

BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

Filed
JUL 09 2026

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,

Petitioner,

v.

DR. JOSEPH D. HUTCHISON,

Respondent.

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Case No. 26-0005-I

Missouri Ethics
Commission

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

The Missouri Ethics Commission ("MEC"), together with Dr. Joseph D. Hutchison ("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 themselves to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

Respondent 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 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 the provisions of Chapter 130, RSMo.

2. Respondent Dr. Joseph D. Hutchison is a resident of Perryville in Perry County, Missouri.

3. Pursuant to §§ 105.957 and 105.961, RSMo, the Commission's staff investigated a complaint that was filed with the Commission and reported the 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, RSMo.

COUNT I

Failure to File Non-Committee Expenditure Reports

5. In June of 2024, Respondent purchased advertisements on digital billboards in support of the following candidates:

- William Bonhert, who was running for Coroner;
- Jeff Bonher, who was running for County Commissioner;
- Damon Dillard, who was running for County Commissioner.

6. The billboards contained a disclosure stating that they had been paid for by “Dr. Joe and Marsha Hutchison.”

7. The cost for each billboard advertisement was \$550.

8. Respondent provided all three candidates with copies of the receipts from the sign company.

9. In a campaign finance disclosure report, Jeff Bohnert reported receipt of a \$550 in-kind contribution from Joe and Marsha Hutchison.

10. No other candidates reported receipt of an in-kind contribution from Respondent.

11. Respondent also incurred the cost of printing and distributing mailers in support of the following individuals who were candidates for Perry County Memorial Hospital Trustee:

- Gwen Moore Schweiss;
- Melissa Hahn Carroll.

COUNT II

Failure to Include a Proper "Paid for by" Disclosure

12. Respondent printed and distributed mailers in support of the following individuals who were candidates for Perry County Memorial Hospital Trustee:

- Gwen Moore Schweiss;
- Melissa Hahn Carroll.

13. The mailers contained the following endorsement:

I am Dr. Joe D. Hutchison. I have had the pleasure of serving as a dentist in Perryville for the last 52 years. It is my greatest desire to see our community thrive in truth and in goodness. Please vote April 2nd. Thank you, Joe.

14. The mailers did not contain a proper "Paid for by" disclosure.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

COUNT I

Failure to File Non-Committee Expenditure Reports

15. Section 130.047.1, RSMo, contains the following reporting requirement:

Any person who is not a defined committee who makes an expenditure or expenditures aggregating five hundred dollars or more in support of, or opposition to, one or more candidates. . . shall file a report signed by the person making the expenditure, or that person's agent.

16. However, this reporting requirement is waived if the person making the expenditures uses their own:

[F]unds or resources to make an expenditure or expenditures in support of or in coordination or consultation with a candidate

committee; provided that, any such expenditure is recorded as a contribution to such candidate or committee and so reported by the candidate or committee being supported by the expenditure or expenditures.

Section 130.047.1, RSMo.

17. An "expenditure" is defined as "a 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[.]" Section 130.011(17). RSMo.

18. There is probable cause to believe Respondent violated § 130.047.1, RSMo, by failing to file a non-committee expenditure report disclosing expenditures made on behalf of William Bonhert, David Dillard, Gwen Moore Schweiss, and Melissa Hahn Carroll, since the aggregate of those expenditures exceeded the reporting threshold of \$500.

COUNT II

Failure to Include a Proper "Paid for by" Disclosure

19. Pursuant to § 130.031.8, RSMo, printed matter relative to a candidate for public office "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."

20. The specifics regarding "proper identification of the sponsor" are laid out in the subsections of the statute as follows:

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, except that if more than five individuals join in paying for printed matter it shall be sufficient identification to print the words "For a list of other sponsors contact:" followed by the name and address of one such individual responsible for causing the matter to be printed, and the individual identified shall maintain a record of the names and amounts paid by other individuals and shall make such record available for review upon the request of any person.

Section 130.031.8, RSMo.

21. There is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated the provisions of § 130.031.8, RSMo, by printing, publishing, circulating, and/or distributing mailers supporting candidates for public office without properly identifying who paid for the mailers.

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 §§ 130.047.1 and 130.031.8, RSMo, and pursuant to § 105.961.4, RSMo, hereby

ORDERS:

1. Respondent shall comply with all provisions of Chapter 130, RSMo.
2. Respondent shall file reports as necessary to bring them into

compliance with Chapter 130, RSMo.

3. A fee is imposed against Respondent in the amount of \$1,100; however, if, within 45 days of the date of the consent order, Respondent pays \$200 and files all necessary reports, the remainder of the fee will be stayed.
4. Regardless of the stay in paragraph 3, if there is probable cause to believe that Respondent has committed any further violation of the campaign finance laws in Chapter 130, RSMo, within the two-year period from the date of this order, then Respondent will be required to pay the remainder of the fee. That remainder will be due immediately upon final adjudication of finding probable cause.
5. Fees 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.

Respondents, 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

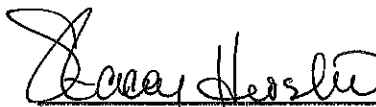
DR. JOSEPH D. HUTCHISON



Dr. Joseph D. Hutchison 7/1/26
Date

PETITIONER

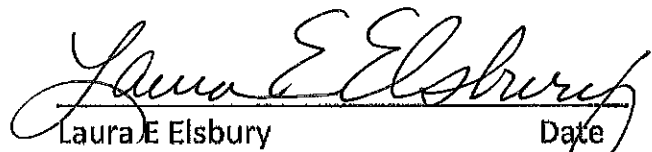
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION



Stacey Heislen 7/9/2026
Executive Director Date



J.P. Clubb 7/1/26
The Clubb Law Firm Date
Attorney for Respondent



Laura E. Elsbury Date
Attorney for Petitioner

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CONSENT ORDER

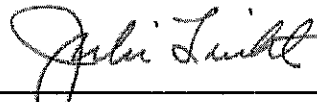
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5. Fees will be paid by check or money order made payable to the

Missouri Ethics Commission.

SO ORDERED, this 10th day of July, 2026.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie Leicht", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Julie Leicht, Chair
Missouri Ethics Commission