

BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

Filed

OCT 20 2025

Missouri Ethics
Commission

MISSOURI ETHICS	)	
COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
v.	)	
	)	
LEIGH PALITZSCH,	)	
Candidate,	)	Case No. 24-0039-I
	)	
and	)	
	)	
LEIGH PALITZSCH FOR WSD,	)	
Candidate Committee,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

JOINT FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

The Missouri Ethics Commission ("MEC"), together with Leigh Palitzsch and Leigh Palitzsch for WSD ("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. Leigh Palitzsch was an unsuccessful candidate for Wentzville R-IV School Board in the April 2, 2024, election.

2. Leigh Palitzsch for WSD is a candidate committee registered with the MEC on or about January 8, 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 Include an Accurate "Paid for by" Disclosure

5. James (J.R.) Palitzsch and Jett Reidy used personal funds to purchase campaign flyers and gave those flyers to Respondents.

6. The flyers included a disclosure which read, "Paid for by J.R. Palitzsch and Jett Reidy."

7. The flyers should have contained the clear and conspicuous statement, "Paid for by J.R. Palitzsch and Jett Reidy" along with their respective mailing addresses but did not.

8. Respondent Palitzsch distributed the flyers with the inaccurate paid for by disclosure.

Count II

Failure to Report an In-kind Contribution

9. James (J.R.) Palitzsch and Jett Reidy used personal funds to purchase campaign flyers and gave those flyers to Respondents.

10. The expense of the campaign flyers is something of value given from J.R. Palitzsch and Jett Reidy to Respondents.

11. Respondents failed to report an in-kind contribution received from J.R. Palitzsch and Jett Reidy for the campaign flyers.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Count I

Failure to Include an Accurate "Paid for by" Disclosure

12. "Any person publishing, circulating, or distributing any printed matter relative to any candidate for public office or 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.

13. “[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.

14. 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[.]

15. There is probable cause to believe Respondents violated § 130.031.8, by distributing flyers which failed to include an accurate “Paid for by” disclosure.

Count II

Failure to Report an In-kind Contribution

16. Section 130.011(12) defines a contribution to include anything of value for the purpose of supporting the election of a candidate for office.

17. Pursuant to § 130.011(19) a contribution in a form other than money is an in-kind contribution.

18. Section 130.041.1(9), sets forth the requirements for committees to report receipts for each reporting period on all disclosure reports:

A separate listing by full name and address of any committee, including a candidate committee controlled by the same candidate from which a transfer of funds or a contribution in any amount has been received during the reporting period, together with the date and amount of each such transfer or contribution[.]

19. Section 130.041.1(3)(d) requires committees to report receipts for the “total value of all in-kind contributions received.”

20. Where Respondents received one (1) contribution of something of value from J.R. Palitzsch and Jett Reidy, and failed to report the in-kind contribution received, there is probable cause to believe Respondents violated §§ 130.041.1(9) & 130.041.1(3)(d), giving this Commission power 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 §§ 130.031.8, 130.041.1(9), and 130.041.1(3)(d), and pursuant to § 105.961.4, hereby **ORDERS**:

1. Prior to finalizing settlement, Respondents will be required to file and amend reports and statements with the Commission.
2. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 130.
3. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a fee is imposed against Respondents in the amount of \$1,100.00, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), RSMo. However, if Respondents pay \$200.00 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.
4. Regardless of the stay in paragraph 3 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.

5. 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
LEIGH PALITZSCH FOR WSD and
LEIGH PALITZSCH

Leigh Palitzsch 10/14/2025
Leigh Palitzsch Date

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

Stacey Heislen 10/14/2025
Stacey Heislen Date
Executive Director

Brian Hamilton 10/20/2025
Brian Hamilton Date
Attorney for Petitioner

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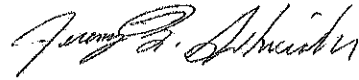
CONSENT ORDER

The Missouri Ethics Commission finds probable cause to believe Respondents violated §§ 130.031.8, 130.041.1(9), and 130.041.1(3)(d), 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 \$1,100.00, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), RSMo. However, if Respondents pay \$200.00 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.
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4. Respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for all fees imposed under this order.

SO ORDERED this 22nd day of October 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy B. Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeremy Schneider
Missouri Ethics Commission