

**BEFORE THE  
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

**Filed**  
**FEB 13 2025**  
Missouri Ethics  
Commission

MISSOURI ETHICS	)	
COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 24-0071-I
	)	
BOBBY DAVIS, Candidate,	)	
	)	
and	)	
	)	
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BOBBY	)	
DON DAVIS RAY COUNTY	)	
WESTERN COMMISSIONER,	)	
Candidate Committee,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

**JOINT FINDINGS OF FACT,  
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

The Missouri Ethics Commission (“MEC”), together with Bobby Davis and Committee to Elect Bobby Don Davis Ray County Western Commissioner (“Respondents”), collectively the “parties” jointly stipulate and consent to action as set forth here (the “agreement”).

Respondents acknowledge their right to have this agreement reviewed by counsel. Respondents further acknowledge they have received actual notice of the legal complaint filed by the MEC in this case, have reviewed the contents of the Complaint, and submit to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

Respondents further acknowledge 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 at a hearing before the MEC; the right to have all allegations against Respondents 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, Respondents knowingly and voluntarily waive each one of these rights and freely enters into this agreement and agrees to abide by its terms.

**I.**

The parties mutually agree and stipulate, subject to adoption by the Missouri Ethics Commission, the following shall constitute the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Bobby Davis was a successful candidate for Ray County Western District Commissioner in the August 6, 2024, primary election.

2. Committee to Elect Bobby Don Davis Ray County Western Commissioner is a candidate committee registered with the MEC on July 12, 2024.

3. Pursuant to § 105.961, the MEC's staff investigated a complaint filed with the Commission and reported the investigation findings to the Commission.

4. The Commission determined there were reasonable grounds to believe violations of the law had occurred and authorized a hearing pursuant to § 105.961.3.

**Count I – Failure to Timely File Statement of Committee Organization**

5. On April 22, 2024, Respondent made a \$500 deposit when opening a bank account in the name of Bobby Don Davis Ray County Western Commissioner, to support his candidacy, and made a second deposit of \$3,500 on June 4, 2024.

6. On July 12, 2024, Respondent filed a Statement of Committee Organization with the Missouri Ethics Commission for the committee, Committee to Elect Bobby Don Davis Ray County Western Commissioner.

**Count II – Failure to Timely File Reports**

7. On June 7, 2024, Respondents made a \$3,797.00 expenditure.

8. Respondents accepted contributions and made an expenditure in support of Davis’s candidacy within the time period covered by the July 2024 Quarterly Report, due July 15, 2024.

9. Respondent failed to file the July 2024 Quarterly Report as required.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

**Count I – Failure to Timely File Statement of Committee Organization**

10. Section 130.011(7) defines a committee as:

a person or any combination of persons, who accepts contributions or makes expenditures for the primary or incidental purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of voters for or against the nomination or election to public office of one or more candidates.

11. Pursuant to § 130.011(9), a candidate committee is:

a committee which shall be formed by a candidate to receive contributions or make expenditures in behalf of the person’s candidacy and which shall continue in existence for use by an elected candidate or which shall terminate the later of either

thirty days after the general election for a candidate who was not elected or upon the satisfaction of all committee debt after the election[.]

12. The provision defining exemptions for certain candidates from filing requirements goes on to set threshold limits before activity by a candidate for county office requires they form a committee, § 130.016.6 excludes the following from the definition of committee:

No candidate for ... county office ... shall be required to file an exemption statement pursuant to this section in order to be exempted from forming a committee and filing disclosure reports required of committees pursuant to this chapter if the aggregate of contributions received or expenditures made by the candidate and any other person with the candidate's knowledge and consent in support of the person's candidacy does not exceed one thousand dollars and the aggregate of contributions from any single contributor does not exceed three hundred twenty-five dollars.

13. In evaluating whether activity reaches the threshold of requiring a committee, the definition of contribution is probative, § 130.011(12) defines a contribution as any:

payment, gift, loan, advance, deposit, or donation of money or anything of value for the purpose of supporting or opposing the nomination or election of any candidate for public office[.]

14. "Contribution' includes, but is not limited to: (a) A candidate's own money or property used in support of the person's candidacy other than expense of the candidate's food, lodging, travel, and payment of any fee necessary to the filing for public office[.]" § 130.011(12)(a), RSMo.

15. The definition of expenditure is similarly relevant, defined in §130.011(16), as any:

payment, advance, conveyance, deposit, donation or contribution of money or anything of value for the purpose of supporting or opposing the nomination or election of any candidate for public office[.]

16. Lastly, upon meeting the definition of a committee, §130.021.5 requires formation to be undertaken, stating, in relevant part:

any person or organization or group of persons which is a committee by virtue of the definitions of committee in section 130.011...shall file a statement of organization with the appropriate officer within twenty days after the person or organization becomes a committee but no later than the date for filing the first report required pursuant to the provisions of section 130.046.

