



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

May 11, 2016

Melissa Ransom
P.O. Box 363
Lake City, Michigan 49651

Dear Ms. Ransom:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Cameron Harwell against you, alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* The investigation and resolution of this complaint is governed by section 15 of the Act and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq.* A copy of the complaint and supporting documentation is enclosed with this letter.

In Michigan it is unlawful for a public body or an individual acting on its behalf to use or authorize the use of "funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure [.]" MCL 169.257(1). A knowing violation of section 57 is a misdemeanor offense. MCL 169.257(4).

Mr. Harwell alleges that you improperly used public funds or resources to further your nomination.

Please note that Mr. Harwell's allegation that you failed to timely file your Statement of Organization has been dismissed without prejudice.

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 this complaint, you are required to do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. 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.

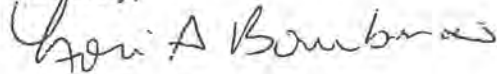
A copy of your answer will be provided to Mr. Harwell, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred [.]" MCL 169.215(10). Note that the Department's

Melissa Ransom
May 11, 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 penalties provided in section 57(4) 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: Cameron Harwell



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

May 11, 2016

Cameron Harwell
121 North Mitchell Street
Cadillac, Michigan 49601

Dear Mr. Harwell:

The Department of State (Department) acknowledges receipt of the complaint you filed against Melissa Ransom, alleging a violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, 169.201 *et seq.* This letter concerns the disposition of a portion of your complaint.

The Act's definition of a candidate includes an individual who "[r]eceives a contribution, makes an expenditure, or gives consent for another person to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with a view to bringing about the individual's nomination or election to an elective office [.]" MCL 169.203(1)(c). The Act further requires an individual to form a candidate committee within 10 days once the individual becomes a candidate under the definition provided in the Act. MCL 169.203(2), 169.221(1). A committee shall file a statement of organization within 10 days of its formation. MCL 169.224(1). Late fees may be incurred if the statement of organization is filed late. *Id.* Failure to file a statement of organization for more than 30 days is a misdemeanor. *Id.*

Your complaint alleged that Ms. Ransom became a candidate when she started a Facebook page entitled "Keep Melissa Ransom Missaukee County Prosecutor [.]". However, the Department notes that a Facebook page is free and no expenditure was made to start this page.

The Department has reviewed Ms. Ransom's Statement of Organization and 2015 October Quarterly campaign finance statement. Based on this review, it appears to the Department that Ms. Ransom timely filed her Statement of Organization, and this portion of your complaint is dismissed without prejudice. If you find evidence that Ms. Ransom received a contribution or made an expenditure prior to 20 days before her Statement of Organization was filed, you may submit a new signed complaint with all available evidence.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

Campaign Finance Complaint Form
Michigan Department of State

RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

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.**

2016 MAY 14 PM 3:18
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name Cameron Harwell	Daytime Telephone Number 231-876-1728	
Mailing Address 121 N Mitchell St.		
City Cadillac	State MI	Zip 49601

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name Melissa Ransom		
Mailing Address PO Box 363		
City Lake City	State MI	Zip 49651

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

Section(s) of the MCFA violated: **See Attached**

Explain how those sections were violated: **See Attached**

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

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

Cameron Howell
Signature of Complainant

4/28/16
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

**Campaign Finance Complaint Form (Attachment)
Michigan Department of State**

Complainant: Cameron S. Harwell
Alleged Violator: Melissa J. Ransom, Missaukee County Prosecutor

Section 3. Alleged Violations:

Sections of the MCFA violated, and how they were violated:

169.257

Melissa Ransom used or authorized the use of personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, equipment or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure or provide volunteer personal services that are excluded from the definition of contribution under section 4(3)(a).

Beginning July 1, 2013, Melissa Ransom Published a Facebook page entitled "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" listing the telephone number (231-839-3111), and email (mransom@missaukee.org) of the Missaukee County Prosecutor's Office. The page states "Very responsive to messages" and typically replies within minutes". This implies that she campaigns during working hours a public officer.

There are several posts on this site which are time-stamped during business hours of the Missaukee County Prosecutor's Office. One post, in particular, dated March 11, 2016 is a photograph taken from the Prosecutor's office & desk at 9:04am on a Friday. Official Missaukee County logo is also depicted in the photograph, which is another public resource utilized for campaign purposes, and implies that that the County of Missaukee, as an agency, approves the message to "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor".

Upon information and belief, Nominating Petitions for the nomination of Melissa Ransom for Missaukee County Prosecutor were circulated using public buildings, staff and other resources.

The Candidate Committee Cover Page, dated 10/22/15, for the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" candidate committee states, in Sec. 7, that the "Treasurer's Business Address" is: PO Box 348, Lake City, MI 49651, and telephone number of 231-839-3111, which is the mailing address & telephone number for the Missaukee County Prosecutor's Office.

These violations are also a violations of the Standards of Conduct for Public Officers and Employees Sec. 15.342(2), which states that "A public officer or employee shall not represent his or her personal opinion as that of an agency" , 15342(3), which states "A public officer or employee shall use personnel resources, property, and funds under the officer or employee's official care and control judiciously and solely in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, and not for personal gain or benefit."

169.221(1)&(2)

Though Melissa Ransom started a Facebook page entitled "Keep Melissa as Ransom Missaukee County Prosecutor on July 1, 2013, thereby qualifying her as a candidate, she failed to form a candidate

committee within 10 days, nor did she file a statement of organization within 10 days after the committee was formed.

Though Melissa Ransom, became the holder of a public office on or about 04/03/15, qualifying her as a candidate, she failed to form a candidate committee within 10 days, nor did she file a statement of organization within 10 days after the committee was formed.

Evidence to support those allegations:

1. *Missaukee County Governmental Directory* – “Prosecutor” listing contact phone number (231-839-3111)
2. *Missaukee County Prosecuting Attorney Letterhead* – with printed address (PO Box 363, 209 S. Canal St., Lake City, MI 49651 and printed phone number (231-839-3111).
3. *State Bar of Michigan Membership Directory Listing* – Melissa J. Ransom, Missaukee County “Prosecuting” with Missaukee County Prosecutor’s Office phone number (231-839-3111) and email address (mransom@missaukee.org) listed.
4. *Missaukee County Citizen’s Guide* – depicting Missaukee County logo used in campaign materials.
5. *Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor Facebook Page* – “About” page with Missaukee County Prosecutor phone (231-839-3111) and Missaukee County email (mransom@missaukee.org) listed.
6. *Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor Facebook Page* – containing statements: “Very responsive to messages” & “Typically replies within minutes”
7. *Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor Facebook Page* – 02/01/16 posting of “other” printed matter having reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question, which contains time-stamp falling during normal business hours of the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s Office.
8. *Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor Facebook Page* – 02/05/16 posting of “other” printed matter having reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question, which contains time-stamp falling during normal business hours of the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s Office.
9. *Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor Facebook Page* – 03/11/16 posting of a photo taken from the County Prosecutor’s office & desk containing a time-stamp which falls during normal business hours of the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s Office.
10. *Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor Facebook Page* – 03/11/16 posting of a photo taken from the County Prosecutor’s office desk, with reply, which contains a time-stamp which falls during normal business hours of the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s Office. Official Missaukee County logo is also depicted in the photograph.
11. *Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor Facebook Page* – 04/29/16 screen capture, with Missaukee County (mransom@missaukee.org) email being utilized (to date) for campaign.
12. 10/22/15 Candidate Committee Cover Page
13. Nominating Petitions (3).



