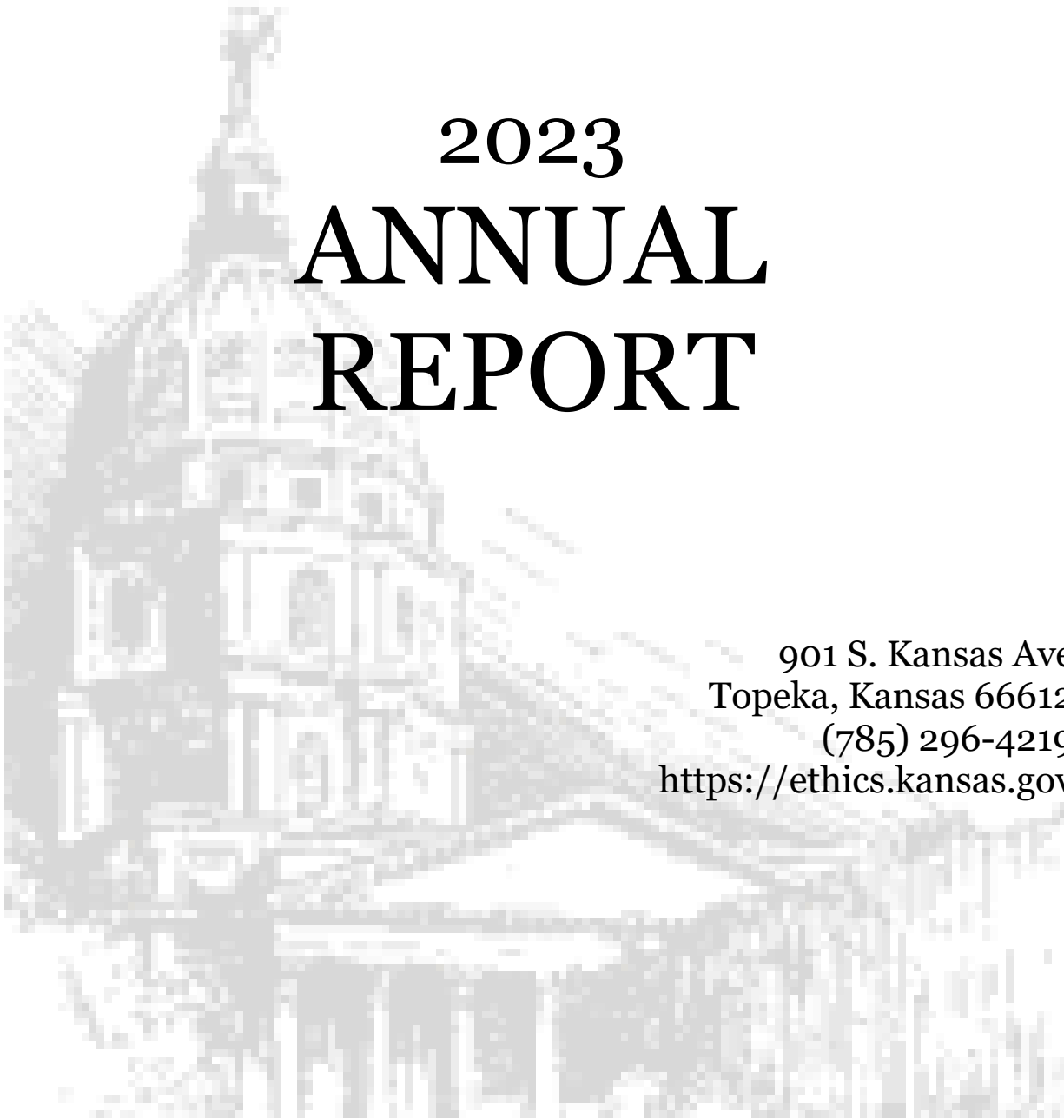


**GOVERNMENTAL
ETHICS
COMMISSION**

**2023
ANNUAL
REPORT**

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PREFACE

This annual report and recommendations is submitted to the Governor and the Legislative Coordinating Council for transmittal to the Legislature pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4119a and K.S.A. 46-1212c. With some exceptions, the report covers the period from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the end of Fiscal Year 2023. Occasionally, data for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 is used to provide a more complete picture of the Commission's operations.

