

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. Justin Lawson was a candidate for Carterville City Council in the April 5, 2022 election.
2. Pursuant to Section 105.961, RSMo, the Commission's staff received a complaint filed with the Commission. The Commission's staff investigated the complaint and reported the investigation findings to the Commission.
3. Based on the investigation report, the Commission determined that there were reasonable grounds to believe that violations of the law had occurred, and it therefore authorized a hearing in this matter pursuant to Section 105.961.3, RSMo.
4. Respondent distributed yard signs in support of three candidates for Carterville City Council in the April 5, 2022 election.
5. The signs all contained the statement "Paid for by Carterville Citizens" along the bottom, but they should have included the name of the individuals and the respective mailing addresses or if more than five individuals joined in paying for printed matter should have included the words "For a list of other sponsors contact:" followed by the name and address of one such individual responsible for causing the matter to be printed.

JOINT PROPOSED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

6. “Any person publishing, circulating, or distributing any printed matter relative to any candidate for public office of any ballot measure 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.” § 130.031.8, RSMo.

7. “[P]rinted matter’ shall be defined to include any pamphlet, circular, handbill, sample ballot, advertisement, including advertisements in any newspaper or other periodical, sign, including signs for display on motor vehicles, or other imprinted or lettered material[.]” § 130.031.8, RSMo.

8. Section 130.031.8, RSMo. further states the following:

(4) In regard to any printed matter paid for by an individual or individuals, it shall be sufficient identification to print the name of the individual or individuals and the respective mailing address or addresses, except that if more than five individuals join in paying for printed matter it shall be sufficient identification to print the words "For a list of other sponsors contact:" followed by the name and address of one such individual responsible for causing the matter to be printed, and the individual identified shall maintain a record of the names and amounts paid by other individuals and shall make such record available for review upon the request of any person.

9. There is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated § 130.031.8, RSMo, by distributing yard signs and banners which failed to include an accurate “Paid for by” disclosure.

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


a. Respondent shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 130, RSMo.

b. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a fee is imposed against Respondent in the amount of \$100.00, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), RSMo. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.

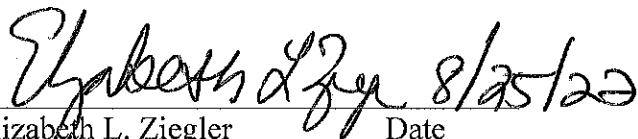
3. The parties consent to the entry of record and approval of this Joint Stipulation and to the termination of any further proceedings before the Commission based upon the legal complaint filed by the Petitioner in this action.

4. Respondent, together with his 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 Respondent or Respondent's attorney may now have or which they may hereafter have, which are based upon or arise out of this case.

RESPONDENT JUSTIN LAWSON

By:  8-21-22
Justin Lawson Date

PETITIONER MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

By:  8/25/22
Elizabeth L. Ziegler Date
Executive Director

By:  8/25/22
Noel DeJarnette Date
Attorney for Petitioner

Filed

SEP 7 2022

Missouri Ethics Commission

BEFORE THE MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,)
Petitioner,)
v.) Case No. 22-0008-I, 22-0027-I
JUSTIN LAWSON,)
Respondents.)

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 Respondent violated Section 130.031.8, RSMo.

The Commission directs that the Joint Stipulation be adopted.

- 1. Respondent shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 130, RSMo.
2. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a fee is imposed against Respondent in the amount of \$100.00, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), RSMo. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.

SO ORDERED this 7th day of September, 2022

By:

Robert C Cook

Robert Cook, Chair
Missouri Ethics Commission