

**BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

Filed

AUG 28 2026

**Missouri Ethics
Commission**

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 26-0042-I
	)	
LADUE SCHOOL DISTRICT,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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

The Missouri Ethics Commission ("MEC"), together with the Respondent, Ladue School District, 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 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 the provisions of Chapter 130, RSMo.

2. Respondent Ladue School District is organized under the laws of Missouri and exercises the powers delegated to it by the Missouri Legislature to provide educational services to the students in its district.

3. Pursuant to §§ 105.957 and 105.961, RSMo, the MEC's staff investigated a complaint that had been 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 occurred and authorized a hearing pursuant to § 105.961.3, RSMo.

5. Respondent produced and distributed a mailer containing information regarding an upcoming election forum and relative to the candidates for school board on the April 7, 2026 ballot.

6. The mailer included a disclosure that read "Sponsored by Ladue School District" but did not include the words "Paid for by" and did not include the name of its principal officer or its mailing address.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7. "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.

8. The relevant 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 a corporation or other business entity, labor organization, or any other organization not defined to be a committee by subdivision (7) of section 130.011 and not organized especially for influencing one or more elections, it shall be sufficient identification to print the name of the entity, the name of the principal officer of the entity, by whatever title known, and the mailing address of the entity, or if the entity has no mailing address, the mailing address of the principal officer.

Section 130.031.8(3), RSMo.

9. There is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated § 130.031.8(3),

RSMo, by producing and distributing a mailer with information relative to candidates for public office that failed to include a complete and 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, RSMo and pursuant to § 105.961.4, RSMo, hereby **ORDERS**:

1. A fee is imposed against Respondent in the amount of \$100.
2. 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, does 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:

RESPONDENTS

LADUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PETITIONER

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

By: James W. Brasher 8/26/26
Date

Title: Ladue School Board President

Stacey Helsien 8/28/26
Date
Stacey Helsien
Executive Director

Celynda L. Brasher 8/27/26
Date
Celynda Brasher
Mandi D. Moutrey
Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan
And Jackstadt, PC
Attorneys for Respondents

Laura E. Elsbury
Date
Laura E. Elsbury
Attorney for Petitioner

Filed
SEP 08 2026
Missouri Ethics
Commission

Respondent.

Case No. 26-0042-I

The Missouri Ethics Commission finds probable cause to believe Respondent violated § 130.031.8, RSMo and pursuant to § 105.961.4, RSMo, hereby **ORDERS**:

1. A fee is imposed against Respondent in the amount of \$100.
2. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.

SO ORDERED, this 9th day of September, 2026.


Julie Leicht, Chair
Missouri Ethics Commission