



Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 23-0006-I, Erica Miller, Friends of Erica Miller, Stacy Cronhardt, Friends of Stacy Cronhardt, Kamile Johnson and Citizens for Kamile Johnson, Candidates for Lee's Summit RVII School Board

Date: 03/16/2023

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Erica Miller, Friends of Erica Miller, Stacy Cronhardt, Friends of Stacy Cronhardt, Kamile Johnson and Citizens for Kamile Johnson at its March 16, 2023, meeting. All three individuals are candidates for the Lee's Summit RVII School Board in the April 4, 2023, election.

The Missouri Constitution prohibits candidate committees from making contributions to other candidate committees. The complaint filed with the Commission alleged that these committees made in-kind contributions to, and received in-kind contributions from, one another when each candidate's Facebook advertisements in support of their own respective candidacies also included photographs of the other two candidates.

Each advertisement included headshots of the three candidates. The candidates were photographed, and those photographs were paid for, individually. Those individual headshots were then group together, by each committee's consultant, to create the advertisements. Each committee's advertisements only included words in support of its own respective candidate. Each committee's advertisements did not identify the people photographed and did not encourage viewers to vote for any other candidates. Under these circumstances it could not be said that this type of tacit endorsement rose to the legal definition of a campaign finance contribution.

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
Executive Director