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Mission:

The Governmental Ethics Commission works to foster public trust and confidence in state government decision-making through education, administration, and enforcement of the Campaign Finance Act and State Governmental Ethics Laws.

The Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission was established by the Kansas Legislature in 1974 to administer, interpret, and enforce the Campaign Finance Act (K.S.A. 25-4142 *et seq.*) and laws relating to conflict of interests, financial disclosure, and the regulation of lobbying (K.S.A. 46-215 *et seq.*). These laws establish the public's right to information about the financial affairs of Kansas' public officials, lobbyists, and candidates for state and local office. The Commission also renders advisory opinions and can adopt rules and regulations under a less comprehensive conflict of interest law covering local government officials and employees (K.S.A. 75-4301 *et seq.*).

Agency Philosophy:

The Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission believes the strongest safeguard against unethical conduct by public officials and employees is an informed and active public. For the disclosure elements of the legislation to have meaning, the public must be made aware of the legislation and the financial disclosure information must be accessible to the public. To this end, the Commission and its staff will approach their duties with a dedicated sense of purpose and responsibility to the individuals subject to the Campaign Finance Act and State Governmental Ethics Laws and the citizens of Kansas by performing their activities in an efficient and impartial manner. The Commission places a high priority on providing assistance to those subject to the Commission's jurisdiction to prevent violations.

Commission Members

The Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission is a nine member, bipartisan, citizen commission authorized by K.S.A. 25-4119a. Members serve two-year terms with the Commission's Chairperson appointed by the Governor. The Vice-Chairperson is elected by the membership. Commission appointments are made by the Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, President of the Senate, Minority Leader of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader in the House. The Governor makes two appointments, each from a different political party.

The Commission usually meets once a month. The Commission's meetings are open to the public and information prepared by the staff for each meeting is available to the public. During FY 2023, the Commission held 8 regular meetings and 2 special settings. Meetings are scheduled to address a variety of matters including the review of and action on complaints filed, investigations undertaken, and audits performed. In addition, the Commission issues advisory opinions to answer questions involving interpretation of a particular section of the law, makes policy decisions, amends and adopts new administrative regulations, and handles administrative matters including personnel, budget preparations, and office procedures.

Commission Staff

The staff of the Commission assumes all responsibility for the daily operations of the agency which include administration, legal, investigation, audit, information technology, and clerical functions. As a service-oriented agency, the staff strives to assist individuals in complying with applicable laws by responding quickly, efficiently, and impartially. Commission staff also works diligently to ensure campaign finance and lobbying data is compiled, entered, and posted on the Internet to be viewed by the citizens of Kansas.

Current Commission Members

Nick Hale, Chairperson, Democrat, Fairway

Term expires January 31, 2025

Jerome Hellmer, Vice-Chairperson, Republican, Salina

Term expires January 31, 2024

Mark Schoenhofer, Unaffiliated, Wichita

Term expires January 31, 2025

John Solbach, Democrat, Lawrence

Term expires January 31, 2025

Chris Burger, Republican, Lawrence

Term expires January 31, 2025

Andrew Harrison, Democrat, Prairie Village

Term expires January 31, 2025

Kyle Krull, Republican, Overland Park

Term expires January 31, 2024

Jane Deterding, Republican, Wichita

Term expires January 31, 2024

Patricia Dengler, Republican, Wichita

Term expires January 31, 2024

Commission Staff

Executive Director – Mark Skoglund
Commission & Staff Attorney – Kaitlyn Bull-Stewart
Office Manager – Payge Quintana-Padgett
State Candidate Report Examiner – Karina Renna
Local Candidate Report Examiner – Jennifer Schneider
Lobbyist Coordinator – Jessica White
PACs/Parties Coordinator, Auditor – Denise Davis
Substantial Interests Coordinator/IT Specialist – Roxie Valdivia
Investigator – Scott Smith

