



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

February 21, 2013

Jeremy John Peters  
3114 Chelsea Circle  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

Dear Mr. Peters:

The Department of State (Department) has concluded its review of the complaint you filed against Albert Howard, concerning an alleged violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* This letter concerns the disposition of your complaint.

You alleged that Mr. Howard failed to include a complete and correct identification statement on his campaign website. 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(5).

You filed the complaint on October 29, 2012, and Mr. Howard filed a written response on November 19, 2012. You did not file a rebuttal statement with the Department.

As evidence, you provided a screenshot of Mr. Howard's campaign website and printouts of two pages of the website. There appeared to be no paid-for-by statement on the pages you provided.

In answer to the complaint, Mr. Howard stated that the website always contained a paid-for-by statement on the "donate" page. Mr. Howard further stated that after receiving notice of the complaint, the website was updated so that every page contained a paid-for-by statement. As evidence, Mr. Howard provided a printout of the "donate" page, which does contain a paid-for-by statement.

After reviewing the evidence submitted by the parties, the Department has concluded that the evidence does not establish that there may be a reason to believe that Mr. Howard violated section 47 of the MCFA by omitting a paid-for-by statement from campaign-related printed material. Additionally, Mr. Howard took appropriate measures after receiving notice of the complaint to ensure that an identification statement was visible on every page of the website. Because the website included a paid-for-by statement on the "donate" page, and in light of Mr.

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Howard's proactive measures to include an identification statement on each page, your complaint is dismissed.

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: Albert Howard