



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

May 15, 2018

Strong Schools, Strong Communities PAC
C/O Jill Adamski, Treasurer
6324 Bethany Circle
Richland, Michigan 49083

Re: *Foust v. Strong Schools, Strong Community PAC*
Campaign Finance Complaint
No. 2018-03-010-47

Dear Ms. Adamski:

The Department of State (Department) has received a complaint filed by Paul Foust alleging that the Strong Schools, Strong Community PAC (PAC) has 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 material. This letter concerns the disposition of Mr. Foust's complaint.

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 Department received a complaint alleging that the PAC's website does not contain the paid-for-by statement as required by MCL 169.247. Together with the complaint was a printed copy of the PAC's website, a copy of which is enclosed for your records.

The Department has thoroughly investigated the allegations in the complaint and finds technical violations of the PAC's website. First, the website itself does not contain the paid-for-by statement followed by the address of the individual who paid for the item. Both are entirely absent from the website itself. Second, the PAC's Flyer accessed by downloading it fails to

Strong Schools, Strong Communities PAC
C/O Jill Adamski, Treasurer
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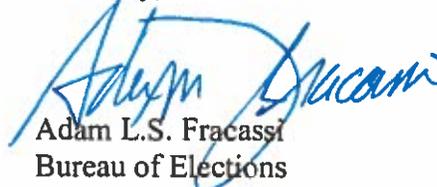
contain the address of the committee that paid for the flyer. This flyer contains the paid-for-by language but fails to include the address of the committee.

Given that it appears the paid-for-by statement and address of the party who paid for the items is omitted, 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. Note that all printed materials that refer to an election or ballot question produced in the future must include this identification statement. If this information was included but not provided, please submit such evidence to this office.

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,



Adam L.S. Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Paul Foust

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

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

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	Paul Foust	Daytime Telephone Number	269-370-2185
Mailing Address	8561 East D Avenue		
City	RICHLAND	State	MI Zip 49083

Section 2. Alleged Violator			
Name	Strong Schools, Strong Community PAC (Jill Adamski, Treasurer)		
Mailing Address	6324 Bethany Circle		
City	RICHLAND	State	MI Zip 49083

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

Section(s) of the MCFA violated: 47

Explain how those sections were violated:

This PAC doesn't have a reporting waiver and, as such, it is subject to section 47 of the Michigan C.F.A. The required verbiage of "Paid for with regulated funds by" is completely absent from their postal mailings and digital campaign materials. Please see attached examples/violations.

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

Exhibits A&B - "Lacking" Campaign Materials
Exhibit C - Section 47, Michigan C.F.A.
Exhibit D - SSSC PAC Statement of organization.

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

Paul Zent

Signature of Complainant

03-19-18

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:

The School District & SSSC PAC 2018 have both been putting out materials regarding the May 2018 vote. Without clear signage identifying who produced the "Vote Yes" materials, one could be left with the distinct impression that the school district is the one producing both the "factual" documents and the "opinionated" documents. Declarations matter!