Budget

In FY 2023, the Commission was originally appropriated \$487,345 from the State General Fund with a total budget of \$751,615. The following chart reflects revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year.

| Fiscal Year 2023 Budget | Actual |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Revenue: | |
| State General Fund Utilized | \$482,193 |
| Fee Fund Utilized | \$240,249 |
| Total Revenue Utilized | \$722,442 |
| Expenditures: | |
| Salaries & Benefits | \$597,458 |
| Contractual Services | \$120,840 |
| Commodities | \$ 2,831 |
| Capital Outlay | \$ 1,313 |
| Total Expenditures | \$722,442 |

Legislative Activity

The 2023 Legislature passed House Substitute for SB 208 which changed many laws, primarily procedural, under the Kansas Campaign Finance Act. The most significant changes are:

- Applying the Administrative Procedure Act to the Commission
- Adding a 5-year statute of limitations
- Requiring the development and adoption of a regulation for Commissioner recusal
- Adding a definition of “agent” of a candidate
- Changing (mostly increasing) PAC registration fees and adding a PAC registration tier
- Giving a safe harbor for solicitation of lobbyists and other impermissible entities during session when including a disclaimer that such solicitation is not intended for those entities (it is still impermissible to make or accept a prohibited contribution)
- Adding three permissible uses for campaign funds
- Changing Commission investigatory subpoena procedures by requiring court approval of a subpoena, adding the ability to claim costs against the Commission, and giving a right to counsel for subpoenaed entities, decreasing the threshold for Commission subpoena approval from 3/4 to 2/3, and removing the in-person requirement for approval
- Allowing any respondent to a complaint to request hearing by the Office of Administrative Hearings instead of the Commission
- Placing a cap on civil fines at no more than three times the amount that one violation could be assessed or twice the pecuniary gain, regardless of the number of violations at issue
- Depositing civil fines in the state general fund instead of the Commission fee fund
- Preventing the Commission from ordering any performance in exchange for a reduction in fine such as community service, though training is still a permissible requirement
- Preventing the Commission from seeking immunity agreements in an investigation unless a district attorney or attorney general provides criminal immunity

Organization & Operation

The Commission's efforts focus on full compliance with the Kansas campaign finance, conflict of interests, and lobbying statutes. Each year the Commission receives thousands of financial disclosure reports filed by candidates, political and party committees, public officials, and lobbyists. Staff time is devoted to assuring the accurate and timely disclosure of required financial information about those in state and local government. The processing and evaluation of filed reports and statements and an analysis of the supporting records, where appropriate, are crucial to the Commission's efforts. It is through the initial and comprehensive review of these reports, and the later audit and investigation when necessary, that the Commission can determine compliance with the laws.

The Commission's work encompasses five areas:

- (1) education and public awareness;
- (2) advisory opinions;
- (3) reviews and audits;
- (4) enforcement (including inquiries and investigations, the filing of complaints, holding public hearings and assessing civil penalties); and
- (5) general administrative activities.

Education & Public Awareness

The Commission's goal remains to improve communications regarding the reporting requirements of those subject to one or more of the disclosure laws, and to increase public awareness with respect to the impact and importance of information contained in the reports filed. The Commission's website has become an efficient instrument for disseminating and distributing Commission information. Information concerning the Commission, the advisory opinions it issues, scanned copies of state level candidate, party committee and political action committee campaign finance reports, campaign finance and lobbying reporting forms, and campaign election and lobbying statistics can be found at <https://ethics.kansas.gov>.

