Requirements

- Any person publishing, circulating, or distributing campaign material about candidates for pubic office or ballot measures in Missouri must comply with "paid for by" disclosure requirements.
- Any pamphlet, circular, handbill, sample ballot, advertisement, sign, or other imprinted or lettered material that is relative to candidates or ballot matters must contain the proper "paid for by" disclaimer.
- Informational materials about candidates or ballot measures (not necessarily in support or opposition) must contain the proper "paid for by" disclaimer.
- The MEC does not regulate sign placement. Review local ordinances and MODOT policies for guidance on unauthorized signs.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** All contribution solicitations require an additional disclaimer. See the Missouri Ethics Commission's annual Ethics Guide for details.

Paid for By Requirements

Campaign Material Identification

YouTube
youtube.com/MOEthics

Ethics Guide
mec.mo.gov

FAQs
mec.mo.gov/FAQs

This brochure is intended only as a guide to aid understanding of campaign finance disclosure law.

For the law's complete requirements, consult the law itself, codified at Chapter 130 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

Violations of Chapter 130, RSMo, are within the MEC's jurisdiction and, in the event a complaint is filed, may result in enforcement.

PO Box 1370
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-751-2013 | 800-392-8660
mec.mo.gov

Revised 08/2026

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Paid for By Requirements

Campaign Material Identification



MEC
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

Paid For By Requirements - Campaign Material Identification

What is excluded from the "paid for by" disclaimer requirements

- Items of personal use given away or sold that are
  - Paid for by a candidate or committee supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures and are
  - Obvious in their identification with a specific candidate or committee and
  - The cost of which is reported on campaign finance reports as required by law.
- A news story, commentary, or editorial printed by a regularly published newspaper or other periodical without charge to a candidate, committee or any other person.
- A sign that is personally printed and constructed by an individual without compensation from any other person, and is displayed at that individual's place of residence or on their personal motor vehicle.

MEC Tip: Out of an abundance of caution and transparency, many candidates and committees choose to include a "paid for by" disclaimer on digital campaign materials.

Who paid for the campaign material?	Required sponsor information (following the words "paid for by")
Candidate from personal funds (only if no committee exists) § 130.031.8(1), RSMo	First and last name by which the candidate is known **Example:** Paid for by Jane Doe.
Committee § 130.031.8(2), RSMo	Name of the committee as required to be registered and the name and title of the committee treasurer who was serving when the printed matter was paid for **Example:** Paid for by Committee to Elect Jane Done, John Smith, Treasurer.
Business, labor organization, political subdivision, or other group that does not meet the requirements to form a committee § 130.031.8(3), RSMo	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 **Example:** Paid for by Rock Corporation, John Doe, Chief Financial Officer, 888 Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109.
Individual(s) § 130.031.8(4), RSMo	Name of the individual(s) and the respective mailing address(es) **Example:** Paid for by Jane Smith, 888 Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109. If more than five individuals pay for printed matter, print the words "for a list of other sponsors contact:" followed by the name and address of one individual responsible for causing the matter to be printed, and who will maintain a record of the names and amounts paid by other individuals. **Example:** Paid for by: For a list of other sponsors, contact: John Doe, 8525 South Main, Jefferson City, MO 65101.
"Paid for by" statement must use full name of person and/or entity. Use of abbreviations or acronyms, including for committee names, is prohibited.	

Federal disclosure requirements apply when:

- Printing or broadcasting about federal candidates.
- Broadcasting information about any candidate through radio or television.

For information on federal disclaimer requirements, consult the Federal Election Commission.