



Missouri Ethics Commission

Stacey Heislen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 26-0007-I City of Sedalia and Mayor Andrew Dawson

Date: March 11, 2026

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against the City of Sedalia and Mayor Andrew Dawson, at its March 11, 2026, meeting.

The Complainant alleged that the City of Sedalia used public resources to promote Mayor Andrew Dawson's re-election campaign by tagging the Mayor's political candidate page in posts made on the City's official Facebook account.

The investigation determined that the City of Sedalia routinely tags individuals such as Mayor Dawson and other public officials to help residents clearly identify who is involved in City business and to provide convenient access to additional information. The City stated that the tagging in the posts at issue was informational in nature and related solely to Mayor Dawson's official role, not to any political campaign activity. While the posts did tag a page designated by Facebook as a "Political Candidate" page, the content of the posts themselves did not reference or promote Mayor Dawson's candidacy.

To avoid the appearance of using public resources for political purposes in the future, the City of Sedalia should discontinue tagging political candidate pages on its official social media accounts.

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds to support one or more violations of Chapter 115 RSMo., and dismiss.

Stacey Heislen
Executive Director