



**MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

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Elizabeth L. Ziegler  
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**Final Action: MEC No. 18-0084-I, Brush Fires PAC, Margaret Yaudas, Treasurer**

**Date: November 26, 2018**

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Brush Fires PAC and Margaret Yaudas, Treasurer at its November 26, 2018, meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged that Brush Fires PAC and its treasurer, Margaret Yaudas failed to accurately report the contributions it received, and that it failed to report in-kind contributions made to Dirk Deaton, a candidate for State Representative District 159 in the August 6, 2018 Primary Election. It is further alleged the Brush Fires PAC did not accurately file a Direct Expenditure Report and Independent Contractor Report; and that Brush Fires PAC created and distributed campaign materials which failed to include a clear and conspicuous paid for by disclosure.

The investigation showed that Brush Fires PAC received \$47, 500 in contributions on July 11, 2018 and July 26, 2018. These were reported on the 8 Day Before Election Report filed on July 27, 2018 and were not required to again be reported on the 24 Hour Expenditure Report filed August 6, 2018. Amended reports were filed September 24, 2018, updating the money on hand for the committee.

The committee made independent expenditures in the form of pop-up ads on social media supporting Dirk Deaton. Both Mr. Deaton and the PAC provided evidence that these ads were not coordinated with Mr. Deaton and therefore, did not constitute in-kind contributions to Mr. Deaton. The PAC accurately filed Direct Expenditure and Independent Contractor Reports. Finally, a paid-for-by disclosure under Section 130.031.8, RSMo was not required on these pop-up ads.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds existed to support any violations of the Chapter 130, RSMo, and it dismissed the complaint.

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