



MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

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Elizabeth L. Ziegler
Executive Director

Final Action: MEC No. 18-0083-I, Dirk Deaton, Dirk Deaton for Missouri

Date: October 1, 2018

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Dirk Deaton and Dirk Deaton for Missouri at its October 1, 2018 meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged that Dirk Deaton, as a candidate for State Representative, coordinated expenditures with a political action committee, Brush Fire PAC, and a non-profit organization, Young Americans for Liberty (YAL), requiring Mr. Deaton to report in-kind contributions to his committee. The complaint further alleged that Mr. Deaton failed to report expenditures and failed to include paid for by disclosures on campaign materials.

Because Mr. Deaton is a candidate in the November 2018 General Election, this Commission was required under §130.054, RSMo to investigate the complaint filed against him within fifteen business days of receipt.

Both YAL and Brush Fire PAC made expenditures in support of Mr. Deaton's candidacy for State Representative. The investigation focused on whether Mr. Deaton and his committee coordinated with YAL and Brush Fire PAC, requiring him to report their activity as in-kind contributions subject to the \$2,600 contribution limit for candidates for the General Assembly. Candidates do not report independent expenditures.

The investigation did not support a finding that the Mr. Deaton or his campaign coordinated, controlled, or directed the activities of Brush Fire PAC, and did not coordinate with the activities of YAL. Mr. Deaton provided evidence to the Commission that while YAL endorsed his candidacy, he did not coordinate with this non-profit organization or with the Brush Fire PAC.

Mr. Deaton also provided evidence that he and his committee did not participate in the publishing, circulating or distributing of door hangers or media advertisements. An advertisement which appeared in the McDonald County Press contained the appropriate paid for by disclosure.

Finally, expenditures made by his candidate committee, including consulting fees for voter contact and costs associated with the publication and distribution of an endorsement letter were reported on his committee's campaign finance reports. There was no proof of coordination of the placement of the newspaper advertisement with a news article.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of the Chapter 130, RSMo, and dismissed the complaint filed against Mr. Deaton and his candidate committee.

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