I Want To [Departments](#) [Document Center](#) [Local Government](#) [Links](#) I am looking for: [search](#)



Prosecutor

You are here: [Home](#) > [Departments](#) > [Prosecutor](#)

[Print](#) [e-mail](#)

Prosecutor

Missaukee County
Prosecuting Attorney

Prosecuting Attorney:
Melissa J. Ransom

Office Manager:
Clorinda Starlin

Child Support Specialist/Secretary:
Sandra Laurent

Crime Victim's Advocate:
Elizabeth Brief

Prosecuting Attorney
129 S Main St
PO Box 348
Lake City, MI 49651

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00PM

(231) 839-3111 Phone
(231) 839-3869 Fax
[Click to send E-mail](#)

Department Functions/Services:

The Prosecuting Attorney is an elected official with a four-year term of office as provided by the Michigan Constitution. Elections occur at the same time as the Presidential election, on the partisan ballot. The elected county prosecuting Attorney is independent of the Michigan Attorney General.

The Prosecuting Attorney's office is responsible for the legal functions of Missaukee County, including:

- Acts as the chief law enforcement official in the County
- Reviews, authorizes and prosecutes violations of felony and misdemeanor criminal laws of the State of Michigan as committed in Missaukee County
- Authorizes and prosecutes felony and misdemeanor juvenile delinquent offenses
- Represents Missaukee County in criminal matters before Missaukee County District Court and Missaukee County Circuit Court; juvenile delinquency, parental neglect and miscellaneous probate matters in the Missaukee County Family Court, and appeals in the Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court
- Advises the Family Independence Agency on child abuse and neglect petitions, and actions to terminate parental rights
- Attends contested mental health commitment hearings, termination of parental rights for abuse and neglect of children
- Presides at a monthly concealed Weapon Permit Board, unless he or she opts off for the remainder of his/her term. In that case, the county board appoints a certified firearms instructor to replace the Prosecuting Attorney
- Files and prosecutes actions to establish paternity
- Files actions to establish family support orders
- May represent and advise the County Board of Commissioners, Missaukee County, Michigan departments on legal matters.
- Additionally, the Missaukee County Prosecuting Attorney acts as the FOIA designee

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MISSAUKEE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

P. O. Box 363, 209 S. Canal Street
Lake City, MI 49651
(231) 839.3111 Fax: (231) 839.3869
Email: prosecutor@missaukee.org

WILLIAM J. DONNELLY, JR.
Prosecuting Attorney

MELISSA J. RANSOM
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

[REDACTED]

Mr. Cameron Harwell
Attorney at Law
121 N. Mitchell Street, Ste. 1
Cadillac, MI 49601

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,



William J. Donnelly, Jr.

/jls

Enclosures

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GO

[Member Area](#)

[SBM Connect](#)

Member Directory Search Details

Only active members are eligible to practice law in Michigan.

[Search Again](#)

Melissa J. Ransom—P73521 (active and in good standing)

ADDRESS

Missaukee County Prosecuting

129 S Main St

PO Box 348

Lake City, MI 49651-0348

[Map It](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: (231) 839-3111

e-Mail: mransom@missaukee.org



**Accountability and Transparency Report
2015**

Prepared November 18, 2015

Citizens' Guide
to Governmental Funds' Finances



MGT
OF AMERICA, INC.

RANSOM

Create Page

MISSAUKEE COUNTY PROSECUTOR
Community
PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO KEEP MELISSA RANSOM

Like Message ...

Timeline About Photos Likes Videos

Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor

Started on July 1, 2013

My name is Melissa Ransom and I am running for your Missaukee County Prosecutor. Please like and share my page as we work to Keep Melissa Ransom!

(231) 839-3111

mransom@missaukee.org

Sponsored



Dove
NEW Dove Dry Oil Moisture with Moroccan Argan Oil—nourish & protect even the driest skin!

Like Page

6



Like



Message



Save



Very responsive



324 people like this

Daniel Brigham and 4 other friends

Invite friends to like this Page

About



Typically replies within minutes

7

write a comment...



Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor updated their cover photo

February 1 · 🌐

Monday, February 1, 2016 at 1:32pm



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Missaukee County Prosecutor

8



Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor updated their cover photo.

February 5



Friday, February 5, 2016 at 3:09pm


Keep

**MELISSA
RANSOM**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Missaukee County Prosecutor

PROSECUTOR MISSAUEE COUNTY MISSOURI

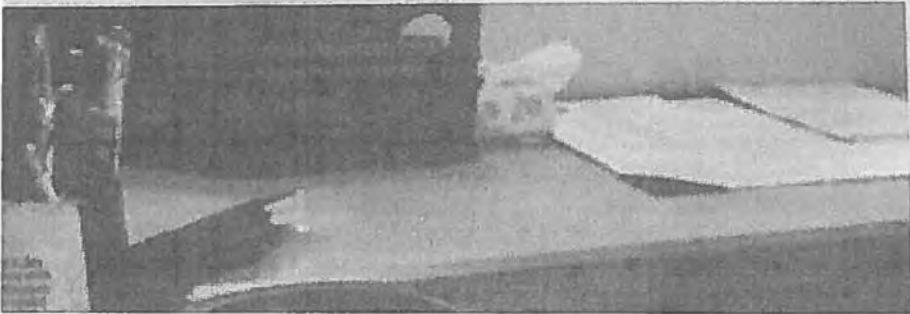
9.



Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor

March 11 · 🌐

ty Friday co Friday, March 11, 2016 at 9:04am in Mcbain. It gets m
at final day! It's almost the weekend folks!



10



ry Canfield

ou people in missaukee co vote for
son

ent 1 Like

rinda Starlin

ly "like" it too

ent 1 Like



Like Comment

2

Chronolog



Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor What is your
coffee cup doing on my desk? You know I tape audio and video when I'm
not there, right?

Like Reply



Keep Melissa Ransom as
Missaukee County Prosecutor

Like

Message

Timeline **About** Photos Likes Videos

About Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor

Page Info

PAGE INFO

Start Date	Started on July 1, 2013
Short Description	My name is Melissa Ransom and I am running for your Missaukee County Prosecutor. Please like and share my page as we work to Keep Melissa Ransom!
Email	mransom@missaukee.org

12

1407



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE COMMITTEE
COVER PAGE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Report must be legible, typed or printed in ink and signed by the treasurer (or designated record keeper) and candidate.