X

Paul Zent

Signature of Complainant

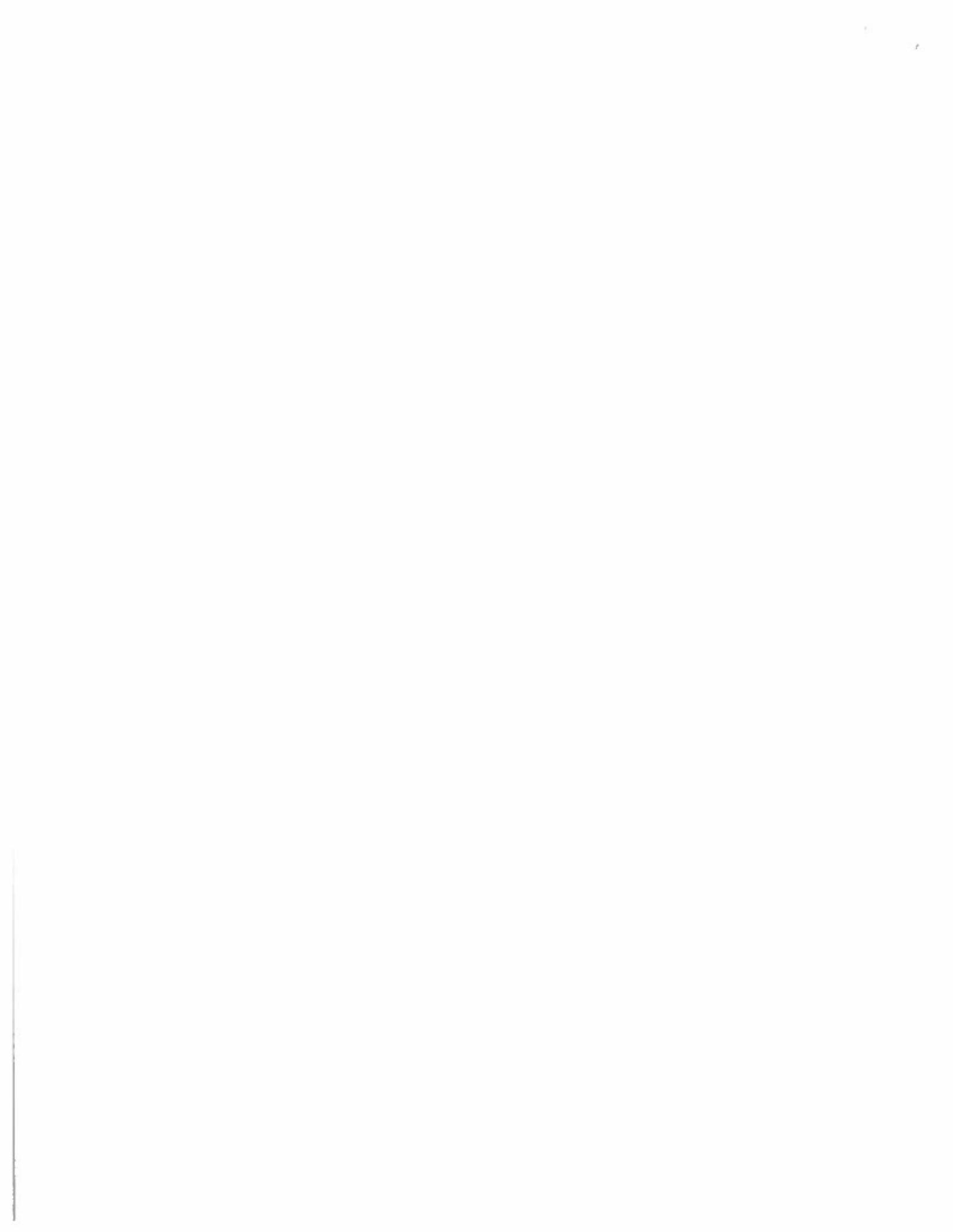
03-19-18

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





STRONG SCHOOLS, STRONG COMMUNITY

Help Gull Lake Community Schools continue to build strong schools and to
provide quality education for our children

TAX IMPACT

\$64,955,000 Million | 1.63 Mill Increase

Series 1: \$43,790,000 Series 2: \$21,165,000

'EXhibit A - 1 of 6'

MARKET VALUE	TAXABLE VALUE	ANNUAL INCREASE	MONTHLY INCREASE
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$81.50	\$6.79
\$175,000*	\$87,500	\$142.38	\$11.89
\$225,000	\$112,500	\$183.63	\$15.28
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$244.50	\$20.38
\$375,000	\$187,500	\$305.63	\$25.47
\$450,000	\$225,000	\$366.75	\$30.56

* Median Home Value

Formula:

Taxable Value ÷ 1000 × 1.63 = Annual Increase

Comparative Millage:

DISTRICT	MILLAGE
Parchment	9.01
Otsego	7.50
Plainwell	7.28
Harper Creek	7.12
Lakeview	7.00
Kalamazoo	6.95
Portage	6.85
Vicksburg	6.85

Mattawan	6.55
Schoolcraft	6.50
Climax-Scotts	6.45
Galesburg	6.00
Gull Lake with Bond	5.67
Comstock	5.00
Gull Lake	4.04

EVENTS

Community Forum

Location: Middle School

Date: March 12, 2018

Time: 6:30pm

COUNT ME IN FOR

GULL LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS!

Fill out the form below to add your name to the Yes Voter list! The information below will be used to call and remind you one week before the election, and on election day. If you have any concerns, please contact the committee.

I'm a Yes Voter!

Name *

E-Mail *

Phone Number *

Address

Please prove that you are human by solving the equation *

DONATE TO THE CAMPAIGN!

Every dollar will be used to support the committee in printing materials, fund community outreach efforts, and support volunteers. Please use the link below to donate:

[Donate Here!](#)

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↑ Required "paid for with regulated funds by" statement
is NOT included ↑

'Exhibit A - 6 of 6'

Image of a Postcard mailing by SSCC-GLB 2018 (c. March 2018) ↓



↑ Required "Paid for by" Statement is Missing ↑

'Exhibit B'

MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 388 of 1976

169.247 Printed matter or radio or television paid advertisement having reference to election, candidate, or ballot question; name and address; identification or disclaimer; size and placement; rules; exemption; statement that payment made "with regulated funds"; communication exempted under section 6(2)(j); violation as misdemeanor; penalty; prerecorded telephone message.

Sec. 47. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subject to subsections (3) and (4), a billboard, placard, poster, pamphlet, or other printed matter having reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question, shall bear upon it an identification that contains the name and address of the person paying for the matter. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subsection (5) and subject to subsections (3) and (4), if the printed matter relating to a candidate is an independent expenditure that is not authorized in writing by the candidate committee of that candidate, in addition to the identification required under this subsection, the printed matter shall contain the following disclaimer: "Not authorized by any candidate committee". An individual other than a candidate is not subject to this subsection if the individual is acting independently and not acting as an agent for a candidate or any committee. This subsection does not apply to communications between a separate segregated fund established under section 55 and individuals who can be solicited for contributions to that separate segregated fund under section 55.

