



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

September 30, 2016

Jeffrey Altoft
611 West Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331

Dear Mr. Altoft:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Jeff Dickerman 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 his complaint, Mr. Dickerman provided a picture of a sign which states, "IF YOU LOVE STINK AND ENJOY BEING BULLIED VOTE FOR GREG CANFIELD [.]". The sign appears to be missing a proper paid-for-by statement.

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, 1st 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 Mr. Dickerman, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and 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

Jeffrey Altoft
September 30, 2016
Page 2

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,

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

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Jeff Dickerman

Campaign Finance Complaint Form Michigan Department of State

RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT. OF STATE
11/22/2016 9:55 AM
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

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 169.201-209). 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 JEFF DICKERMAN	Daytime Telephone Number 616-897-9351	
Mailing Address 429 HIGH STREET		
City LOWELL	State MI	Zip 49331

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name JEFFREY LYNN ALDERT		
Mailing Address 611 W. MAIN STREET		
City LOWELL	State MI	Zip 49331

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

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

169.247 SEC. 47. PARAGRAPH (5)(a)

Explain how those sections were violated:

MR. ALDERT PLACED A CHANGEABLE READERBOARD SIGN FOR HIS UPCOMING RECALL ELECTION WITHOUT THE IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1), (2), OR (7). THE SIGN IS DISPLAYED WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE NOVEMBER ELECTION.


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

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PHOTO. ELECTRONIC TIME STAMP IS 9/22/2016 AT 9:55 AM. WHITE SIGN BELONGS TO JEFF ALDERT. MR. CANFIELD IS HIS OPPONENT.

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


Signature of Complainant

9/22/16
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

**IF YOU LOVE STINK
AND ENJOY BEING BULLIED
VOTE FOR GREG CANFIELD**

**CANFIELD
FOR CITY
COUNCIL**

© 2008 BY GREGORY ANDERSON



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

November 1, 2016

Jeff Dickerman
429 High Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331

Dear Mr. Dickerman:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Jeffrey Altoft, 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, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

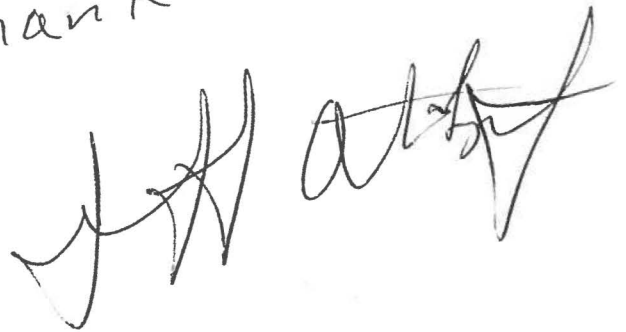
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Jeffrey Altoft

The sign is owned by Me and on
my lot. It has the proper paid for
By statement on it now. But as
you can see in the picture.
Mr Canfields sign doesn't have
statement.

Thank You!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. W. [unclear]'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the 'Thank You!' message.



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

RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
2016 OCT 20 AM 9:51
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

September 30, 2016

Jeffrey Altoft
611 West Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331

Dear Mr. Altoft:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Jeff Dickerman 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 his complaint, Mr. Dickerman provided a picture of a sign which states, "IF YOU LOVE STINK AND ENJOY BEING BULLIED VOTE FOR GREG CANFIELD [.]". The sign appears to be missing a proper paid-for-by statement.

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, 1st 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 Mr. Dickerman, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and 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

**CANFIELD
FOR CITY
COUNCIL**

**IF YOU LOVE STINK
AND ENJOY BEING BULLIED
VOTE FOR GREG CANFIELD**



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

November 21, 2016

Jeffrey Altoft
611 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

Dear Mr. Altoft:

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. Mr. Dickerman'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: Jeff Dickerman



ForwardLowell PAC

P.O. Box 145
Lowell, Michigan 49331
www.forwardlowell.org
info@forwardlowell.org

November 7, 2016

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor
430 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48918

RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL
2016 NOV 16 AM 10:33

Dear Ms. Bourbonais,

Subject: Complaint of Jeffrey Altoft campaign sign.

Thank you for your letter of November 1, 2016 responding to my complaint of Lowell Mayor Jeffrey Altoft's changeable copy sign. As mentioned in my original complaint, I believe this sign to be in violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.*

Mayor Altoft's hand written response indicates the sign is owned by him and on his lot which is adjacent to my property located at 199 Smith Street in Lowell. Ownership of the sign is not in dispute.

The changeable copy sign has displayed various political references in this election cycle with the latest message being simply "VOTE JEFF ALTOFT" as shown on the attached photographs.

Because tomorrow is Election Day, we do not expect to see any new message on the Mayor's sign. However, I still view the original message attacking his opponent, Greg Canfield, which failed to include the required notice as a violation of the intent of the law. Passers-by seeing his sign for the first time would not know that the sign was the property of Mayor Altoft. My own political sign supporting Mr. Canfield was directly behind Altoft's portable sign. I voluntarily removed the Canfield sign to avoid any confusion among the voting public. However Canfield's sign did, in fact, have the required notice.

I submit the attached images taken today for your final review.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Dickerman, Co-founder
ForwardLowell PAC
P.O. Box 145
Lowell, MI 49331



ForwardLowell PAC

P.O. Box 145
Lowell, Michigan 49331
www.forwardlowell.org
info@forwardlowell.org



Portable changeable copy sign facing east – November 7, 2016.

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MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL
2016 NOV 16 AM 10:33



ForwardLowell PAC

P.O. Box 145
Lowell, Michigan 49331
www.forwardlowell.org
info@forwardlowell.org



Portable changeable copy sign facing west – November 7, 2016.

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MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
2016 NOV 16 AM 10:33
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL



ForwardLowell PAC

P.O. Box 145
Lowell, Michigan 49331
www.forwardlowell.org
info@forwardlowell.org



Portable changeable copy sign facing east – September 22, 2016.



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

March 13, 2017

Jeffrey Altoft
611 West Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331

Dear Mr. Altoft:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of the complaint filed against you by Jeff Dickerman, 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 your campaign sign. This letter concerns the disposition of Mr. Dickerman'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.*

Mr. Dickerman filed his complaint on September 28, 2016. You filed a written response on October 20, 2016, and Mr. Dickerman filed a rebuttal statement on November 16, 2016.

Mr. Dickerman alleged that you failed to include a paid-for-by statement on your campaign sign. In support of his complaint, Mr. Dickerman provided a picture of a sign which stated, "IF YOU LOVE STINK AND ENJOY BEING BULLIED VOTE FOR GREG CANFIELD [.]" There did not appear to be a paid-for-by statement on the sign.

In your response you stated that the sign was owned by you, was on your lot, and "has the proper paid for by statement on it now."

While the Department believes that the evidence tends to show that your campaign sign failed to contain a paid-for-by statement, 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 [.]" In an effort to resolve this matter informally, the Department issues this warning letter.

Jeffrey Altoft
March 13, 2017
Page 2

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Jeff Dickerman