



Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 20-0080-I, Caleb Rowden, Friends of Caleb Rowden

Date: 10/26/2020

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Senator Caleb Rowden and Friends of Caleb Rowden at its October 26, 2020 meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged the committee accepted a \$5,000 contribution from a single contributor in excess of contribution limits. Senator Rowden, as a candidate running for reelection to the Missouri Senate cannot take a single contribution that is greater than \$2,559.00 for the primary and then for the general election. Mo. Const. Art. III, Section 2(c).

The MEC's investigation determined that there were two \$2,500 contributions from the same contributor reported on the 30 Day After Primary Election Report. The primary was held on August 4, 2020, and the 30 Day After Primary Election Report was filed on September 3, 2020. That report does not show a single \$5,000 contribution; rather, it shows that those two \$2,500 contributions were received at two different times. One was reported as received on August 5, 2020, and the other was reported as received on August 29, 2020.

Section 130.041.2(1), RSMo, allows that for "contributions received during the thirty-day period immediately following a primary election, the candidate shall designate whether such contribution is received as a primary election contribution or a general election contribution." There is no specific checkbox or field to use for this designation. However, the report demonstrates that the two contributions were for two different elections since the committee did not combine the two checks into a single contribution, nor did they aggregate the cumulative total of the two individual contributions for a single election.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of the Missouri Constitution, and dismissed the complaint.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
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