(2) A radio or television paid advertisement having reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question shall identify the sponsoring person as required by the Federal Communications Commission, bear an identification that contains the name of the person paying for the advertisement, and be in compliance with subsection (3) and, except as otherwise provided by subsection (5), with the following:

(a) If the radio or television paid advertisement relates to a candidate and is an independent expenditure, the advertisement shall contain the following disclaimer: "Not authorized by any candidate".

(b) If the radio or television paid advertisement relates to a candidate and is not an independent expenditure but is paid for by a person other than the candidate to which it is related, the advertisement shall contain the following disclaimer:

"Authorized by.....".
(name of candidate or name of candidate committee)

(3) The size and placement of an identification or disclaimer required by this section shall be determined by rules promulgated by the secretary of state. The rules may exempt printed matter and certain other items such as campaign buttons or balloons, the size of which makes it unreasonable to add an identification or disclaimer, from the identification or disclaimer required by this section.

(4) Except for a communication described in subsection (5) and except for a candidate committee's printed matter or radio or television paid advertisements, each identification required by this section shall also indicate that the printed matter or radio or television paid advertisement is paid for "with regulated funds". Printed matter or a radio or television paid advertisement that is not subject to this act shall not bear the statement required by this subsection.

(5) A communication otherwise entirely exempted from this act under section 6(2)(j) is subject to both of the following:

(a) Must contain the identification required by subsection (1), (2), or (7) if that communication references a clearly identified candidate or ballot question within 60 days before a general election or 30 days before a primary election in which the candidate or ballot question appears on a ballot and is targeted to the relevant electorate where the candidate or ballot question appears on the ballot by means of radio, television, mass mailing, or prerecorded telephone message.

(b) Is not required to contain the disclaimer required by subsection (1) or (2).

(6) A person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or imprisonment for not more than 93 days, or both.

(7) A prerecorded telephone message that in express terms advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question, shall bear an identification that contains the name and telephone number, address, or other contact information of the person paying for the prerecorded telephone message, and shall be in compliance with subsection (4). A prerecorded telephone message subject to this subsection is not required to contain a disclaimer.

History: 1976, Act 388, Eff. June 1, 1977;—Am. 1978, Act 348, Imd. Eff. July 12, 1978;—Am. 1996, Act 225, Imd. Eff. May 30, 1996;—Am. 2001, Act 250, Eff. Mar. 22, 2002;—Am. 2012, Act 277, Imd. Eff. July 3, 2012;—Am. 2013, Act 252, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 2013;—Am. 2015, Act 269, Imd. Eff. Jan. 6, 2016.



ORIGINAL OR AMENDED

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION FORM FOR BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEES

1. Committee ID #: 55072

2. Type of Filing: Original: Amendment to Items: Eff. Date:

3. Date Committee was Formed: February 7, 2018

4. Full Name of Committee: Strong Schools, Strong Community - Gull Lake Board 2018

5. Acronym or Abbreviation (if any): SSSC - GLB 2018

6. Complete Committee Mailing Address (May be PO Box):
6324 Bethany Circle, Richland, MI 49083

7. Complete Committee Street Address (May not be PO Box):
6324 Bethany Circle, Richland, MI 49083

Committee Phone: 269 903-9337 Committee Email Address: 2018gibond@gmail.com

Committee Fax #: _____ Committee Website Address: _____

8. Treasurer Name and Complete Address:
Jill Adamski, 14816 SM-43 HWY, Hickory Corners, MI 49060
Phone #: 269-720-6661 Email Address: jadamski@tols.net

9. Designated Record Keeper Name and Complete Address:
Michelle Kamman, 6324 Bethany Circle, Richland, MI 49083
Phone #: 269-903-9337 Email Address: michellekamman@yahoo.com

10. REPORTING WAIVER REQUEST:
 YES, I/WE WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee does not expect to spend or receive in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I/We understand that if the committee does not spend or receive 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 or Petition Proposal Campaign Statements.
 NO, I/WE DO NOT WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee expects to spend or receive 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/We 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 Ballot Question Manual.

11. Name and Address of Depositories or Intended Depositories of committee funds. (Michigan Bank, Credit Union or Savings & Loan Association)
*Official Depository (name and address):
Advia Credit Union, 8224 N. 32nd St., Richland, MI 49083
Secondary Depository (name and address):

12. List the specific ballot proposal(s) involved using the official ballot designation if available and mark support or oppose as appropriate: Support Oppose
Description:
Indicate the ballot proposal district below by selecting Statewide, County (include the county name), Multi-County or Local (include the name of the jurisdiction). If multi-county, list the county where the greatest number of voters eligible to vote on the proposal reside.
 Statewide County Multi-County Local

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 committees that file with the County Clerk's office.
 Committee spent or received or expects to spend or receive in excess of \$5000 and is required to file electronically.
 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 Ballot Question 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, I/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.

*Current Treasurer Jill Adamski Designated Record Keeper (Required only if filing electronically) _____
Date: 2/7/18 Date: _____