The Commission utilizes informational brochures, the Internet, the news media, and speaking engagements to inform not only those under the Commission's jurisdiction, but also the public about the laws and their meaning. Statistical information is summarized and printed, in addition to being posted on the Commission's website, in the areas of campaign finance and lobbying. However, most time in this area is devoted to informing those directly covered by the laws of their duties and responsibilities. To accomplish this task, the Commission conducts

informational seminars, and prepares and distributes handouts, campaign finance handbooks, lobbying handbooks, and conflict of interest laws brochures. In addition, staff fields calls to provide information and advice. In FY 2023 the Commission's staff made 7 presentations. The Commission has also worked towards providing electronic access to training materials in order to reach all individuals subject to the Ethics Commission's jurisdiction.

Advisory Opinions

Advisory opinions are issued by the Commission to clarify the application of the statutes in a particular situation. The Commission can issue these opinions on its own initiative or in response to individual inquiries. If an individual requests an opinion and conducts themselves according to the guidelines in the opinion, they are presumed to be in compliance with the law.

No opinions were issued in FY 2023. Since 1974, the year the Commission was established, through June 30, 2021, the Commission has issued a total of 1,261 advisory opinions.

Review & Audit Program

Complete, accurate and timely disclosure of certain kinds of financial information by candidates, elected officials, state employees and lobbyists is the key requirement of the legislation. Active review and auditing of reports is essential for the proper administration of the law.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

In the area of campaign finance, the Commission's procedures include a preliminary review and post-election comprehensive desk review of all receipts and expenditures reports filed. In addition, a certain number of campaigns and committees are selected for field audits.

Candidates, party committees, and political committees filed 2,978 receipts and expenditures reports in FY 2023. All receipts and expenditures reports received a comprehensive desk review.

Additionally, staff processed 20 statewide candidates, 254 House candidates, 311 county candidates, 245 first-class city candidates, and 438 party and political action committees participating in the 2022 election. The candidates, their treasurers, and the party and political committee officers all received handbooks, guides, statutes, and other material to assist them in understanding their responsibilities under the Campaign Finance Act.

There were 20 candidates who ran for statewide office in FY 2023. There were 5 contested and zero uncontested general election races.

There were 254 House candidates who ran for office in FY 2023. There were 70 contested and 55 uncontested general election races. This number is a reduction in contested elections; in 2020, 94 general election races were contested.

Audits

Audits of the records of candidates and political action committees are conducted using generally accepted auditing standards and are conducted on a priority basis. Accorded first priority are situations involving formal complaints. The next priority is assigned to situations in which it is necessary to clarify problems identified during the desk reviews. A general investigation may also be authorized at this point. Finally, a random sample of candidates and committees may be audited. If a candidate is selected for a random audit, their opponent is also examined. Audits may also be conducted on a voluntary basis, usually where a candidate or treasurer cannot identify a discrepancy and have done everything in their power to do so.

In FY 2023, there were 4 campaign finance audits conducted.

FY 2023 Campaign Finance Statistics

- Candidates for 2022 Statewide Office - 20
- Carryover Statewide Candidates - 9
- Candidates for Other State Offices - 254
- Carryover State Candidates – 180
- Candidates for 2022 County Office – 311
- Carryover County Candidates - 74
- Candidates for 2023 First Class City Office – 245
- Carryover First Class City Candidates – 152
- Political Action Committees – 203
- Party Committees - 235
- Campaign Finance Reports Filed – 2,978
- Failure to File Notices Issued – 218
- Error and Omission Notifications Issued - 407

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The Kansas conflict of interests statutes provide for (1) the filing of statements of substantial interests; (2) a code of conduct making it illegal for state officials and employees to be involved in certain conflicts; and (3) the issuance of advisory opinions.

The Commission's staff processed and reviewed 5,909 financial disclosure statements filed by state officers, state employees, and elected officials in FY 2023. Throughout the year, staff updates computer databases as appointments are made, officials resign or their terms end, and new positions are created. Financial disclosure forms and instructions are mailed to new appointees and candidates as the Commission receives official notice of their appointment or eligibility. Thereafter, forms and instructions are emailed or mailed on an annual basis to all persons subject to the filing requirements. All financial disclosure statements are public records and may be reviewed during regular business hours in the Secretary of State's office or on the Secretary of State's website. Those required to file Statements of Substantial Interests are elected state officials and candidates for such office, individuals whose appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate, general counsels for state agencies, and state officers, employees, and members of boards, councils or commissions meeting the definition of a "designee" and so listed by the head of their agency.

