Missouri Ethics Commission
Stacey Heislen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 26-0071-I Hillsdale Village, MO

Date: October 20, 2026

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against the City of Hillsdale at its October 20, 2026, meeting.

The complaints alleged that the Hillsdale Village displayed candidate campaign material inside the Hillsdale City Hall building.

The investigation found that there were a stack of campaign materials supporting a candidate on the counter in front of the glass window of the Village Clerk's desk. The Village Clerk stated that she had no knowledge of how the materials were placed there. The Hillsdale City Attorney similarly reported that no employees were aware of anyone placing the materials on the counter. The area where the materials were located is accessible to the public.

The candidate whose name appeared on the campaign materials displayed in the City Hall building denied placing the materials there and denied providing campaign materials to anyone for that purpose.

In an affidavit, the Hillsdale Village Clerk explained that she does not have an unobstructed view of the lobby-side ledge where the materials were placed. Due to office equipment and stacked files, items left on that surface are not readily visible from her seated work position.

Based on these facts, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of Chapter 115, RSMo, occurred and has dismissed the complaint.

It is recommended that the Hillsdale Village Clerk routinely inspect her desk and surrounding areas for campaign materials and remove any such items promptly.

Stacey Heislen
Executive Director