



Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 20-0057-I, Melissa Gilliam

Date: 11/12/2020

The Missouri Ethics Commission took consideration of the complaint filed against Melissa Gilliam at its November 10, 2020 meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged that, while she was running for prosecutor in St. Francois County, Ms. Gilliam accepted campaign contributions from the attorney for and some family members of a criminal defendant. The complaint alleged that those campaign contributions influenced Ms. Gilliam's subsequent handling of that criminal case after she was elected.

Pursuant to Section 105.452.1(1), RSMo, "No elected or appointed official or employee of the state or any political subdivision thereof shall [a]ct or refrain from acting in any capacity in which he is lawfully empowered to act as such an official or employee by reason of any payment, offer to pay, promise to pay, or receipt of anything of actual pecuniary value paid or payable, or received or receivable, to himself or any third person, including any gift or campaign contribution, made or received in relationship to or as a condition of the performance of an official act, other than compensation to be paid by the state or political subdivision[.]

The MEC's investigation found no support for this allegation. There was no evidence that Ms. Gilliam made any promises, offers, or guarantees in exchange for campaign contributions or that they affected any future actions by the Office of Prosecuting Attorney. In addition, the criminal case at issue here was not handled by Ms. Gilliam but by another attorney in the St. Francois County Prosecutor's office. Ms. Gilliam's role was limited to reviewing the decisions made by that assistant prosecutor.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 105, RSMo, and dismissed the complaint.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
Executive Director