Filed
SEP 30 2026
Missouri Ethics Commission

BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 26-0036-I
	)	
OZARK SCHOOL DISTRICT,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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

The Missouri Ethics Commission ("MEC"), together with the Ozark School District ("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 Ozark 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. Senate Bill 3 was on the April 7, 2026 ballot in Christian County, posing the following question:

> Shall the County of Christian exempt eligible taxpayers from certain property tax increases on eligible taxpayers' primary residence above the tax liability incurred during the taxpayers' initial credit year?

6. Respondent joined with a number of other political subdivisions and/or public entities in Christian County to produce flyers and postcards containing information relative to Senate Bill 3.

7. The flyers and postcards identified Respondent as one of the entities who paid for the production and/or distribution of that printed matter but failed to include the name of Respondent's principal officer and its 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. 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.

10. There is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated § 130.031.8(3), RSMo, by producing and distributing flyers and postcards relative to a ballot measure 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 Respondents violated § 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. 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.

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

OZARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Amber Bryant 9/29/26

By: Date

Title: Board President

PETITIONER

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

Stacey Heislen 9/30/2026

Stacey Heislen Date

Executive Director

Celynda L. Brasher

Celynda Brasher Date 9/29/26

Mandi D. Moutray

Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan and Jackstadt, PC

Attorneys for Respondent

Laura E Elsbury

Laura E Elsbury Date

Attorney for Petitioner

Filed

NOV 03 2026

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SO ORDERED, this 3rd day of November, 2026.

Julie Leicht, Chair
Missouri Ethics Commission