

ARKANSAS ETHICS COMMISSION

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RESOLUTION

The Arkansas Ethics Commission (the “AEC”) condemns the use of misleading campaign communications regarding the activities of the AEC.

The use of statements such as “a sworn complaint has been filed against Candidate A” or “the Arkansas Ethics Commission is investigating a complaint against Candidate A” are inappropriate attempts to mislead the public. Accordingly, it is the unanimous opinion of the AEC that the use of that type of language in campaign communications is an unfair practice and should be viewed as such by voters.

By law, the AEC is required to accept every sworn complaint for filing, whether it has merit or not. Likewise, any citizen of the State of Arkansas has the right to file a sworn complaint, whether it has merit or not. The fact that a complaint has been filed or that the AEC is conducting an investigation provides no meaningful information to the voting public. Anyone can file a complaint and the AEC must investigate the complaints it receives.

If a violation of one or more of the statutes under the AEC’s jurisdiction is found, the proper way to inform the public of these violations is to describe the facts of the violation of the actual findings of the AEC after the conclusion of an investigation.

The AEC directs that this resolution be placed on the AEC’s website.