

Filed

JUN 02 2026

Missouri Ethics
Commission

BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 25-0038-I &
)	25-0042-I
THERESA HAWKINS,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

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

The Missouri Ethics Commission ("MEC"), together with Theresa Hawkins ("Respondent"), collectively the "parties," jointly stipulate and consent to action as set forth here (the "agreement").

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

Respondent further acknowledges 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 Respondent proven upon the record by competent and substantial evidence; the right to cross-examine any witnesses appearing at the hearing against Respondent; the

right to present evidence on Respondent's behalf at the hearing; and the right to a decision upon the record of the hearing. Being aware of these rights, Respondent knowingly and voluntarily waives 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. The Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC) is an agency of the State of Missouri established pursuant to § 105.955, RSMo, in part for the purpose of enforcing provisions of Chapter 130, RSMo.

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

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

4. On August 8, 2023, there was a special election calling for the recall of board members Darvin Schildknecht and Kerri VanMeveren from the Western Cass [County] Fire Protection District.

5. Respondent printed sample ballots from the official website maintained by Cass County.

6. On August 8, 2023, Respondent appeared at the polling station and handed out copies of the sample ballots in an effort to influence voters.

7. The sample ballots failed to contain the clear and conspicuous statement: "Paid for by Theresa Hawkins" along with her mailing address.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. "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." Section 130.031.8, RSMo.

9. "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 addresses[.]" Section 130.031.8(4), RSMo.

10. "'[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[.]" Section 130.031.8, RSMo.

11. There is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated § 130.031.8(4), RSMo, by distributing sample ballots that failed to include an accurate "Paid for by" disclosure.

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 Respondent violated § 130.031.8(4), RSMo and pursuant to § 105.961.4, RSMo, hereby **ORDERS**:

1. Respondent shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 130.
2. A fee is imposed against Respondent in the amount of \$100.00, pursuant to § 105.961.4(6), RSMo. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.

III.

The parties understand that the MEC will maintain this agreement as an open record of the Commission. This agreement does not bind the MEC or restrict the remedies available concerning any violations not expressly detailed here, including any future violations. Each party agrees to pay all their own fees and expenses incurred as a result of this case, its litigation, and/or its disposition.

Respondent, together with their heirs, assigns, agents, representatives and attorneys, do hereby waive, release, acquit and forever discharge the MEC, 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 § 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.

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

SO AGREED:

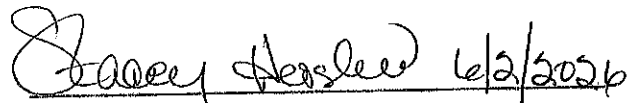
RESPONDENT

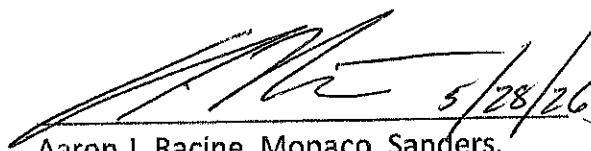
PETITIONER


THERESA HAWKINS

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION


Theresa Hawkins Date 5-14-26


Stacey Heisler Date 6/2/2026
Executive Director


Aaron J. Racine, Monaco, Sanders,
Racine, Powell & Reidy, LC
Attorney for Respondent Date 5/28/26
MO BAR # 48067


Brian Hamilton Date 6/2/26
Attorney for Petitioner

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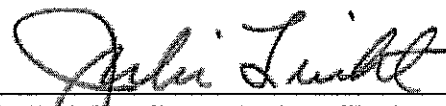
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CONSENT ORDER

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2. A fee is imposed against Respondent in the amount of \$100.00, pursuant to § 105.961.4(6), RSMo. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.

SO ORDERED this 4th day of June 2026



Julie Leicht, Commission Chair
Missouri Ethics Commission