



# Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## **Final Action: MEC No. 20-0083-I, Tracey Perry**

**Date: 1/7/2021**

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Tracey Perry at its January 6, 2021 meeting.

The complaint alleged that Ms. Perry failed to include an accurate “Paid for by” disclosure on printed campaign yard signs. Ms. Perry was recently a candidate for the school board in the Jefferson R-7 District.

Section 130.031.8, RSMo, requires the following:

Any person publishing, circulating, or distributing any printed matter relative to any candidate for public office . . . shall on the face 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.

When a candidate does not have a committee and pays for printed matter from personal funds, the proper identification is the candidate’s first and last name. Section 130.031.8(1), RSMo.

When a committee pays for printed matter, Section 130.031.8(2) states that “it shall be sufficient identification to print the name of the committee as required to be registered by subsection 5 of section 130.021 and the name and title of the committee treasurer who was serving when the printed matter was paid for.” The Commission has previously interpreted the statute to allow candidate committees to reuse signs from prior elections without updating the name of the treasurer. *See* MEC Advisory Opinion 2020.10.CF.005.

The investigation undertaken by the MEC found that Ms. Perry did reuse signs from one or more prior elections, and that those signs were updated to say “Paid for by Tracey Perry.” This disclosure was accurate since Ms. Perry did not form a committee for this election. Notably, while a candidate may reuse old signs without updating them, there is no violation when a candidate elects to update campaign signs so long as the updates are in compliance with the statute.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 130, RSMo, and dismissed the complaint.

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Executive Director