



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

September 19, 2016

Harold Melton  
3408 Cheryl Drive  
Howell, Michigan 48855

Dear Mr. Melton:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Judith Daubenmier against you, alleging that you violated section 47(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247(1), by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on certain campaign materials. A copy of the complaint is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election to include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), Mich. Admin. R 169.36(2). A knowing violation constitutes a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.00, imprisonment for up to 93 days, or both. MCL 169.247(6).

In support of her complaint, Ms. Daubenmier provided a copy of a postcard which states, "Harold Melton for Howell Township Board of Trustees" and "VOTE FOR HAROLD MELTON FOR HOWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND PRECINCT DELEGATE AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 [.]". The paid-for-by statement on this piece appears to omit your committee's address.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department's examination of these matters and your right to respond to the allegations before the Department proceeds further. It is important to understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as true.

**If you wish to file a written response to the complaint, you are required to do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Please include any evidence that reflects any corrective measures you have taken to bring your campaign material into compliance with the MCFA.** Your response may include any written statement or additional documentary evidence you wish to submit. All materials must be sent to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918. If you fail to submit a response, the Department will render a decision based on the evidence furnished by the complainant.

A copy of your reply will be provided to Ms. Daubenmier, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and

Harold Melton  
September 19, 2016  
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materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether “there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred [.]” MCL 169.215(10). Note that the Department’s enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement of the criminal penalty provided in section 47(6) of the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at (517) 241-0395.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Judith Daubenmier

**Campaign Finance Complaint Form  
Michigan Department of State**

2013 SEP 14 PM 3:35

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (the MCFA, 1976 PA 388, as amended; MCL 169.201 *et seq.*). All information on the form must be provided along with an original signature and evidence. **Please print or type all information.**

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name <i>Judith Daubenmier</i>	Daytime Telephone Number <i>734-612-7137</i>	
Mailing Address <i>4490 Lakeshore Ct.</i>		
City <i>Brighton</i>	State <i>MI</i>	Zip <i>48116</i>

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name <i>Harold Melton</i>		
Mailing Address <i>3408 Cheryl Dr.</i>		
City <i>Howell</i>	State <i>MI</i>	Zip <i>48855</i>

**Section 3. Alleged Violations** (Use additional sheet if more space is needed.)

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:  
*MCL 169.247 (1)*

Explain how those sections were violated:  
*See attached*

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Evidence that supports those allegations (attach copies of pertinent documents and other information)

*See attached*

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**Section 4. Certification (Required)**

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, each factual contention of this complaint is supported by evidence.*

X Judith M. Doubenmier      Aug. 10, 2016  
Signature of Complainant      Date

**Section 5. Certification without Evidence (Supplemental to Section 4)**

**Section 15(6) of the MCFA (MCL 169.215) requires that the signed certification found in section 4 of this form be included in every complaint. However, if, after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, you are unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported by evidence, you may also make the following certification:**

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, or belief, there are grounds to conclude that the following specifically identified factual contentions are likely to be supported by evidence after a reasonable opportunity for further inquiry. Those specific contentions are:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Complainant      Date

**Section 15(8) of the MCFA provides that a person who files a complaint with a false certification is responsible for a civil violation of the MCFA. The person may be required to pay a civil fine of up to \$1,000.00 and some or all of the expenses incurred by the Michigan Department of State and the alleged violator as a direct result of the filing of the complaint.**

Mail or deliver the completed complaint form with an **original signature and evidence** to the following address:

Michigan Department of State  
Bureau of Elections  
Richard H. Austin Building – 1st Floor  
430 West Allegan Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48918

### **Section 3. Alleged Violations**

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

MCL 169.247 (1)

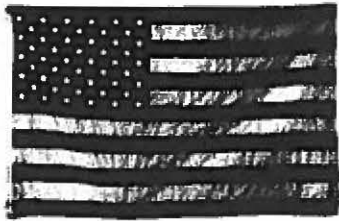
#### **Explain how those sections were violated:**

The Michigan Campaign Finance Act and administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election to include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item.]" The candidate's printed materials do not have an address. Campaign literature is not exempt from the law.

#### **Evidence that supports those allegations:**

The candidate's printed literature is attached

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# Harold Melton

for  
Howell Township Board of Trustees

A True Conservative Republican.

I will be a good steward with your tax dollars and respect your property rights.

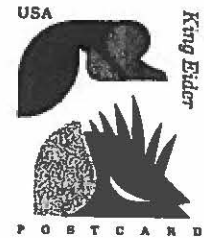
A working man for the working people of Howell Township.

Precinct Delegate for 6 years.