3. This Statement covers From: 06/25/15 to 10/20/15

1. Committee I.D. Number
75619
2. Committee Name
Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor

4. Candidate Last Name Ransom First Name Melissa M.I. J.
4a. Office Sought Including District # or Community Served (If applicable)
Missaukee County Prosecuting Attorney
4b. County of Residence **MISSAUKEE**

5. Committee's Mailing Address
6782 S. Lucas Road
McBain, MI 49657
Area Code and Phone (231) 920-2297
If the address in this box is different from the committee mailing address on the Statement of Organization, mail may be sent to this address by the filing official.

6. Treasurer's Name & Residential Address
Melissa J. Ransom
6782 S. Lucas Road
McBain, MI 49657
Area Code & Phone (231) 920-2297

FILED
28th Circuit Court
OCT 22 2015

7. Treasurer's Business Address
Melissa J. Ransom
P.O. Box 348
Lake City, MI 49657
Area Code and Phone (231) 839-3111

8. Designated Record keeper's Name and Mailing Address (If the committee has a Designated Record keeper)
Melissa J. Ransom
6782 S. Lucas Road
McBain, MI 49657
Area Code and Phone (231) 920-2297

Missaukee County

9. TYPE OF STATEMENT
9a. Pre-Election OR 9b. Post-Election
Pre-Election or Post-Election Statement relates to:
 Primary
 General
 Convention
 Special
 School
 Caucus
Date of Election, Convention or Caucus

Required ONLY if candidate is not on the ballot for the current year:
 July Quarterly
 October Quarterly
9c. Annual Statement (_____) Coverage Year
9d. Amendment to Campaign Statement (Complete Item 9a, 9b, 9c or 9e to indicate which Statement is being amended.)

9e. Dissolution of Candidate Committee
 By checking this item I/We certify any outstanding debt by the committee to the candidate or his or her spouse is here by discharged and forgiven, and no longer collectible from the committee. The committee has no outstanding assets, owes no late fees or has any outstanding debt.
Further, if the dissolution cannot be granted, that this be considered a request for the Reporting Waiver.
Effective date of dissolution

Note: The disposition of residual funds must be reported on Schedule 1B and the Summary Page.

10. Verification: I/We certify that all reasonable diligence was used in the preparation of this statement and attached schedules (if any) and to the best of my/our knowledge and belief the contents are true, accurate and complete.

Current Treasurer or Designated Record keeper Melissa Ransom Signature [Signature] Date 10/22/2015
Candidate Melissa Ransom Signature _____ Date 10/22/2015

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

NOMINATING PETITION

(COUNTYWIDE PARTISAN)

* The "Countywide" Partisan Petition form may be used by any partisan candidate. Exception: the form may not be used by a partisan candidate who seeks the office of County Commissioner; such candidates must use the "City/Township" Partisan Petition form.

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of Missaukee and State of Michigan, nominate Melissa Ransom 6782 S Lucas Road as a candidate of the Republican Party for the office of Prosecutor 12/31/2021 to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the 2nd day of August, 2016.
(City or Township) (Name of Candidate) (Street Address or Rural Route) (Title of Office/Term Expiration Date) (District, if Any)

WARNING—A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS MORE PETITIONS FOR THE SAME OFFICE THAN THERE ARE PERSONS TO BE ELECTED TO THE OFFICE, SIGNS A PETITION MORE THAN ONCE, OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.

INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
					MONTH	DAY	YEAR
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> Richland	1.	JAMES BOSSCHER	5252 W. Falmonth Rd	49657	2	2	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAKE	2.	MICHAEL WILERS	9355 W WHISPERING PINES CIR	49651	2	2	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reeder	3.	Elizabeth R. Brief	3796 W. Lotan Rd.	49657	2	2	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NORWICH	4.	Jordan E. Stepler	2633 W MOORESTOWN RD	49651	2	2	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUTTERFIELD	5.	EDWARD J. METTKE	230 S MERRITT Rd	49667	2	3	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake City	6.	BRIAN J. HOFFMAN	110 W. Main St.	49651	2	3	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richland	7.	Brian Ransom	6782 S. Lucas Rd., McBain, MI	49657	2	3	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REEDER	8.	PATRICIA KAY BIERENS	411 E. MacPeters St. LC	49651	2	24	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake	9.	Korinda Winkelmann	10870 W. Kelly Rd. LC	49651	2	4	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iron Union	10.	Jessica Nielsen	7489 S FORWARD Rd	49657	2	4	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cassville Twp	11.	Andrew Maerz	2825 X 670 N. HUBBARD LN	49667	2	5	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bloomfield Twp	12.	Daniel B. Willis	7015 N Money Rd	49651	2	5	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MCBAIN	13.	RICK CULLINGHA	131 PINE ST,	49657	2	5	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riverside	14.	Michael Austin	1962 W. Falmouth Rd.	49657	2	22	2016

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence, that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once, and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [✓] in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

WARNING—A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A PERSON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN AS CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

CIRCULATOR - DO NOT SIGN OR DATE CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.

3 1 2 1 16
(Signature of Circulator) (Date)

Melissa Ransom
(Printed Name of Circulator)

6782 S Lucas Rd.
(Complete Residence Address [Street and Number or Rural Route]) - [Do not enter a post office box]

Richland, Michigan 49657
(City or Township, State, Zip Code)

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

NOMINATING PETITION
(COUNTYWIDE PARTISAN)

* The "Countywide" Partisan Petition form may be used by any partisan candidate. Exception: the form may not be used by a partisan candidate who seeks the office of County Commissioner; such candidates must use the "City/Township" Partisan Petition form.

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of Missaukee and State of Michigan, nominate Melissa Ransom 6782 S. Morris Road
Richland as a candidate of the Republican Party for the office of * Prize Caster
(City or Township) (Name of Candidate) (Street Address or Rural Route)
(Title of Office/Term Expiration Date) (District, if Any)
to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the 2nd day of August, 2016

WARNING--A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS MORE PETITIONS FOR THE SAME OFFICE THAN THERE ARE PERSONS TO BE ELECTED TO THE OFFICE, SIGNS A PETITION MORE THAN ONCE, OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.

INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
					MONTH	DAY	YEAR
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> Lake		Juliana Gebulski	7675 W Blue Rd	49651	02	23	2016
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clam Union		NORM DUNING	335 E Prosper Rd	49632	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> Riverside		DONALD L BLAKE	873 W Falmouth Rd	49657	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RIVERSIDE		Willard Van Hartsum	3427 W Finkle Rd	49657	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> AETNA		RON HUTTEN	1444 E ETNA RD	49657	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> AETNA		Douglas L Nielsen	1640 E Loran Rd	49632	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> Reeder		Jerry Agema	25116 Rainbow Rd	49657	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLAM UNION		DAVID D. HERWEYER	3222 E. STONEY CORNERS RD	49657	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> Clam Union		Steven J Herweyer	3414 E Stacy Center Rd	49657	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> Clam Union		Richard Herweyer	3771 E Stacy Center Rd	49657	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> Aetna		William C. Goodwin	5505 E Jennings Rd	49667	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLAM UNION		MARK BUNING	6321 S FORWARD RD	49632	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> AETNA		JERRY ZUIDERVEEN	4955 S FORWARD RD	49632	2	24	16
CITY OF TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/> Kivichuk		Harry Buning	6440 FORWARD RD	49632	2	24	16

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once, and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [✓] in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

WARNING--A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A PERSON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN AS CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

CIRCULATOR - DO NOT SIGN OR DATE CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.

