

MEC News

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Legislative Update

SB844 (Effective August 28th) This bill contains changes to Missouri's ethics, campaign finance and lobbyist laws. See the Commission's [SB844 web page](#) for frequently asked questions, a web tutorial, summary of advisory opinions issued, fact sheet, correspondence and other information.



Senate Bill 844 signed into law
Review the changes in the law that may affect you!

Campaign Finance continued...

Nov 2nd General Election Deadlines:

8 Day Before Election Report—Oct 25th All committees making contributions or expenditures in support or opposition to candidates or ballot measures in the Nov 2nd election; covers the committee's activity from the day after the last report through Oct 21st. (Section 130.046.1(1), RSMo)

30 Day After Election Report—Dec 2nd All committees making contributions or expenditures in support or opposition to candidates or ballot measures in the Nov 2nd election; covers the committee's activity from the day after the last report through Nov 27th. (Section 130.046.1(2), RSMo).

Campaign Finance

Candidate Notice! A successful candidate for the Nov 2nd election cannot take office until all outstanding campaign finance reports are filed and any fees assessed by MEC are paid per [SB844](#).

Late Campaign Finance Filing—Late Fee Increased to \$50 a day, for any campaign finance report filed late (except for the 8-Day Before Election Report which is assessed at \$100 per day). *This includes Statements of Limited Activity.*

REMINDER: October Qtrly Reports Due Oct 15th
Every committee registered with MEC must file an Oct Qtrly Report by October 15, 2010. This report should include all activity from the day after your last report through September 30, 2010.

Any report mailed must be postmarked by October 14, 2010, the day prior, to be considered timely filed. All electronically filed reports should be received by 5pm on October 15, 2010 (Section 130.046.8 RSMo).

Committee Registration Deadline: October 3rd is the last day for a committee to organize as a committee for the November 2, 2010 election. The deadline to form a PAC for the November election has passed.

All committees registered with MEC MUST file campaign finance reports electronically effective January 1, 2011. If your committee is not set up to file electronically, complete the [pin application and waiver](#) and return to our office.

Report Title	Description	When Required (Nov General)
24 HR - Late Contribution Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any contribution > \$250 Report within 24 hours of receipt Report in the committee's next filed report 	Oct 22nd - Nov 1st 2010
48 HR Report of Contrib > \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any contribution > \$5,000 Report within 48 hours of receipt Report in the committee's next filed report 	Any time during reporting period
Contrib Rec'd > \$500 during Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any contribution > \$500 Report within 48 hours receipt (State Rep or State Sen) (*Gov, Lt Gov, Treas, Atty Gen, Sec of St or Auditor) Report in the committee's next filed report 	During legislative session (* and during time when legislation awaits gubernatorial action)
PACS: Late Expenditure Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total expenditure(s) > \$250 Report within 24 hours 	Oct 22nd - Nov 1st 2010

Campaign Finance FAQs

Q: Can a federal PAC make contributions to a Missouri PAC? A: Yes, a federal PAC can make contributions to any campaign finance committee registered in Missouri, including political action committees.

Q: How does a federal PAC report their campaign finance activity? A: Federal PACs are required to file their reports with the FEC. More info may be found on their website at www.fec.gov.

Q: Are federal PACs that contribute to Missouri committees required to register as out-of-state committees under Missouri law? A: No, as long as the federal political action committee is in compliance w/ the FEC. (11CFR108.71, 208 USC 439)

Lobbying

Lobbyists' Monthly Expenditure Report Effective Aug 28th, [SB844](#) contains specific changes related to lobbyist reporting requirements.

- ✓ Lobbyist must report the location of a group expenditure;
- ✓ The definition of group expenditure is expanded to include statewide officials and the staff of a public official;
- ✓ Specifies that if a lobbyist is found to knowingly omit, conceal, or falsify any information required to be reported will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Lobbyist Renewals Between December 1st and January 5th each lobbyist must renew their lobbyist status and submit their \$10 annual registration fee to remain an active lobbyist for the 2011 year. Look in your inbox later this year for more information.

Personal Financial Disclosure

Gubernatorial Appointments SB844 requires gubernatorial nominees requiring Senate confirmation to file a Personal Financial Disclosure statement and submit a list of political contributions, made within the previous 4-year period, to the Senate.

MECs upgraded electronic filing system for political subdivisions has been a HUGE success. All political subdivisions can file their annual operating budget (AOB) and required filer's list on our website. The upgrades have made the system so user friendly that 89% of all AOBs and 99.7% of all required filer's lists have been submitted electronically.

Tech Talk

Commission Retools Candidate Search The Commission retooled the *Registered Candidates and Candidate Committees* search. [Use this search](#) to see the candidates and their campaign finance committees registered with the Commission for the November 2nd election.

Commission Training on Campaign Finance, Lobbying, and SB844
View our [web tutorials](#) and the training schedule for webinars and in-person seminars.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Advisory Opinions

Upon written request, the Commission issues advisory opinions about campaign finance disclosure, conflict of interest, lobbying and personal financial disclosure. Advisory opinions are available on the Commission's [website](#). Below are recently issued opinions:

Campaign Finance

[2010.08.CF.003](#)— An association which acts as an authorized agent for a campaign finance committee for receipt of contributions for its members. [2010.08.CF.004](#)—A PAC which received pay for the goods or services at fair market value from another PAC as part of a business transaction.

Complaints

Is there a time frame where the Commission cannot accept a complaint related to a candidate?

(Section 130.054, RSMo.) **Yes**, the Commission cannot accept a complaint alleging misconduct on the part of a candidate for public office, other than an allegation of failure to file timely and accurately, a Personal Financial Disclosure statement or campaign finance disclosure reports, within 60 days before the primary election until after the general election. The Commission may not accept a complaint filed against a candidate or candidate committee within 15 days prior to the primary or general election in which the candidate is running for office.

Coming in 2011

New User Interface—Campaign Finance Filers will see a new user interface in 2011. The new interface will guide the user through the filing process, provide help text for each area, and perform system edits to improve reporting. Changes in the database will improve the public's search capabilities when looking for candidate, committee, & contributor's names and information.

PFD Electronic Filing System Coming in the Spring of 2011, individuals required to file their Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) each year will be able to file electronically. You'll be able to view the PFD you filed last year, experience easy-to-use interface, and have user help at your fingertips. Stay tuned for more information!

Training New campaign finance web tutorials for county clerks and other election authorities as well as web tutorials for local elected officials and the state legislature.