



Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 20-0020-I, Robert Willoughby, Ed Bruns, and Pat Andrae

Date: 10/16/2020

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Richard Friedmann, Robert Willoughby, Ed Bruns, and Pat Andrae at its October 16, 2020 meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged that these Respondents were responsible for printing and distributing yard signs that did not include a proper "Paid for by" disclosure. The complaint also alleged that these Respondents had failed to form and register a committee.

Section 130.031.8, RSMo, states that "Any person publishing, circulating, or distributing any printed matter relative to any candidate for public office or any ballot measure shall on the fact of the printed matter identify in a clear and conspicuous manner the person who paid for the printed matter with the words "Paid for by" followed by the proper identification of the sponsor pursuant to this section."

The MEC investigation determined that it was Richard Friedman and Carl Willoughby who were responsible for the publishing, circulating, and distributing of the yard signs. These individuals were not required to register as a committee because they accepted no contributions and they used their own funds to purchase these signs. Richard Friedman and Carl Willoughby have resolved this violation by executing a Joint Stipulation of Facts, Waiver of Hearing before the Missouri Ethics Commission, and Consent Order with Joint Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. The document is available on the MEC website.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of the Chapter 130, RSMo against Respondents Robert Willoughby, Ed Bruns, and Pat Andrae, and dismissed these individuals from the complaint.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
Executive Director