(Signature of Circulator) 12/15/2016
(Date)
JAMES D. BOSSCHER
(Printed Name of Circulator)
8252 W. Falmouth Rd
(Complete Residence Address [Street and Number or Rural Route]) - [Do not enter a post office box]
McBain MI 49657
(City or Township, State, Zip Code)
Missaukee
(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

NOMINATING PETITION (COUNTYWIDE PARTISAN)

The "Countywide" Partisan Petition form may be used by any partisan candidate. Exception: the form may not be used by a partisan candidate who seeks the office of County Commissioner; such candidates must use the "City/Township" Partisan Petition form.

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of Missaukee and State of Michigan, nominate Melissa Ransome 6782 S Lucas Road as a candidate of the Republican Party for the office of Prosecutor 12/31/2020 to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the 2nd day of August 2016.

WARNING-A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS MORE PETITIONS FOR THE SAME OFFICE THAN THERE ARE PERSONS TO BE ELECTED TO THE OFFICE, SIGNS A PETITION MORE THAN ONCE, OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.

Table with 6 columns: INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE, SIGNATURE, PRINTED NAME, STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE, ZIP CODE, DATE OF SIGNING (MONTH, DAY, YEAR). Rows include Lake City, Bloomfield, and other townships.

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen, that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence, that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once, and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [✓] in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

WARNING-A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A PERSON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN AS CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

CIRCULATOR - DO NOT SIGN OR DATE CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.

Signature of Circulator: [Signature] Date: 03/02/2016
Printed Name of Circulator: Melissa Ransome
Complete Residence Address [Street and Number or Rural Route]: 6782 S Lucas Road
City or Township, State, Zip Code: Richland, Michigan 49657
County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan:



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

May 27, 2016

Cameron Harwell
121 North Mitchell Street
Cadillac, Michigan 49601

Dear Mr. Harwell:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Melissa Ransom, 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: Melissa Ransom

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

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

RECEIVED
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2016 MAY 24 AM 9:10
ELECTIONS/REGISTRATION

Dear Ms. Bourbonais,

This letter is in response to the false allegations put forth to the State by Mr. Cameron Harwell. Cameron Harwell has announced his intent to run against me as an independent party candidate. So these allegations come as no surprise to my campaign committee.

I am responding to the first alleged section violation of MCL 169.257 only, as it appears from your letter that the alleged violation of MCL 169.211(1) & (2) has already been dismissed by your the State.

First, I have not maintained a Facebook election page since July 1, 2013. I was appointed as the assistant prosecutor in July of 2013, however I published the page at the beginning of this year, 2016. My first post was to the page on February 2, 2016 at 4:40 a.m. The picture was taken at the Law Office of William Donnelly in front of his law library by using my cell phone and posted from my cell phone at my residence. *(Please see Attachment 1)* When I organized the page, I did not post my office contact information, nor the address, nor do I see where it appears to the general public on the page. I do see the attachment provided by Mr. Harwell, however, when I visit the page from my cell phone, I do not see where it lists my contact information. Nonetheless, to ensure compliance, I have manually entered the same address and cell phone number as filed with the County Clerk under the "About" section to ensure there is no confusion.

In response to using county computer, telephone and email, I want to assure the State that I have never received a phone call regarding my campaign at the (231) 839-3111, nor have I received an email at the address mransom@missuakee.org. I maintain a separate phone number as provided in my Statement of Organization and my Amended Statement of Organization. All election correspondence is done on my cell phone at (231) 920.2297 and my email address RansomLegal@gmail.com. *(Please see Attachment 2 and 3)*. I also want to make known that my cell phone is not a County issued phone, but maintained separately on a personal contract with AT & T.

My second post to the page was a Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. Again, from my residence, and from my cell phone. *(Please see Attachment 4)* My third post was on Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 10:08 a.m., again from my cell phone and on a picture clearly taken on my cell phone. *(Please see Attachment 5)*. My next five posts were again either on a Sunday or a weekday, early morning hours or evening from my cell phone. Without getting repetitive, I have posted on this Facebook page a total of 13 times and only 2 of which were during what would be considered "normal business hours." Nonetheless, both posts that were done during "normal business hours" were done from my cell phone and while I was either on my lunch break, break or simply not in the office. I have never used my county issued computer or equipment to post to this page. Every message received through the page gives an alert to my cell phone and email of RansomLegal@gmail.com. And any response is through the same. I am surprised my response time is represented as so fast by Facebook, as there appears to be some posts that I have not responded to. *(See Attachment 4)*

I have also designated admins on Facebook, other than myself, to edit, manage, and post to the page as necessary, only further evidencing posts coming from locations outside of the office. The reason I also bring this up is in reference to the page comment under the photo provided by Mr. Harwell as his *Attachment 10*. The comment was made by someone at their residence, but also on my page as an admin, thus making it look like its actually coming from my page. I have confirmed that this was in fact done out of the office and at her residence while she was out for vacation. It is clear from the statement "when I am not there."

As a County Prosecutor, and as other elected officials, I am not always in my office during what would be considered "normal business" hours. My hours vary, and many times I am working in the early morning hours, evenings and weekends. It is common that I am out of the office at meetings, court and other functions that make it impossible for me to maintain what would be considered "normal business hours."

In response specifically to the photo with the coffee cup; that picture was taken by using a phone and posted with a phone and not using any county property. The post references myself, as prosecutor, being at work and thanking the ladies at Cornerstone Coffee McBain for the coffee. It in no way depicts a violation of MCL 169.257 of using County Stationary to *"make a contribution or expenditure or provide volunteer person services."* Nor was it my intent to do so. This photo in no way represents my own personal opinion as that of the agency as prohibited Sec. 15.342(2) and as quoted by Mr. Harwell. Nonetheless, to go even further to ensure compliance, I have since then removed the photo from public view.

In response to the petition circulation: Again I did not use County property, personnel, property or resources to circulate petitions. All signatures were obtained in compliance with campaign laws. The Petitions themselves in no way serve as evidence to the contrary. 14 of the signatures were not obtained by myself, but by James Bosscher. Most of the others were obtained at functions outside of a county organized function; one in particular is my pistol league at the Missaukee Gun Club.