2023 Statements of Substantial Interests Filings

- Employees Listed as Designees – 5,350
- Elected Officials – 187
- Appointees Subject to Senate Confirmation – 18
- Board Members Listed as Designees – 332
- General Counsels - 22

The Commission staff has found that the conflict statutes are not widely understood either by state officers, state employees or the public at large, yet these laws are of fundamental importance to the workings of state government. They draw the line between private interests and the public trust which must be guarded carefully. Efforts to clarify and enforce the line are increasingly important as public concern mounts over abuses of the public trust.

Many state officials and employees are in a position to make or influence state contracts which could directly affect their personal interests. The state conflict of interest laws prohibit

such activity. To assist these individuals, the Commission issues advisory opinions upon its own initiative and upon the request of any person to whom the relevant law applies.

REPRESENTATION CASE DISCLOSURE

State employees who represent a person before a state agency, other than that which is part of their normal state employment, are required to file a Representation Case Disclosure Statement providing transparency to the arrangement. Also, any legislator or legislator's firm who contracts to perform a service for a state agency other than the Legislature must similarly file a disclosure statement, unless the service is uncompensated.

There were no Representation Case Disclosure Statements filed in FY 2023. It is possible that individuals required to file such statements have not done so. However, given the structure of the statutory requirements, there is no way of knowing who should file such statements.

LOBBYING

There are 619 lobbyists registered for calendar year 2023 as of November 17, 2023. This compares with the total of 606 registered lobbyists in calendar year 2022. Of the 619 registered, some are registered on behalf of more than one person or organization. To date, 1,918 organizations or persons have been represented this year. This compares to 1,914 organizations being represented by a lobbyist in 2022. The Commission's statistical analysis of the lobbyist employment and expenditures reports filed shows that \$807,805.53 has been spent on lobbying activities through August 31, 2023.

Registered lobbyists are required to file a lobbyist employment and expenditures report six times a year. These reports show expenditures if the lobbyist spent more than \$100 in a reporting period. To date this calendar year, 5,299 Lobbyist Employment and Expenditures Reports have been filed. A lobbyist can file an Affidavit of Exemption from filing the Lobbyist Employment and Expenditures Report if they do not expend in excess of \$100 in any reporting period.

Lobbyist Registrations and Expenditures

To Date for Calendar Year 2023

- Number of Registered Lobbyists – 619
- Number of Lobbyist Registration Statements Filed – 1,918
- Number of Reports Filed by Lobbyists – 5,299
- Total of Expenditures for Year to Date – \$807,805.53
- Number of Failure to File Notices Issued – 77

Enforcement

INQUIRES & INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations can be conducted prior to a complaint being filed or following the filing of a complaint. Inquiries and investigations remain confidential until a complaint has been filed and a probable cause determination has been made regarding the complaint. Whenever an investigation does not disclose facts sufficient to warrant further action, the Commission may issue a report concerning the findings of the Commission to the person or persons investigated. This report can be made public by the person or persons investigated.

In FY 2023, the Commission handled 4 investigations that began prior to FY 23, 3 of which are ongoing. In FY 2023, 7 new investigations were opened, all 7 of which are now closed.

COMPLAINTS

After an investigation, if the Commission concludes there is no evidence to establish probable cause that there was an intentional violation of law, a complaint is dismissed and no public hearing is held. The determination as to whether an intentional violation has occurred is a decision which is not reached until the conclusion of a public hearing. Anyone who suspects that any of the provisions administered by the Commission have been violated may file a complaint in writing with the Commission.

There were 18 complaints filed in FY 2023. Many complaints are filed due to a significantly late report; it is common practice for the Commission to dismiss such a Complaint when the report is filed, though the Commission is reconsidering that stance with respect to reports filed by active candidates for the primary or general election. Eleven complaints were dismissed prior to a finding of probable cause. No complaints had a public hearing. Seven complaints are ongoing.

