



# Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Final Action: MEC No. 24-0046-I, Arcadia Valley R-II School District, Ironton, MO**

**Date: July 29, 2024**

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Arcadia Valley R-II School District, at its July 29, 2024, meeting.

The complaint alleged five school board members – Linda Bowling, Byron Inman, Tommy Brogan, Mike Hartwig and Joe Branstetter – employed 16 members of their respective families who are related within the fourth degree. The complaint also alleged that Joe Branstetter entered into a contract with the Arcadia Valley R-II School District without following the proper bidding process.

Pursuant § 105.957.3, RSMo, “The commission, its executive director or an investigator shall not investigate any complaint concerning conduct which is not criminal in nature which occurred more than two years prior to the date of the complaint.”

It was not initially apparent from the reading of the complaint whether the allegations occurred within the past two years; therefore, it was necessary to accept the complaint and complete an investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, evidence shows that, in the last two years, no Arcadia Valley R-II School District board member voted to employ a member of their family and the Arcadia Valley R-II School District did not enter a contract for services with Joe Branstetter’s LLC within the last two years.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of the Missouri Constitution and Chapter 105, RSMo, and dismissed the complaint.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler  
Executive Director