

**Week of May 5, 2017**

### **Budget Done**

All the hand-wringing, teeth-gnashing, dooms-daying melted away as the House took up the budget conference committee reports, passed them, sent them over to the Senate which did likewise, finishing last night with a completed budget ahead of today's constitutional deadline.

The Senate even seemed “functional.”

In order to stem some cuts while keeping the renter's circuit-breaker, Sens. **Kiki Curls** and **Ryan Silvey** hatched a plan to “sweep” unused fund from accounts across the state.

Their amendment read *“the commissioner of administration shall transfer into the general revenue fund thirty-five million four hundred thousand dollars from the unexpended balance remaining from all fees, funds and moneys from whatsoever source received by any department, board, bureau, commission, institution, official, or agency of the state government by virtue of any law or rule or regulation made in accordance with any law...”*

It helped alleviate those with heartburn over cutting senior services or hitting low-income renters. This change to HCB3 passed with a strong bipartisan 28-5 vote. Pro Tem **Ron Richard** even praised Silvey.

It was a cats-and-dogs-living-together moment.

### **April State Revenues**

State revenues in April were weak. Compared to April 2016, sales tax collection declined 1.5%. And individual income tax receipts – the largest segment of state tax collection – dropped over 3%. Overall tax collections in this important month were down about 1%, while an increase in refunds brought the net tax collection to -3.3% compared to the same month last year. Fiscal year to date collections are up 3.07% compared to this time last year.

### **MEC Fines Greitens**

Late last week the Missouri Ethic Commission released a consent order which fined Governor **Eric Greitens** \$1,000 for not reporting The Missouri Continues donor list it obtained as an in-kind contribution.

Greitens amended his previous report to include receiving the list. This is not what Greitens said during the campaign... *"No, we were not working off of a Mission Continues donor list," Greitens told The Associated Press.* It appears they were.

This undermines Greitens' rhetoric on ethics reform, and will be one more example (bogus SEALS for Truth and LG PAC funding, not disclosing inaugural donations, setting up a non-profit to hide political expenditures) of playing fast and loose with campaign finance.

### **The Next Set of Questions**

This consent agreement doesn't seem to put the matter behind Greitens though. Former Greitens staffer **Danny Laub** is named as the one who "received" the list. But who did he receive it from? and how did they get it? Did they get it legally or did they pilfer it from The Mission Continues?

Again from that AP article... *"It's unclear exactly how Greitens' campaign staffer came into possession of the list. Mission Continues spokeswoman **Laura L'Esperance** said Monday that the St. Louis-based charity Greitens founded in 2007 did not share its donor list with Greitens or his campaign and, as a general practice, does not share, sell or rent the list to external parties..."*

### **Also**

Why is The Mission Continues donor list valued at \$600? *AP* reported that there were \$2 million worth of contributions were traceable to donors of his former non-profit. That would seem to make the list much more valuable than \$600. However if the list was pilfered, a lower value would make the crime a misdemeanor instead of a felony...

### **Adam Smith Foundation Against Schaaf's Dark Money Legislation**

The Adam Smith Foundation sent out an email blast opposing Sen. **Rob Schaaf's** SB73, anti-dark money bill. See it here. It says it might leave donors to non-profits *"open to harassment by those who do not share their views, and this is a clear threat to the exercise of free speech. Make no mistake, the left will use this information to intimidate conservatives..."*

### **New Committees**

**Jermaine Reed** formed a campaign committee to run for Kansas City mayor. Reed is currently on the city council. The election isn't until 2019, but folks are expecting a full field. I did not include Reed in my possible mayoral candidates when I did a poll of Kansas City in late March.

**Young Guns Missouri PAC was formed.** The treasurer of the new PAC is **James C Thomas III**. He's an attorney who is often listed as treasurer on committees related to Republican operative **Jeff Roe**.

### **MEC Issues Two New Opinions**

The Missouri Ethics Commission issued two new opinions.

First, they said that you can't take "primary election" and general election" simultaneously. Some candidates have taken \$5,200 from donors, that is \$2,600 for the primary and \$2,600 for the general all at once. MEC says that's a no-no. Save the second \$2,600 check for after the primary.

And they issued guidelines for how a public official should report a third-party paying for their travel. For example, let's say someone flies the governor to DC, how does he report that? Now there's a clear opinion on it.

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