CIVIL PENALTIES & FINES

The statutes enforced by the Commission provide for the assessment of civil penalties for failure to file certain reports or statements under the campaign finance, lobbying and state conflict of interest statutes. Individuals can be subject to a \$10 per day penalty for each day the report or statement remains unfiled up to a maximum of \$300. Effective July 1, 2018, for primary and general election campaign finance reports, as well as for lobbyist expenditure reports, the civil penalty is \$100 for the first day and \$50 for each day the report remains unfiled, up to a maximum of \$1000. The Commission is authorized to waive any imposed civil penalty upon a finding of good cause. There were civil penalties totaling \$55,280 assessed and \$12,640 in civil penalties waived in FY 2023. The Commission collected \$12,634.75 in civil penalties. A few civil penalties which were assessed in prior years were collected in FY 2023. Many of the civil penalties assessed in FY 2023 still remain outstanding.

In addition to any other penalty prescribed under the campaign finance, lobbying or state conflict of interest statutes, the Commission can assess a civil fine not to exceed \$5,000 for the first violation, \$10,000 for the second violation and \$15,000 for the third and each subsequent violation. Before a civil fine can be assessed, the person must be given proper notice and an opportunity to be heard. No civil fines were levied in FY 2023. However, the Commission has collected \$4,000 from civil fines assessed in prior years.

FY 2023 Civil Penalties and Fines

Campaign Finance Civil Penalties Assessed - \$39,910

Lobbying Civil Penalties Assessed – \$14,850

Statement of Substantial Interests Civil Penalties Assessed - \$520

Total Civil Penalties Assessed – \$55,280

Total Civil Penalties Waived – \$12,640

Total Civil Penalties Collected - \$12,634.75

Total Civil Fines Assessed – \$0

Total Civil Fines Waived - \$0

Total Civil Fines Collected - \$4,000

Commission Recommendations

The Commission is directed by statute to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. It recognizes that any major piece of legislation periodically needs revision, modification, and in some cases, major changes. To that end, the Commission makes the following recommendations:

1. **Electronic Filing for State Candidates**

K.S.A. 25-4148 permits state and local candidates, other than for statewide office, to file their campaign finance reports on paper or electronically. Candidates for statewide office must file all forms electronically. Requiring electronic campaign finance reporting would provide a wide variety of benefits, including but not limited to:

- Cost and efficiency savings regarding data entry reductions and more rapid report processing;
- Cost savings from decreased numbers of Errors and Omissions notices sent due to errors that could be prevented by filling fields in an electronic form, such as calculation errors and blank required fields;
- Decreased costs for printing forms and reports;
- Increased accuracy of data presented to the public as it would reduce avenues for errors;
- Increased transparency and decreased time delay in presenting campaign finance data to the public.

Due to these benefits and others, the Commission believes that significant benefits warrant requiring electronic submission of all campaign finance reports for state office.

The Commission supports the granting of exemptions for good cause shown, determined by the discretion of the Executive Director.

2. Ethics Cleanup Megabill

There are many statutes that require minor corrections due to statutory conflicts created elsewhere, language that overlooks practice, references to statutes that no longer exist, and extraneous language that was intended to be removed in other legislation. The Ethics Commission proposes that each of these items are included in one bill, since these changes are expected to be noncontroversial but nonetheless important to cleaning up ethics and campaign finance statutes.

