

**BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
v.)
)
JOSIAH BECHTHOLD,)
)
and)
)
FRIENDS OF JOSIAH BECHTHOLD,)
)
 Respondents.)
)

Case No. 22-0029-I

Filed
AUG 22 2022
Missouri Ethics
Commission

**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 undersigned parties jointly stipulate to the facts and consent to the action set forth below.

The undersigned Respondents, Josiah Bechthold and Friends of Josiah Bechthold, acknowledge that they have received and reviewed a copy of the legal complaint filed by the Petitioner in this case, and the parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

The undersigned Respondents further acknowledge that they are aware of the various rights and privileges afforded by law, including but not limited to: the right to appear and be represented by counsel; the right to have all allegations against Respondents be proven upon the record by competent and substantial evidence; the right to cross-examine any witnesses appearing at the hearing against Respondents; the right to present evidence on Respondents' behalf at the hearing; and the right to a decision upon the record of the hearing. Being aware of

these rights provided to Respondents by operation of law, the undersigned Respondents knowingly and voluntarily waive each and every one of these rights and freely enter into this 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 and agree to abide by the terms of this document.

I.

Based upon the foregoing, the Petitioner and the undersigned Respondents jointly stipulate to the following and request that the Missouri Ethics Commission adopt as its own the Joint Proposed Findings of Fact and the Joint Proposed Conclusions of Law, as follows:

JOINT PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Josiah Bechthold is a candidate for the North Kansas City School District School Board in the April 5, 2022 election.
2. Respondent Friends of Josiah Bechthold is a candidate committee which registered with the MEC on February 6, 2022.
3. Pursuant to Section 105.961, RSMo, the Commission's staff investigated a complaint filed with the Commission and reported the investigation findings to the Commission.
4. Based on the investigation report, the Commission determined that there were reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of law had occurred, and it therefore authorized a hearing in this matter pursuant to Section 105.961.3, RSMo.
5. Bartsch for NKC Schools is a candidate committee that registered with the MEC on January 9, 2022.
6. Bartsch for NKC Schools ordered campaign flyers that stated, "Also vote for Josiah Bechthold" and provided the URL for Bechthold's website.

7. Respondent Bechthold gave Bartsch for NKC Schools permission to include his name on the flyers.

JOINT PROPOSED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. Pursuant to the Missouri Constitution Article VIII, Section 23.3(4), “No candidate's candidate committee shall accept contributions from, or make contributions to, another candidate committee, including any candidate committee, or equivalent entity, established under federal law.”

9. There is probable cause to believe that Respondents violated MO Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 23.3(4), by contributing to a candidate committee.

II.

Based on the foregoing, the parties hereto mutually agree and stipulate that the following shall constitute the order entered by the Missouri Ethics Commission in this matter. This order will be effective immediately upon the issuance of the Consent Order of the Missouri Ethics Commission without further action by any party:

1. The parties understand that the Petitioner will maintain this Joint Stipulation as an open and public record of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

2. Prior to finalizing settlement, Respondents will be required to file and amend reports and statements with the Commission.

3. The Commission shall issue its Consent Order in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

a. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of the Missouri Constitution.

b. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a fee is imposed against Respondents in the amount of \$1,000.00, pursuant to Section

105.961.4(6), RSMo. However, if Respondents pay \$100.00 within forty-five days after the date of the Consent Order, the remainder of the fee will be stayed. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.

c. Regardless of the stay in paragraph 3.b above, if there is probable cause to believe that any Respondent commits any further violation of the campaign finance laws under the Missouri Constitution, within the two-year period from the date of this order, then the Respondent who committed the violation will be required to pay the remainder of the fees. The fee will be due immediately upon final adjudication finding that there was probable cause to believe that such Respondent has committed such a violation.

d. Respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for all fees imposed under this order.

4. The parties consent to the entry of record and approval of this Joint Stipulation and to the termination of any further proceedings before the Commission based upon the legal complaint filed by the Petitioner in this action.

5. Respondents, together with their heirs, successors, and assigns, do hereby waive, release, acquit and forever discharge the Missouri Ethics Commission and its attorneys of or from any liability, claim, actions, causes of action, fees, costs and expenses, and compensation, including but not limited to, a claim for attorney's fees whatsoever which Respondents or Respondents' attorney may now have or which they may hereafter have, which are based upon or arise out of this case.

RESPONDENT JOSIAH BECHTHOLD

PETITIONER MISSOURI ETHICS
COMMISSION

By: J B Bechthold 8/18/2022
Josiah Bechthold Date

By: Elizabeth J. Ziegler 8/22/22
Elizabeth J. Ziegler Date
Executive Director

FRIENDS OF JOSIAH BECHTHOLD

By: J B Bechthold 8/18/2022
Josiah Bechthold Date

By: Noel DeJarnette 8/22/22
Noel DeJarnette Date
Attorney for Petitioner

**BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	Case No. 22-0029-I
v.)	
)	
JOSIAH BECHTHOLD,)	
)	
and)	
)	
FRIENDS OF JOSIAH BECHTHOLD,)	
)	
Respondents.)	

Filed
AUG 24 2022
Missouri Ethics
Commission

CONSENT ORDER

The parties have filed a Joint Stipulation of Facts, Waiver of Hearing, and Proposed Consent Order with the Missouri Ethics Commission. Accordingly, the Missouri Ethics Commission accepts as true the facts stipulated and finds that there is probable cause to believe that Respondents violated MO Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 23.3(4).

The Commission directs that the Joint Stipulation be adopted.

1. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of the Missouri Constitution.
2. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a fee is imposed against Respondents in the amount of \$1,000.00, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), RSMo. However, if Respondents pay \$100.00 within forty-five days after the date of the Consent Order, the remainder of the fee will be stayed. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.
3. Regardless of the stay in paragraph above, if there is probable cause to believe that any Respondent commits any further violation of the campaign finance laws under

the Missouri Constitution, within the two-year period from the date of this order, then the Respondent who committed the violation will be required to pay the remainder of the fees. The fee will be due immediately upon final adjudication finding that there was probable cause to believe that such Respondent has committed such a violation.

4. Respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for all fees imposed under this order.

SO ORDERED this 21TH day of August, 2022

By: 

Robert Cook, Chair
Missouri Ethics Commission