In response to my Campaign Cover Page. The specific assertion is that my Sec. 7 typing of "Business Address" of P.O. Box 348, Lake City, MI 49651 is assuming that I use that for mailing. Although that is the P.O. Box for the Prosecutor's office in Missaukee, it is very clear from the form itself that I never intended for mail to be circulated or received by using the P.O. Box 348. On that same form, it clearly states on **Sec. 5 "Committee's Mailing Address"** as 6782 S. Lucas Road, McBain MI 49657. Again on Sec 8. **The Designated Record Keeper's Name and Mailing Address is:** Melissa J. Ransom, 6782 S. Lucas Road McBain, MI 49657. *(Please reference "Candidate Committee Cover Page provided by Mr. Harwell as his attachment 12)* I have never received mail at the P.O. Box 348. All campaign correspondence has been going to my correct committee mailing address. Ironically, Mr. Harwell used a very old P.O. Box 363 to send this complaint. That P.O. Box belongs to the former Prosecutor, Mr. William Donnelly, who this complaint was actually sent to and subsequently forwarded to me. P.O. Box 363 has no connection to our current office.

I want to thank you for your time to look into this matter further and review my response. It is my utmost desire to ensure that I am in compliance and find it unsettling that it has been called into question. Please feel free to contact my with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Ransom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

1

Aeresa Hamick Spann, Deloris Dee Brinks and 16 others

Chronological

Greg Winkelmann Give a "free pass" for the 300th like. I bet you get there real quick.

Like Reply Message 1 February 7 at 11:42am

Write a comment

Press Enter to post.

Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor updated their profile picture

Published by Melissa Ransom (P) February 2, 2016



Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 4:40am



Re
201
201

Keep Mel
This page
paid for by
Keep Melist
Missaukee

01805761-8729966834750?type=1

75619

1372 (2)



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

Melissa Ransom

ORIGINAL OR AMENDED

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION FORM FOR CANDIDATE COMMITTEES

1. Committee ID #: 75619		*2. Type of Filing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original: <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment to Items:		Eff. Date: 7-1-2015
*3. Full Name of Committee (must include Candidate's first and last name): Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor				
*4a. Candidate Full Name: Last Name Ransom		First Name Melissa		M.I. J.
*4b. Political Party (if applicable): Republican		*4c. County of Residence: Missaukee		
*4d. Office Sought: Prosecutor		*4e. District/Circuit # or Jurisdiction: Missaukee		
*5. Date Committee was Formed: 6/25/15				
*6a. Committee Phone: (231) 920-2297		6b. Committee Fax #: COUNTY CLERK REGISTER OF DEEDS MISSAUKEE COUNTY, MI		
6c. Committee Email Address:		6d. Committee Website Address: FILED		
*7a. Complete Committee Mailing Address (May be PO Box): 6799 W. Lakeview Dr Lake City, MI 49651				JUL 01 2015
*7b. Complete Committee Street Address (May not be PO Box): 6799 W. LAKEVIEW DR. LAKE CITY, MI 49651				Conroy/Flan
*8. Treasurer Name and Complete Address: Brian Ransom 6799 W. LAKEVIEW DR LAKE CITY, MI 49651				
Phone #: (231) 920-2304		Email Address:		
9. Designated Record Keeper Name and Complete Address: Brian Ransom 6799 W. LAKEVIEW DR. LAKE CITY, MI 49651				
Phone #: (231) 920-2304		Email Address:		
*10. REPORTING WAIVER REQUEST:				
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I/We WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee does not expect to receive or expend in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I/We understand that if the committee does not spend or received in excess of \$1,000 in an election, the committee does not owe Pre, Post, Quarterly and Annual Campaign Statements. I/We further understand that the Reporting Waiver will be automatically lost if the committee exceeds the \$1,000 threshold and all required campaign statements must be filed. A Reporting Waiver does not exempt a committee from filing Late Contribution Reports.				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO, I/We DO NOT WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee expects to receive or expend in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I/We understand that the committee owes Pre, Post, Quarterly and Annual Campaign Statements even if the committee does not spend or receive in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I further understand that the Reporting Waiver cannot be requested retroactively to avoid filing requirements and to avoid paying late filing fees. Further information regarding Reporting Waivers can be found in Appendix C of the Committee Manual.				
*11. Name and Address of Depositories or Intended Depositories of committee funds. (Michigan Bank, Credit Union or Savings & Loan Association) While this item must be completed, an account does not have to be opened until the first contribution is received. LAKE CITY, MI 49651				
*Official Depository (name and address): Chemical Bank 127 S. Main LAKE CITY, MI 49651				
Secondary Depository (name and address):				
12. This item applies only to Gubernatorial Candidate Committees: Check if this committee intends to seek qualifying contributions or make qualifying expenditures.				
13. ELECTRONIC FILING: This item applies to committees that file with the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections only and does not apply to Candidate Committees that file with the County Clerk's office.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee spent or received or expects to spend or receive in excess of \$5,000 and is required to file electronically.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee did not spend or receive or does not expect to spend or receive in excess of \$5,000 and would like to file electronically voluntarily. Further information regarding Electronic Filing can be found in Appendix D of the Committee Manual.				
14. Verification: I/We certify that all reasonable diligence was used in the preparation of the above statement and that the contents are true, accurate and complete to the best of my/our knowledge or belief. If filing electronically, we further agree that the signatures below shall serve as the signatures that verify the accuracy and completeness of each statement filed electronically by the committee. I/We certify that all reasonable diligence will be used in the preparation of each statement electronically filed by this committee and that the contents of each statement will be true, accurate and complete to the best of my/our knowledge or belief. (Sign Name and Date)				
*Candidate: Melissa Ransom		*Current Treasurer Brian Ransom		Date: 6/25/15
Designated Record Keeper (Required only if filing electronically)		Date:		



