



Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 23-0037-I, KC Tenants Power

Date: 9/15/2023

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against KC Tenants Power at its September 15, 2023, meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged KC Tenants Power accepted campaign contributions and was organized for a primary purpose of attempting to influence elections. For these reasons, it was alleged that this organization was operating as a continuing committee (PAC) but has failed to register with the Commission and file campaign finance reports.

KC Tenants Power is a non-profit corporation registered with the Missouri Secretary of State (SOS) on August 29, 2022, with a 501(c)(4) tax status. KC Tenants is a non-profit corporation registered with the SOS on July 15, 2020.

According to its website, "KC Tenants Power is led by tenants, organizing to take our city back and house the people. We are the sibling organization to KC Tenants, Kansas City's citywide tenant union. We are focused on winning governing power for tenants."

While the corporation did engage in some political activity, such activity was not found to be the corporation's primary purpose. The primary purpose of KC Tenants Power is the People's Platform, which focuses on educating the public on issues relating to affordable housing, economic development and advocating for the legal rights of tenants. KC Tenants Power is continuing to develop and engage with the community on its People's Platform and has no immediate plans to engage in election activity.

There was no evidence the corporation accepted contributions. The organization's donations page does not ask for money to support or oppose specific candidates and/or ballot measures. Rather, KC Tenants Power donation page states monies received will be used to further the corporation's overall purpose to "...educate the public, engage the community, and mobilize tenants to participate in our City's government...[and] pay for things like clipboards, materials, organizing teams, and more."

Because KC Tenants Power was not organized for the primary purpose of attempting to influence elections and it does not accept contributions, it was not required to register a campaign finance committee and was not required to file campaign finance disclosure reports.

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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