**VOTE FOR HAROLD MELTON FOR HOWELL  
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND PRECINCT  
DELEGATE AUGUST 2nd, 2016**

# Harold Melton

- Worked Road Construction for 38 years
- FAA Certified Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor
- NRA Certified Firearms Instructor and Recruiter
- Endowment Life Member of the NRA
- 4H leader for 12 years
- Standing Behind Right to Life
- Married 43 years, 3 Children and 7 Grandchildren
- Paid for by Harold Melton for Howell Township Board of Trustees





STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

September 28, 2016

Judith Daubenmier  
4490 Lakeshore Ct.  
Brighton, Michigan 48116

Dear Ms. Daubenmier:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Harold Melton, which concerns an alleged violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to send it within 10 business days of the date of this letter to the Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Harold Melton



RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

2016 SEP 26 PM 2:04

ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

Harold Melton  
3408 Cheryl Howell  
Michigan 48855

Friday September 23, 2016

Dear Lori A. Bourbonais, Bureau of Elections I received your letter describing a violation of proper information on my post card literature. My apologies, It was an over site. I have a few post cards left over. I plan to have a peal and stick label that will read. Harold Melton for Board of Trustees 3408 Cheryl Dr. Howell Mi. 48855.

My official Committee does not have ( The Committee to Elect, as part of the name). If you need the Committee ID # it is 158565.

Thank you : Harold Melton 3408 Cheryl Dr. Howell Mi. 48855 Phone  
Cell 810-923-7747

*Harold D. Melton*



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

October 17, 2016

Harold Melton  
3408 Cheryl Drive  
Howell, Michigan 48855

Dear Mr. Melton:

This letter concerns the complaint that was recently filed against you, which relates to a purported violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* The Department of State has received a rebuttal statement from the complainant, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Section 15(10) of the MCFA, MCL 169.215(10), requires the Department to determine within 45 business days from the receipt of the rebuttal statement whether there is a reason to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. Ms. Daubenmier's complaint remains under investigation at this time. At the conclusion of the review, all parties will receive written notice of the outcome of the complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Judy Daubenmier

RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

2016 OCT 12 PM 2:19

ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

4490 Lakeshore Court  
Brighton, MI 48116  
Oct. 6, 2016

Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State  
Richard H. Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
430 W. Allegan  
Lansing, MI 48918

Dear Ms. Bourbonais:

The following is my rebuttal statement regarding the complaint against Harold Melton concerning his violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Harold Melton's comment that this was an "over site" is disingenuous. Harold is an experienced candidate who has campaigned for office before. He should be familiar with the law and if he is not, it is more than an "over site." It's negligence. I'm glad he will be using a label to provide the necessary information, but he has apparently distributed hundreds without it.

Thank you.

Cordially,

  
Judy Daubenmier



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

February 7, 2017

Harold Melton  
3408 Cheryl Drive  
Howell, Michigan 48855

Dear Mr. Melton:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of the complaint filed against you by Judith Daubenmier, which alleged that you violated section 47(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247(1), by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on certain campaign-related material. This letter concerns the disposition of Ms. Daubenmier's complaint.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election to include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), R 169.36(2). A knowing violation constitutes a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.00, imprisonment for up to 93 days, or both. MCL 169.247(6).

The Act also requires the Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods [.]" if it finds that "there may be reason to believe that a violation ... has occurred [.]". MCL 169.215(10). The objective of an informal resolution is "to correct the violation or prevent a further violation [.]". Id.

Ms. Daubenmier filed her complaint on September 14, 2016. You filed a written response on September 26, 2016, and Ms. Daubenmier filed a rebuttal statement on October 12, 2016.

Ms. Daubenmier alleged that you failed to include your committee's address in the paid-for-by statement on your campaign postcard. In support of her complaint, Ms. Daubenmier provided a copy of a postcard which stated, "VOTE FOR HAROLD MELTON FOR HOWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES [.]". Your committee's address appeared to be omitted from the paid-for-by statement on the postcard.

In your response you stated that the missing address was an oversight, and that you would add a label with your committee's address on the postcards you have left over.

While the Department believes that the evidence tends to show that your postcard failed to contain a complete paid-for-by statement and a technical violation of the Act occurred, section 15(10) of the MCFA requires the Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods such as a conference, conciliation, or persuasion [.]".

Harold Melton  
February 7, 2017  
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The Department is satisfied that you took appropriate corrective measures to bring your remaining material into compliance.

Additionally, the Department is advising you that section 47(1) and R 169.36(2) require you to print a complete and accurate identification statement on all campaign materials, consisting of the phrase "paid for by" followed by the full name and address of your committee. Note that all printed materials that refer to an election or your candidacy produced in the future must include this identification statement.

Please be advised that this notice has served to remind you of your obligation under the Act to identify your printed matter, and may be used in future proceedings as evidence that tends to establish a knowing violation of the Act. A knowing violation is a misdemeanor offense and may merit referral to the Attorney General for enforcement action. MCL 169.247(6), 215(10).

The Department now considers this matter closed and will take no further action against you at this time.

Sincerely,



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Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Judith Daubenmier