1406
3

ORIGINAL OR AMENDED
STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION FORM FOR CANDIDATE COMMITTEES

1. Committee ID #: 75619		*2. Type of Filing: <input type="checkbox"/> Original: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment to items: Address, 7a, 7b, 8, 9		Eff. Date: 10/14/15
*3. Full Name of Committee (must include Candidate's first and last name):				
*4a. Candidate Full Name: Last Name		First Name		M.I.
*4b. Political Party (if applicable):		*4c. County of Residence: MISSAUKEE		
*4d. Office Sought:		*4e. District/Circuit # or Jurisdiction: Missaukee		
*5. Date Committee was Formed:				
*6a. Committee Phone:		6b. Committee Fax #:		
6c. Committee Email Address:		6d. Committee Website Address:		
*7a. Complete Committee Mailing Address (May be PO Box): 6782 S. Lucas Road McBain, MI 49657				FILED 28 th Circuit Court
*7b. Complete Committee Street Address (May not be PO Box): 6782 S. Lucas Road McBain, MI 49657				OCT 22 2015
*8. Treasurer Name and Complete Address: Melissa J. Ransom 6782 S. Lucas Road McBain, MI 49657				Missaukee County
Phone #: (231) 920-2297		Email Address: RansomLegal@gmail.com		
9. Designated Record Keeper Name and Complete Address: Melissa J. Ransom 6782 S. Lucas Road McBain, MI 49657				
Phone #: (231) 920-2297		Email Address: RansomLegal@gmail.com		
*10. REPORTING WAIVER REQUEST:				
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I/We WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee does not expect to receive or expend in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I/We understand that if the committee does not spend or received in excess of \$1,000 in an election, the committee does not owe Pre, Post, Quarterly and Annual Campaign Statements. I/We further understand that the Reporting Waiver will be automatically lost if the committee exceeds the \$1,000 threshold and all required campaign statements must be filed. A Reporting Waiver does not exempt a committee from filing Late Contribution Reports.				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO, I/We DO NOT WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee expects to receive or expend in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I/We understand that the committee owes Pre, Post, Quarterly and Annual Campaign Statements even if the committee does not spend or receive in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I further understand that the Reporting Waiver cannot be requested retroactively to avoid filing requirements and to avoid paying late filing fees. Further information regarding Reporting Waivers can be found in Appendix C of the Committee Manual.				
*11. Name and Address of Depositories or Intended Depositories of committee funds. (Michigan Bank, Credit Union or Savings & Loan Association) While this item must be completed, an account does not have to be opened until the first contribution is received.				
*Official Depository (name and address):				
Secondary Depository (name and address):				
12. <input type="checkbox"/> This item applies only to Gubernatorial Candidate Committees: Check if this committee intends to seek qualifying contributions or make qualifying expenditures.				
13. ELECTRONIC FILING: This item applies to committees that file with the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections only and does not apply to Candidate Committees that file with the County Clerk's office.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee spent or received or expects to spend or receive in excess of \$5,000 and is required to file electronically.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee did not spend or receive or does not expect to spend or receive in excess of \$5,000 and would like to file electronically voluntarily. Further information regarding Electronic Filing can be found in Appendix D of the Committee Manual.				
14. Verification: I/We certify that all reasonable diligence was used in the preparation of the above statement and that the contents are true, accurate and complete to the best of my/our knowledge or belief. If filing electronically, we further agree that the signatures below shall serve as the signatures that verify the accuracy and completeness of each statement filed electronically by the committee. I/We certify that all reasonable diligence will be used in the preparation of each statement electronically filed by this committee and that the contents of each statement will be true, accurate and complete to the best of my/our knowledge or belief. (Sign Name and Date)				
*Candidate: 		*Current Treasurer 		
Date: 10/22/2015		Date: 10/22/2015		
Designated Record Keeper (Required only if filing electronically)				
Date:				



4

Publishing Tools

Like Reply Message February 28 at 1:11pm

Wayne Campbell Just curious, why aren't they each holding their hand gun with both hands for better stability, gun control, and safety? Just wondering is all, not trying to start anything.

Like Reply Message April 19 at 12:15pm Edited

Write a comment

Press Enter to post

Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor

Published by Melissa Ransom (7) Edited

more than 200 likes in 24 hours! Thanks ever support!

Sunday, February 8, 2016 at 10:30am

20 people reached

Boost Post

Like Comment Share

Theresa Hamick Spann, Doloris Dee Brinks and 16 others

Chronological

Greg Winkelmann Give a "free pass" for the 300th like I bet you get there real quick.

Like Reply Message 1 February 28 at 1:11pm

5

Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor

Published by Melissa Ransom [?] - February 28 #

So glad I became a member of the Missaukee Conservation Club. I look forward to our Thursday nights.

Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 10:08am



Keep Mel
This page



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

June 21, 2016

Melissa Ransom
6782 South Lucas Road
McBain, Michigan 49657

Dear Ms. Ransom:

This letter concerns the complaint that was recently filed against you by Cameron Harwell, 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. Harwell'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: Cameron Harwell

June 5, 2016

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

RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
2016 JUN 10 AM 11:11
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

Re: Melissa Ransom / Rebuttal Statement

Dear Ms. Bourbonais,

In this, my rebuttal to Ms. Ransom's May 17, 2016 response to my initial complaint, I offer the following, which will highlight several contradictory statements, admissions, as well as remedial measures taken by Ms. Ransom and/or her campaign committee to remove and conceal violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (see supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed).

In page one, paragraph 3, of Melissa Ransom's May 17, 2016 correspondence with your office, Ms. Ransom admitted to organization, ownership and control of the social media page in question by stating "When I organized the page", "I published the page", "I have posted on this Facebook page a total of 13 times", and "I have manually entered the same address and cell phone number as filed with the County Clerk". (See supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed.)

Evidence has been submitted to your office, which clearly depicts multiple instances where the email address, telephone number, office, logo, property, staff and other resources of Missaukee County and the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office were being used for the purposes of promoting Ms. Ransom's campaign, through publication of the Facebook Community Page "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" (as published, "authorized and paid for by the Committee to Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor, 6782 S. Lucas Road, McBain, MI 49657, 231.920.229"). (See supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed.)

In Ms. Ransom's response to my complaint, she specifically denied knowledge of and responsibility for said violations by stating, "When I organized the page, I did not post my office contact information, nor the address, nor do I see where it appears to the general public on the page. I do not see the attachment provided by Mr. Harwell, however, when I visit the page from my cell phone, I do not see where it lists my contact information." Though she admits to organizing said page, admits her ownership, editing and control of said page, Ms. Ransom denies responsibility for only the information published in violation of the MCFA. Ms. Ransom also made the assertion that she does not see it on her cell phone. Supporting evidence demonstrates that the both Missaukee County telephone number and email address were visible to the public, as published on said site, and from a cellular telephone. Additionally, Ms. Ransom mentioned that someone, other than herself also has control of said page. I am unaware of the name of her "admin." or the name of the other individual(s) in control of the aforementioned social media site, as Ms. Ransom has conspicuously failed to name them, or their possible role in the alleged violations (see supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed).

Please note, when viewing posts, as administrator of said page, the name of the actual publishing individual (or, administrator), as well as the date and time of each publication is clearly visible. Ms. Ransom's response to my complaint included several examples of posts, though not subject of said

complaint, do demonstrate the visibility of each post's specific publisher to the "admin" viewing the page. Evidence has been submitted by Ms. Ransom which demonstrates this capability on her campaign committee page. Additional evidence also demonstrates it on a similarly held social media page. (See supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed.)

Ms. Ransom admitted in her response, "Nonetheless, I have manually entered the same address and phone number as filed with the County Clerk under the "About" section to ensure there is no confusion." Digital evidence is included with this correspondence which indicates the Missaukee County telephone number, was published on said social media site from approximately July 1, 2013, until on or about April 24, 2016. On or about April 24, 2016, the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office telephone number no longer appeared to the public on the "About" section of said social media site. Subsequently, on or about May 12, 2016, the aforesaid social media "About" section was again updated, admittedly by Ms. Ransom, to include, "**Thia** page is authorized by the Comunitee to Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor, 6782 S. Lucas Road, Mc**bain**, MI 49657, 231.920.229". The Missaukee County email address, mransom@missaukee.org, was still in use on said social media site as of May 16, 2016, one day prior to Ms. Ransom's dated response to my complaint (see supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed).