- A. **Require email addresses – K.S.A. 25-4144 and 4145** indicate that email addresses are optional for treasurers and PAC chairs. There is little reason to allow for emails to be optional in 2023, and another avenue for contacting people is often beneficial. Some individuals do not reliably respond to attempts to reach them through mail or phone.
- B. **Extraneous text – K.S.A. 25-4148** includes extra language that was left over after an earlier legislative adjustment. The language “in both” should be stricken from the sentence: “Reports filed by treasurers for state office, other than officers elected on a state-wide basis, shall be filed in both with the office of the secretary of state.”
- C. **Correcting “paid for” attribution for social media – K.S.A. 25-4156(b)(1)(E)** defines corrupt political advertising as any person making (or causing to be made) any website, e-mail, or other type of internet communication which expressly advocates the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office to follow such matter with a statement which states: "Paid for" or "Sponsored by" followed by the name of the chairperson or treasurer of the political or other organization sponsoring the same or the name of the individual who is responsible therefor. Appending such attributions to e-mails is analogous to printed matter and compliance with the attribution requirement is simple and straightforward. Compliance for some websites and some social media websites can be difficult or impossible.

The Commission believes that the rigid formats of certain websites or other internet communications make appending the required attributions problematic. The Commission believes the Legislature should consider methods to require clear and conspicuous attribution on social media platforms.

- D. Adding clarity to affidavits of exemption – K.S.A. 25-4173** allows candidates to not file campaign finance reports if they do not raise or expend more than \$1,000. This statute would be well served with clarity regarding when such an affidavit can be accepted and the time period it covers. An affidavit should only be accepted in the calendar year in which the election occurs and it should only extend through the calendar year of the election cycle. This clarification would ensure that affidavits properly cover the reports for the primary election, general election, and end-of-year January report, but it would not extend into perpetuity.
- E. Statutory conflict – K.S.A. 25-4173 and 25-4174** allow candidates to file an affidavit if they expend and receive less than a certain amount in each of the primary and general election cycles. This threshold amount was increased to \$1,000 in 2015, but the adjoining statute was not updated. Therefore, K.S.A. 25-4174 should have the text reflect the correct affidavit amount of \$1,000.
- F. Extraneous text – K.S.A. 46-255** includes the sentence “No complaint alleging a violation of section 31 may be filed with the commission after the expiration of thirty (30) days from the date upon which the alleged violation occurred.” The statute being referenced was repealed; this sentence can be removed.
- G. Procedural unintended consequence – K.S.A. 46-256** requires that when the Commission finds probable cause to believe the allegations in a complaint, a hearing shall be fixed within 30 days. In practice, this requirement is not always possible. The Commission typically meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Many times, the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is greater than 30 days away. Additionally, some meetings are canceled due to weather, light agendas, or other issues. The Commission recommends removing the 30 day requirement as the Legislature passed in 2023 for the Campaign Finance Act.
- H. Statutory conflict – K.S.A. 46-265** allows lobbyists to register on paper, though since 2018 all reports must be completed electronically per K.S.A. 46-268. This creates an unnecessary procedural issue that creates difficulty in compliance.

- I. **Statutory conflict – K.S.A. 46-280** provides that the Commission shall send a notice to any lobbyist who has not timely filed a report and any individual who has not timely filed a Statement of Substantial Interest form. The statute, as amended by 2018 HB 2642, increased the civil penalties for lobbyist expenditure reports and shortened the applicable grace period to file the form without penalty. The amended statute creates a potential conflict in the notice provision regarding whether the grace period begins from receipt of the notice or from the sending of the notice. Since lobbyists and individuals subject to filing Statements of Substantial Interest are aware of the relevant deadlines and in order to create consistency with similar statutory provisions in other areas, the Commission recommends a procedural amendment so that the grace period provided in statute begins running from the time the Commission sends the notice of failure to file, rather than from the time of receipt.

3. Support of Federal Candidates

Currently, Kansas campaign finance law strictly prohibits using any funds to benefit a federal candidate:

Any political funds which have been collected and were subject to the reporting requirements of the campaign finance act shall not be used in or for the campaign of a candidate for a federal elective office.

K.S.A. 25-4153(f). The Commission does not see an anticorruption benefit to prohibiting state party committees, county party committees, and PACs from engaging in this sort of activity. As such, the Commission recommends adding an exemption for party committees and political committees to this prohibition.

