



# Mo Ethics Commission...

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The Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC) was established by the Missouri Ethics Law of 1991 (§105.955 RSMo). The Commission consists of six members, each appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the senate for a four-year term. Commissioners serve in a non-partisan manner and not more than three can be of the same political party. Each member must be selected from a different congressional district. A chair and vice-chair are elected biannually. The Commission employs an Executive Director to oversee the day-to-day operations of the agency along with a 21-person, professional and non-partisan staff.

The Commission is charged with enforcement and retention of information and reports related to conflicts of interest laws relating to public officials and employees; lobbyist reporting laws; personal financial interest reporting laws; and campaign finance disclosure laws.

The mission of the Commission is to serve the public interest; assist and educate Missouri's citizens, public officials, lobbyists, and those participating in public elections; create transparency and accountability and consistently enforce campaign finance, conflict of interest, and lobbying laws.

The Commission makes transparency and public information a priority in their operations. The Commission's website ([www.mec.mo.gov](http://www.mec.mo.gov)) provides detailed financial information about campaign expenditures and contributions and includes many publications, brochures, and web tutorials explaining Missouri's ethics laws, requirements and regulations. Further, the Commission staff provides training for public officials, candidates and others wanting to understand these laws.

Candidates, lobbyists, and public officials are required to file certain reports with the Commission. In 2013, over 1,900 campaign finance committees and 1,100 lobbyists were registered with the Commission and over 9,000 Personal Financial Disclosure statements and 8,900 campaign finance reports were filed. In the 2012 election year, over 1,600 people attended one of the various training opportunities offered. The Commission continuously assists these filers through its website, training, reminders and notices, e-filing systems, and through its staff.

The Commission enforces the laws by conducting investigations in response to complaints received alleging violations of Missouri's ethics laws. The Commission may also initiate an investigation based on reports filed or required to be filed with the Commission or local election authorities. The scope and limitations of the Commission's investigative authority and jurisdiction are defined in Missouri law. Once the case is investigated, the Commission reviews the case and makes its decision based on the facts found in the investigation and Missouri's

existing laws. The Commission may notify the person to cease and desist the violation, amend or correct reports, issue a letter of concern or reprimand or levy fees among other judicial remedies. Final actions can be found on the Commission's [website](#).