It should be noted that, Ms. Ransom's hasty edits to "Short Description" on the social media site on or about May 12, 2016, contained a number of errors. The first word of the statement, as well as, the committee name and the name of the candidate's own "hometown" were all misspelled. Additionally, no additional email address was published. Evidence enclosed will show that Ms. Ransom's published edit also contained an invalid mobile telephone number, "231.920.229". In her response to my complaint, Ms. Ransom stated, "All election correspondence is done on my cell phone at (231)920.2297". She additionally stated, "Every message received through the page gives an alert to my cell phone and email of RansomLegal@gmail.com. And any response through the same." However, evidence enclosed shows that this particular mobile telephone number and email address have not, and are not as of this date, listed on Ms. Ransom's "authorized" and "paid" campaign committee social media site. Supporting evidence will also show that the email address "RansomLegal@gmail.com" and telephone number "(231)920.2297" to which Ms. Ransom asserts to receive all candidate committee calls and correspondence is not published on any publication that I was able to find, other than her candidate committee statement. The only valid email address and telephone number made visible to the public, to date, as published on said "authorized" and "paid" campaign committee social media site was that of the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office. (See supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed).

Additionally, when editing the "Short Description" in the "About" section of such a Facebook community page, as Ms. Ransom has admitted to doing manually herself, the email address and telephone number of the organization is clearly visible from the editing screen. Since the Missaukee County email appeared on the site campaign committee some time before and after Ms. Ransom's May 12, 2016 edits to the page, this email address would have been clearly visible to Ms. Ransom while she "manually" entered the page edits. Enclosed evidence shows a similarly held Facebook community page's "About" section editing screen captured digitally, by a site administrator, which clearly depicts the visibility of said organization's telephone number and email address in the editing area. Yet, to the contrary, in her response to my complaint, Ms. Ransom made an outright denial that she had seen the Missaukee County contact information on her campaign committee site. (See supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed).

In page 2, paragraph 4 of Ms. Ransom's May 17, 2016 response, she admits, "In response specifically to the photo with the coffee cup; that picture was taken by using a cell phone and posted with a phone and not using any county property. The post references myself, as prosecutor, being at work". Ironically, the only thing in the photograph that is not Missaukee County property may very well be Ms. Ransom's morning coffee. Supporting evidence shows that Melissa Ransom and/or her campaign committee published the post, from the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office at 9:04 a.m. on the Friday morning of March 11, 2016.

Though Ms. Ransom, as administrator of the campaign committee page, had access to the publishing individual's name, she conspicuously failed to name them. However, in Ms. Ransom's response to my complaint she did state, "I have posted on this Facebook page a total of 13 times and only 2 of which were during what would be considered "normal business hours". Nonetheless, both posts were done from my cell phone and while I was either on my lunch break, break or simply not in the office." Ms. Ransom did not indicate that she left the County building during said "breaks". To the contrary, her own statement specifies that she did actively campaign during working hours, at least twice, but only while she was on "break" or out of the office. The "coffee cup" photograph has a time stamp of 9:04 a.m., this demonstrates that Ms. Ransom and/or her other designated campaign committee page "admin" (who was only identified as an employee of the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office) took such a break to campaign exactly thirty-four minutes into "normal business hours" at the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office.

The "admin" of which Ms. Ransom references in her response, and the "admin's" posting referenced suggests that this person, also in control of said campaign social media site, is evidently an employee of the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office. (Ms. Ransom references the individual as being out of the office on vacation.) The full statement published was, "What is your coffee cup doing on my desk? You know I tape...audio and video...when I'm not there. Right?" I am unaware of the name of her "admin." or the name of the other individual(s) in control of the aforesaid social media site, as Ms. Ransom has conspicuously failed to name them. (See evidence enclosed.)

This is "coffee cup" photo is admittedly an instance when Ms. Ransom and/or her campaign committee, utilized public resources to further her campaign, yet Ms. Ransom seems oblivious to the fact that paid county time, office space, telephones, personnel, email, logo, etc. are all public resources, which she neither has paid for, nor is entitled to use in the furtherance of her candidacy.

Further, relative to the "coffee cup" photograph, Ms. Ransom also admitted "Nonetheless, to go even further to ensure compliance, I have since then removed the photo from public view." Ms. Ransom admitted that she took remedial measures in removing this photograph of the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office and the Missaukee County Logo from public view, and by doing so; she removed evidence of the actual publisher, time and date of the post, which was clearly visible to her as an "admin" of the campaign committee page. As previously stated, when viewing posts of said page, the name of the actual publishing individual, as well as the date and time of each publication, is clearly visible to the administrator. (See supporting evidence incorporated/enclosed.)

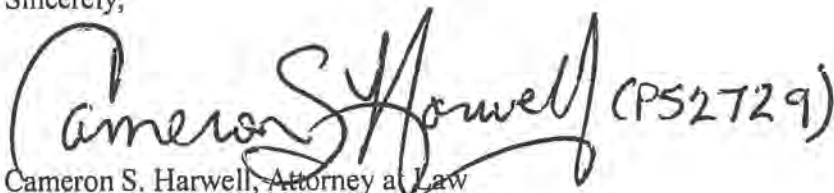
In page 3, paragraph one of Ms. Ransom's May 16, 2016 response, Ms. Ransom states that, "Most of the other signatures were obtained at functions outside of a county organized function; one in particular is my pistol league at the Missaukee Gun Club". "Most of the other signatures". This is an admission that, at least, some of the signatures on her Nominating Petition(s) were obtained through "a county organized function". Ms. Ransom offered in her response that she, herself, posted the following to the campaign committee social media site: "So glad I became a member of the Missaukee Conservation

Club! I have improved my gun contr. and safety. I look forward to our Thursday nights". Only three (3) signatures on Ms. Ransom's nominating petitions are dated on a Thursday. However, a much greater number of the signatures on the Nominating Petitions of Ms. Ransom are those of County employees, who work in adjacent Missaukee County offices, and in close proximity to the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office, with multiple endorsements on certain business days. Upon information and belief, the petitions were circulated by and /or endorsed by County employees during regular working hours, and by utilizing other county resources.

In page 3, paragraph 2 of Ms. Ransom's response, she stated, "Ironically, Mr. Harwell used a very old P.O. Box 363 to send this complaint." and "P.O. Box 363 has no connection to our current office." The "very old P.O. Box 363" is old in the sense that it was the mailing address for the Missaukee County Prosecutor's Office for at least 20 years. The P.O. Box was changed recently (within the past year) around the same time the Prosecutor's office moved from a private law office to a Missaukee County (publically controlled) office site. Supporting evidence displays a number of different addresses associated with Ms. Ransom, her private law practice and that of the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office. I did, in error, use the wrong address in my complaint; it should read: "Section 2. Alleged Violator: Name: Melissa Ransom, Mailing Address: 6782 S. Lucas Rd., McBain, MI 49657".

