m.
- If hand deliver must be received by our office by May
- I st, 5:00 p.m.
  If mailing, must be postmarked no later than April 30th
- Time period covered is from Jan 1st, 2011 thru Dec 31st, 2011

#### E-file...

- I. <u>Log-in</u> using the filer id & password provided (or <u>re-</u> <u>quest filer account</u>)
- 2. Complete each section
- 3. Submit filing

#### Political Subdivisions:

Verify that your designated filers have submitted their forms:

- Go to our website
   Log into the <u>Political Sub-</u> <u>division Filing System</u> (use your political subdivision's log-in information)
- Check the filing status of your required filers

#### **CANDIDATES:**

- If you are required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (PFD), for the August 7th Primary Election, file by April 10th, 2012 to avoid penalties.
- If you are an incumbent candidate required to file, file one form, by earliest deadline (April 10th, 2012). Time period covered is Jan 1, 2011 through March 27, 2012.

## Campaign Finance

• TIP: When does the law require you to form a campaign finance committee?

Here When to Form & Register a Committee Brochure

• TIP: Using PayPal?

- $\Rightarrow$  Any monies received or spent using PayPal must be deposited into and spent from the official committee bank account
- ⇒ If receiving contributions through PayPal; report entire contribution received then report expenditure to PayPal for administrative fees
- TIP: Need help on candidate/campaign finance requirements?
   View <u>2012 Candidate Central</u> for information on PFD, committee requirements, campaign materials identification (paid-for-by) requirements and more!

#### TIP: Has your district changed due to re-districting? ⇒ Update your committee information by filing an amended <u>Statement of Committee Organization</u>



#### **Upcoming Reports:**

#### **April 3 Election**

- April Quarterly– Due April 16 (thru March 31)
- 30 Day After- Due May 3 (thru April 28)

#### Jun 5 Election

- 40 Day Before- Due April 26 (thru April 21)
- 8 Day Before- Due May
   28 (thru May 24)
- 30 Day After- Due July
   5 (thru June 30)

Deadlines & Reminders for Aug 7 & Nov 6 Elections

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# **Spotlight on Searches**

#### Contributions and Expenditures Search

Enhanced for easier navigation! Search by:

- Contributor— By Individual name or Business/Organization Name
- Expenditure—
   By Company Name or

Individual Name

 Committee to Committee—
 By Committee Making or Committee Receiving

Advanced search options are also available and results can be downloaded in Excel spreadsheet format.

### Lobbyist

#### **Upcoming Reports:**

- Lobbyist Monthly Expenditure Report
- List of Principals and Legislative Action -Due May 30th. File with MEC. Include general description of proposed legislative action...which the lobbyist (or lobbyist principal) supported or opposed.

#### CONTACT US

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# **Training Opportunities**

"understandable" "informative" "appreciated"

#### Choose from:

- Online webinars hosted by MEC,
- In-person trainings in Jefferson City hosted by MEC, &/or
- County/BOEC hosted events (check with host to RSVP)

#### **REGISTER TODAY FOR WEBINAR OR REGIONAL TRAINING**

www.mec.mo.gov/training

Email training inquiries or requests to training@mec.mo.gov

# Advisory Opinions

Upon written request, the Commission issues advisory opinions about campaign finance disclosure, conflict of

> interest, lobbying and personal financial disclosure laws.

#### **Recent Opinions:**

2012.02.CF.001— There is no provision in Chap-

ter 130 which directly author-

izes payment of state contributions to a legal defense fund which support the payment of legal fees for a federal candidate campaign committee.

2012.03.CF.002- The President of a political luncheon club is not controlling a continuing committee according to the duties and bylaws of the club.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Q. Can a current employee also run for office in the same political subdivision?

A. Check with the employer/HR officer.

Q. If successful, can that person continue to be employed as well as hold the elected position?

A. No, an elected official can not also be an employee of the same political subdivision. Review §105.454, 105.458 and 105.452.