

Fellow Commissioners,

I am emailing to follow up on the messages you received earlier today regarding the final steps in passing our new Standards of Conduct. As many of you know, a subcommittee began working on this last year and much effort has been expended by everyone involved. It has been a challenge to compile and synthesize feedback and ideas from many different people while keeping in mind the constitutional and ethical considerations inherent in any reform of this scope. However, I am proud to say our work is almost complete.

Over the last few weeks, Bram and I have spent considerable time making revisions to the existing Standards of Conduct, based, in part, on discussions which took place at the previous committee meeting in May, and what you received today reflects those efforts. I am attaching a legal white paper drafted by a good-government group which summarizes the history and development of so-called "pay to play" reforms in various states. Over the last year, I have consulted this paper and reviewed some of the case law and statutes it references as we worked on those parts of our revisions concerning campaign contributions, and I thought it might be informative in this stage of the revision process.

As the white paper suggests, in many states, pay-to-play reforms have had to be passed through citizen initiatives. Although Missouri has an active initiative process, I hope we can all be proud to say that we have spared our citizens the cost and effort of an initiative drive by taking the "initiative" ourselves as we finalize revision of our existing Standards of Conduct.

We are almost to the finish line, and I encourage everyone--especially newcomers to the commission--to review the Standards of Conduct carefully, participate substantively in our final discussion, take ownership of this important initiative, and spread the word about what we have done. In this regard, you may have noticed that today the Treasurer's office issued a press release which seems to indicate that our new Chairman is on board with the Standards of Conduct revisions. This is a welcome development and should ensure our work does not go unnoticed. I think we can all agree that transparency and accountability should be hallmarks of the great work MHDC does for the citizens of Missouri.

Thanks again to everyone for your support and work on this effort. If you have any questions about the revised Standards of Conduct distributed earlier today or about the law in this area, please don't hesitate to contact Bram or I. I look forward to the committee discussion on July 7.

Sincerely,
Claudia