17. Where Respondent met the requirements to register a committee by at least June 4, 2024; where Respondent was required to register his committee by June 24, 2024; and where Respondent did not register his committee until July 12, 2024, there is probable cause to believe Respondent violated § 130.021.5, giving this commission the power to act as permitted under § 105.961.

### **Count II – Failure to Timely File Reports**

18. Section 130.041 requires the candidate and/or treasurer or deputy treasurer of every committee to file disclosure reports of all receipts and expenditures, as prescribed in § 130.046.

19. Section 130.046 lists the timing for the filing of reports required by § 130.041, stating, in part:

1. The disclosure reports required by section 130.041 for all committees shall be filed at the following times and for the following periods:

...

- (3) Not later than the fifteenth day following the close of each calendar quarter.

...

3. The candidate, if applicable, treasurer or deputy treasurer of a committee shall file disclosure reports pursuant to this section, except for any calendar quarter in which the contributions received by the committee or the expenditures or contributions made by the committee do not exceed five hundred dollars. The reporting dates and periods covered for such quarterly reports shall not be later than the fifteenth day of January, April, July and October for periods closing on the thirty-first day of December, the thirty-first day of March, the thirtieth day of June and the thirtieth day of September[.]

20. Where Respondents' July 2024 Quarterly report was required to be filed by § 130.041, and where Respondent failed to do so timely, there is probable cause to believe Respondent violated § 130.046 giving this Commission to act, as permitted under § 105.961.

## II.

Based on the foregoing, the parties mutually agree and stipulate, subject to adoption by the Missouri Ethics Commission, the following shall constitute the Order issued by the Missouri Ethics Commission in this matter:

### CONSENT ORDER

The Missouri Ethics Commission finds probable cause to believe Respondents violated §§ 130.021.5 and 130.046, RSMo. and pursuant to §105.961.4, hereby

#### ORDERS:

1. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 130.
2. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a fee is imposed against Respondents in the amount of \$2,000, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), RSMo. However, if Respondents pay \$200 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 2 above, if there is probable cause to believe that any Respondent commits any further violation of the campaign finance laws under Chapter 130, RSMo, 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.

### III.

1. The parties understand the Missouri Ethics Commission will maintain this agreement as an open record of the Commission.

2. This agreement does not bind the Missouri Ethics Commission or restrict the remedies available concerning any violations not expressly detailed here, including any future violations.

3. Each party agrees to pay all their own fees and expenses incurred as a result of this case, its litigation, and/or its disposition.

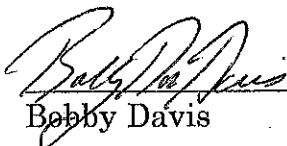
4. Respondents, together with their heirs, assigns, agents, representatives and attorneys, do hereby waive, release, acquit and forever discharge the Missouri Ethics Commission, the Commission's respective members, employees, agents and attorneys including former members, employees, agents and attorneys, of, or from any liability, claim, actions, causes of action, fees, costs, expenses and compensation, including, but not limited to, any claim for attorney's fees and expenses, whether or not now known or contemplated, including, but not limited to, any claims pursuant

to Section 536.087, RSMo, as amended, or any claim arising under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, which now or in the future may be based upon, arise out of, or relate to any of the matters raised in this case or its litigation or from the negotiation or execution of this Joint Stipulation. The parties acknowledge that this paragraph is severable from the remaining portions of this agreement in that it survives in perpetuity even in the event that any court or administrative tribunal deems this agreement or any portion thereof void or unenforceable.

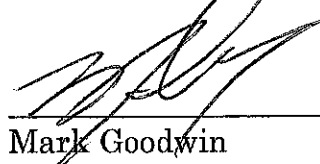
5. This agreement shall become effective immediately upon (1) the signature of all parties; (2) adoption of the Joint Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law by the Missouri Ethics Commission; and (3) issuance of a Final Order by the Commission, without any further action of the parties.

SO AGREED:

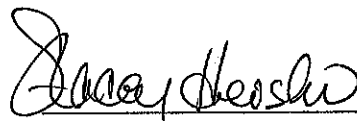
RESPONDENTS BOBBY DAVIS,  
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BOBBY  
DON DAVIS RAY COUNTY  
WESTERN COMMISSIONER


  
Bobby Davis                      2-6-25  
Date

ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENTS

  
Mark Goodwin                      2.6.25  
Date

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

  
Stacey Heislen                      2/13/2025  
Executive Director                      Date

  
Brian Hamilton                      2/13/25  
Attorney for Petitioner                      Date



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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 14th day of February, 2025

*Robin Wheeler Sanders*

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Robin Wheeler Sanders, Chair  
Missouri Ethics Commission