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Missouri Ethics
Commission

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

3. Based upon the investigation report, 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. Question 1 sought voter approval of a 3 percent city use tax and appeared on the ballot in Jasper County in the April 2, 2024 election.

5. Respondent used personal funds to create homemade signs that were placed in public locations, and which read, "Tired of CJ city government not listening to us? Vote no again on the unfair use tax and write in Dr. Justin Hamlin for ward 3 alderman!"

6. The signs did not include a paid for by disclosure.

7. The signs should have contained the clear and conspicuous statement "Paid for by Justin Hamlin" but did not.

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." § 130.031.8, RSMo.

9. "'[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.

10. "'[P]rinted matter' is defined to exclude... any sign personally printed and constructed by an individual without compensation from any other person and displayed at that individual's place of residence or on that individual's personal motor vehicle[.]" § 130.031.8, RSMo.

11. Section 130.031.8(1), RSMo, further states the following: "In regard to any printed matter paid for by a candidate from the candidate's personal funds, it shall be sufficient identification to print the first and last name by which the candidate is known."

12. There is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated § 130.031.8, RSMo, by creating and placing homemade signs in public locations in support of his

candidacy and in opposition to a ballot measure which failed to include a proper “Paid for by” disclosure statement.

ORDER

The Missouri Ethics Commission finds probable cause to believe Respondent, Justin Hamlin, violated § 130.031.8, RSMo, and announces the following action as authorized by § 105.961.4(6), RSMo:

It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a fee is imposed against Respondent in the amount of \$ 1,000.00. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.

SO ORDERED, this 17th day of September, 2026.

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

Julie Leicht, Chair
Missouri Ethics Commission