In conclusion, evidence clearly shows that Ms. Ransom is knowingly responsible for multiple violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. As evidenced by her admissions to the complaint filed, and my subsequent Rebuttal, it is clear that Ms. Ransom lacks even a rudimentary grasp of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Ms. Ransom readily admits to violating the law, while at the same time claims no wrongdoing. What is most troubling about Ms. Ransom's response is that she denied the violations, despite all evidence to the contrary, vaguely insinuated the involvement of others, and all the while, she was admittedly taking remedial measures to conceal and/or remove the violations. By doing so it turned what could be construed as a simple oversight on the part of an inexperienced political candidate, into a matter which fundamentally calls her character and capability into question.

Sincerely,



Cameron S. Harwell, Attorney at Law
121 N. Mitchell St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-876-1728

Enclosures

Updated Evidence List: Hard copies and digital files enclosed as captured, with all original properties intact. for your consideration.

1. May 17, 2016 Response of Melissa Ransom to the Bureau of Elections (hard copy enclosed).
2. April 20, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting Missaukee County telephone number and email published (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
3. April 24, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page edited depicting the removal of the Missaukee County telephone number with County email published (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
4. April 29, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting only the Missaukee County email published (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
5. April 30, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting Missaukee County email published (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
6. May 4, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting Missaukee County email published (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
7. May 6, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting Missaukee County email published (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
8. May 12, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting Missaukee County email published & "Short Description" as admittedly edited by Melissa Ransom (note invalid mobile telephone number in this section) (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
9. May 16, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting Missaukee County email published (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
10. May 31, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page edited depicting Missaukee County email no longer visible to the public (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
11. June 5, 2016 screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting no valid email address or mobile telephone number published to date (hard copy enclosed).
12. April 20, 2016 mobile phone screen capture of the "Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor" Community Facebook Page depicting Missaukee County telephone number published (hard copy & digital file enclosed).
13. June 3, 2016 State Bar of Michigan member directory listing of Melissa Ransom depicting only Missaukee County contact information (hard copy only).
14. June 3, 2016 screen capture of Melissa Ransom's law office web advertisement void of the current email address and telephone number to which she admittedly receives all campaign related correspondence (hard copy only).
15. June 3, 2016 Facebook listing for Missaukee County Prosecutor's office depicting only Missaukee County contact information (hard copy only).
16. June 3, 2016 screen capture of the "Melissa Ransom" personal Facebook listing void of the current email address and telephone number to which she admittedly receives all campaign related correspondence (hard copy only).
17. June 5, 2016 screen capture of the "Cameron Harwell for Missaukee County Prosecutor" community Facebook site depicting the editing screen of the "About" section with the "Short Description",

- organization telephone number and email address clearly visible from a personal computer (hard copy only).
18. June 3, 2016 screen capture of the “Melissa Ransom” personal Facebook “About” listing void of the current email address and telephone number to which Ms. Ransom admittedly receives all campaign related calls and correspondence. (Hard copy only).
 19. June 3, 2016 mobile telephone screen capture of the “Melissa Ransom, Attorney at Law” Facebook page depicting only the contact information of the former Missaukee County Prosecutor’s office, and void of the mobile telephone number and email address at which Ms. Ransom receives all campaign related calls and correspondence. (Hard copy & digital file enclosed.)
 20. June 3, 2016 Yahoo listing for “Melissa J Ransom Attorney at Law” depicting only the Missaukee County telephone number, email and physical address (hard copy and digital file enclosed)
 21. April 20, 2016 screen capture of the “Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor” Community Facebook Page depicting the “coffee cup” photograph as admittedly posted thereto by Melissa Ransom on March 11, 2016, by herself, at work, as Prosecutor (hard copy & digital file enclosed)
 22. April 20, 2016 screen capture of the “Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor” Community Facebook Page depicting the “coffee cup” photograph as admittedly posted thereto by Melissa Ransom on March 11, 2016, by herself, at work, as Prosecutor- time stamp captured showing normal business hours of the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s office (hard copy & digital file enclosed)
 23. April 20, 2016 screen capture of the “Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor” Community Facebook Page depicting the “coffee cup” photograph as admittedly posted thereto by Melissa Ransom on March 11, 2016, by herself, at work, as Prosecutor- comment captured showing post by admitted “admin” of said site which suggests that this person is an employee of the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s office (hard copy & digital file enclosed)
 24. Screen capture of the “Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor” Community Facebook Page depicting a posting made Monday, February 1, 2016 at 1:32 pm, which is normal business hours of the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s office (hard copy & digital file enclosed)
 25. Screen capture of the “Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor” Community Facebook Page depicting a posting made Monday, February 5, 2016 at 3:09 pm, which is normal business hours of the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s office (hard copy & digital file enclosed)
 26. June 3, 2016 screen capture of the “Keep Melissa Ransom as Missaukee County Prosecutor” Community Facebook Page depicting a posting admittedly made by Melissa Ransom on February 28, 2016 wherein she states, “I look forward to our Thursday nights.” (Hard copy enclosed.)
 27. June 3, 2016 screen capture of the “Cameron Harwell for Missaukee County Prosecutor” community Facebook site, while signed in as “admin” depicting the actual publishing individual’s name, time and date of various posts (hard copy & digital file enclosed).

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

RECEIVED
MAY 24 AM 9:40
CLERK OF COURTS

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

Dear Ms. Bourbonais,

This letter is in response to the false allegations put forth to the State by Mr. Cameron Harwell. Cameron Harwell has announced his intent to run against me as an independent party candidate. So these allegations come as no surprise to my campaign committee.

I am responding to the first alleged section violation of MCL 169.257 only, as it appears from your letter that the alleged violation of MCL 169.211(1) & (2) has already been dismissed by your the State.

First, I have not maintained a Facebook election page since July 1, 2013. I was appointed as the assistant prosecutor in July of 2013, however I published the page at the beginning of this year, 2016. My first post was to the page on February 2, 2016 at 4:40 a.m. The picture was taken at the Law Office of William Donnelly in front of his law library by using my cell phone and posted from my cell phone at my residence. *(Please see Attachment 1)* When I organized the page, I did not post my office contact information, nor the address, nor do I see where it appears to the general public on the page. I do see the attachment provided by Mr. Harwell, however, when I visit the page from my cell phone, I do not see where it lists my contact information. Nonetheless, to ensure compliance, I have manually entered the same address and cell phone number as filed with the County Clerk under the "About" section to ensure there is no confusion.

In response to using county computer, telephone and email, I want to assure the State that I have never received a phone call regarding my campaign at the (231) 839-3111, nor have I received an email at the address mransom@missuakee.org. I maintain a separate phone number as provided in my Statement of Organization and my Amended Statement of Organization. All election correspondence is done on my cell phone at (231) 920.2297 and my email address RansomLegal@gmail.com. *(Please see Attachment 2 and 3)*. I also want to make known that my cell phone is not a County issued phone, but maintained separately on a personal contract with AT & T.