4. Required Campaign Account Termination

A candidate can keep a campaign account open long after being a candidate or officeholder. Nothing in the Campaign Finance Act currently requires the candidate to ever close the account. The candidate continues to file annual January receipts and expenditures reports. In Kansas, there are campaign accounts open that are over 32 years old. Forty-four accounts have been inactive for 10 years or more.

Allowing these accounts to remain open perpetually creates a few issues. Primarily, this creates an auditing nightmare. Candidates who try to terminate with a balance discrepancy have no ability to reasonably track the source of the discrepancy because banks often do not have reliable records from several years ago. Additionally, not requiring the closure of these accounts opens many unchecked avenues to illegally use one's campaign account for personal benefit, since there would be little oversight over unreported distributions of funds.

Accounts open for this long also pose major issues with contacting the account holder. These account holders do not typically update their appointment of treasurer forms, substantially increasing the difficulty in assisting them with account or filing issues.

This recommendation would require inactive campaign accounts to be zeroed out and closed within 6 years after the end of the candidate's most recent term of office or the date of the election in which they last filed as a candidate. Six years is intentionally generous but ensures that these accounts cannot remain open unchecked in perpetuity.

Missouri requires closure of accounts within 30 days. Oklahoma requires closure of accounts within 2 years if the office has a 2-year term, 4 years if the office has a 4-year term, and 6 years if the office has a 6-year term.

5. Make PACs and party committees responsible for report filing

Both candidates and treasurers are legally responsible for ensuring their report is filed properly and timely. Due likely to a drafting oversight, only treasurers are responsible for the proper and timely filing of PAC and party reports. This creates innumerable problematic situations that limit the ability of the Ethics Commission to provide the transparency to Kansans that is required by law. This statutory correction would be rather simple and would apply the same language to PACs and party committees that apply to candidates, ensuring that the chairperson (or, alternatively, the entity itself) would be responsible for report filing.

Appendix I

STATISTICAL COMPARISON OF LOBBYING EXPENDITURES 2013-2023

Statistical Comparison of Lobbying Expenditures 2013-2023

| Year | Number of Lobbyists/Registrations | | Food and Beverage | Recreation | Entertainment Gifts Honoria and Payments | Mass Media | Communications | Other | Total |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------|------------|--|------------|----------------|----------|-------------|
| 2013 | 542 | 1506 | \$551,649 | \$26,126 | \$13,154 | \$642,475 | \$60,457 | \$10,279 | \$1,304,140 |
| 2014 | 548 | 1585 | \$523,393 | \$15,813 | \$24,495 | \$507,340 | \$104,323 | \$12,037 | \$1,187,401 |
| 2015 | 557 | 1672 | \$570,815 | \$14,926 | \$21,532 | \$609,551 | \$505,443 | \$23,242 | \$1,745,509 |
| 2016 | 552 | 1491 | \$456,850 | \$9,271 | \$9,491 | \$144,365 | \$370,759 | \$3,074 | \$993,810 |
| 2017 | 556 | 1520 | \$564,296 | \$8,360 | \$20,367 | \$134,048 | \$766,018 | \$13,110 | \$1,506,199 |
| 2018 | 538 | 1478 | \$527,483 | \$6,993 | \$7,553 | \$76,192 | \$309,068 | \$13,781 | \$941,071 |
| 2019 | 560 | 1543 | \$500,852 | \$4,470 | \$8,775 | \$126,785 | \$664,674 | \$18,941 | \$1,324,497 |
| 2020 | 558 | 1650 | \$384,523 | \$3,461 | \$19,376 | \$28,377 | \$344,664 | \$14,066 | \$794,467 |
| 2021 | 581 | 1800 | \$250,858 | \$9,047 | \$20,375 | \$13,302 | \$152,915 | \$2,330 | \$448,827 |
| 2022 | 606 | 1914 | \$545,829 | \$12,418 | \$12,187 | \$88,088 | \$88,896 | \$12,525 | \$759,943 |
| 2023 YTD | 619 | 1918 | \$527,858 | \$7,418 | \$15,553 | \$35,455 | \$210,649 | \$10,873 | \$807,806 |