

## Campaign Finance Complaint Form Michigan Department 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.**

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name	Daytime Telephone Number	
Charlie Mesloh	239-229-3462	
Mailing Address		
502 Newberry Ave		
City	State	Zip
Newberry	MI	49868

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name		
Lori Stokes		
Mailing Address		
301 W. John St		
City	State	Zip
Newberry	MI	49868

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

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

Section 169.247 Sec 47 (4)

Explain how those sections were violated:

Candidate Stokes' campaign signs are not in compliance with this section. They fail to identify the name of the person paying for the sign. Additionally, signs are placed on the right-of-way of state roads (MI23) and have been reported to MDOIT.

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

See attached photos

**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

Chuck Merloh  
Signature of Complainant

10-12-18  
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:*

Candidate Stokes has multiple versions of her signs.  
However, I have not seen one that is in  
compliance.

X

Chad Nubb  
Signature of Complainant

10-12-18  
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



ELECT

**STOKES**



for Village President



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

October 23, 2018

Lori Stokes  
301 W. John Street  
Newberry, Michigan 49868

Re: *Mesloh v. Stokes*  
Campaign Finance Complaint  
No. 2018-10-78-47

Dear Ms. Stokes:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint alleging you have violated MCL 169.247 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on certain campaign-related materials.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election 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.*

The complaint provides a copy of campaign yard signs that appear likely to violate MCL 169.247. The sign reads "ELECT STOKES for Village President." In support of the complaint, copies of the materials were provided, and have been enclosed with this communication.

Upon review, it appears that the paid for by statement is omitted entirely from the yard sign in violation of MCL 169.247. Given this, the Department is hereby advising you that MCL 169.247(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.

Lori Stokes  
October 23, 2018  
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Note that all printed materials that refer to an election or your candidacy produced in the future must include this identification statement. For all materials currently in circulation that refer to your candidacy, the paid for by statement must be corrected/included. If this information has been included on your campaign materials, you may provide this office evidence demonstrating the proper paid for by statements.

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 considers the instant action closed and resolved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Fracassi". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Adam Fracassi  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Charlie Mesloh