Terms to Know

Committee—*§ 130.01 1, RSMo*

- Accepts contributions or makes expenditures to influence the action of voters for or against candidates and/or ballot measures or to pay a campaign debt.

Contribution—*§ 130.011, RSMo*

- Money, services, or other valued item received or given for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures.

Expenditure—*§ 130.011, RSMo*

- A payment, advance, conveyance, deposit, donation, or contribution of money or anything of value for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures. Expenditures should be reported at the time they are either made or incurred.

Non-Committee—*§ 130.047.1, RSMo*

- An individual or entity not defined as a committee (not accepting contributions) but who spend $500 or more of their own money to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures must file a Non-Committee Expenditure Report.

Violations of ch. 130 *(excluding §§ 130.170 to 130.188, RSMo)* are within the MEC's jurisdiction and, in the event a complaint is filed, may result in enforcement.

When to Form & Register a Committee

YouTube:
youtube.com/MOEthics

Ethics Guide:
mec.mo.gov

FAQs:
mec.mo.gov/FAQs

X:
@MOEthics

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

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

Missouri Ethics Commission
PO Box 1370
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-751-2020 800-392-8660
www.mec.mo.gov

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

When to Form & Register a Committee



MEC

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

Revised 06/2025

Types of Committees

Candidate Committee:

- Formed by a single candidate for office in a specific election

Continuing Committee (PAC):

- Formed to remain in existence beyond any one election or issue, not directed by a candidate

Debt Service Committee:

- Candidate committee converted to retire committee debt

Exploratory Committee:

- Formed to receive or spend money to determine if an individual will seek public office

Political Party Committee:

- Formed as a committee of a political party

Campaign Committee:

- Formed to support or oppose ballot measures or judicial retention

For a complete list of requirements, see our **Committee Checklist** located in the **MEC Guide to Ethics Laws.**

When to Form & Register a Committee

Ask yourself the following questions to determine if you need to form and register a committee. Once you reach the thresholds below, you must form a committee and submit a **Statement of Committee Organization** with the MEC within 20 days of forming or before your first report would be due.

Are you a candidate for public office?

If so, which best describes you?

Candidate for statewide office, the General Assembly, or municipal office with a population over 100,000

- Have you received more than $325 from a single contributor (other than yourself)?
  - YES → Form and Register a Candidate Committee
  - NO → Have you made expenditures totaling over $500?
    - YES → Form and Register a Candidate Committee
    - NO → Have you received over $500 in contributions from others?
      - YES → Form and Register a Candidate Committee
      - NO → **Must register** as an Exempt Candidate

Candidate for elective office not listed to the left

- Have you received more than $325 from a single contributor (other than yourself)?
  - YES → Form and Register a Candidate Committee
  - NO → Have you spent over $1,000 of your own money or is your total activity over $1,000 (contributions and expenditures)?
    - YES → Form and Register a Candidate Committee
    - NO → **Not required** to form and register a committee

Other individuals, groups, organizations, etc.

- Are you accepting contributions from others?
  - NO → Have you made expenditures over $500?
    - YES → **File a** Non-Committee Expenditure Report
    - NO → **Not required** to register a committee
  - YES → Have you accepted more than $250 from a single contributor or spent more than $250 of your own money?
    - YES → Form and Register a Committee
    - NO → Do your total contributions exceed $500?
      - YES → Form and Register a Committee
      - NO → Do your total expenditures exceed $500?
        - YES → Form and Register a Committee
        - NO → **Not required** to register a committee

Note: upon registering a PAC, campaign committee, or political party committee, the treasurer must certify that no preliminary activity was funded by prohibited sources (see §130.170, RSMo for details)

Forming a Committee

Upon deciding to form a committee or upon meeting the monetary thresholds for forming a committee, one must:

- Select a committee name incorporating the name of the candidate (if applicable).
- Appoint a treasurer (required) and consider appointing a deputy treasurer (optional).
- Open a committee bank account.
- Establish committee record-keeping practices.
- Develop a procedure to ensure timely filing of all reports.
- Become familiar with all campaign finance requirements.
- Register with the MEC within 20 days of becoming a committee, but no later than the deadline for the filing of the first disclosure report.

Committees must disclosure campaign finance activity by timely filing campaign finance disclosure reports throughout the life of the committee.