



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

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS • RICHARD H. AUSTIN BUILDING - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
430 W. ALLEGAN STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918

RECEIVED  
MICHIGAN  
2020 JUN 23 PM 1:54  
CLERK SEAL

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA). For instructions on how to complete this form, see the Campaign Finance Complaint Guidebook & Procedures document. All spaces are required unless otherwise indicated.

<b>Section 1. Complainant</b>			
Your Name <i>Joe DiSano</i>		Daytime Telephone Number <i>517-974-8352</i>	
Mailing Address <i>5859 W. Saginaw #309</i>			
City <i>Lansing</i>	State <i>MI</i>	Zip <i>48917</i>	
Email (optional) <i>joe@joedisano.net</i>			

<b>Section 2. Alleged Violator</b>			
Name <i>David Thomas</i>			
Mailing Address <i>2945 W. Hickory Grove Rd.</i>			
City <i>Bloomfield Hills</i>	State <i>MI</i>	Zip <i>48302</i>	
Email (optional) <i>dthomas@comcast.net</i>			

**Section 3. Allegations** (Use additional sheets if more space is needed.)

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: *MCL 169.247 Sec. 47*

Explain how those sections were violated:

*Respondent is a candidate for Bloomfield Township Clerk. His campaign web site (www.electdavidthomas.com) lacks any disclaimer (as required by the Act) indicating the party responsible for the expenditure for the website (screenshots provided).*

Evidence included with the submission of the complaint that supports the allegations:

*www.electdavidthomas.com - see attached screenshots*

**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 Joe DiSano June 18, 2020  
Signature of Complainant Date

**Section 5. Certification without Evidence (Supplemental to Section 4)**

If, after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, you are unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported by evidence as indicated above, you may 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:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

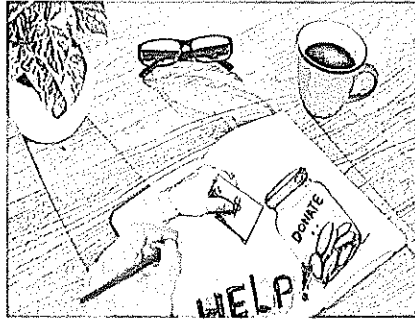
X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Complainant Date

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.

**Section 6. Submission**

Once completed, mail or hand deliver the complaint form with your evidence to the address below. The complaint is considered filed upon receipt by the Bureau of Elections.

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



## CREATING THE FUTURE

MY CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR HELP or a PARTICIPATION

[DONATE NOW](#)



- 4. Independent assessment of major financial decisions which should include citizen representation.
- 5. Limit the Use of township resources to official township business only.

b. Never accept a Township-owned vehicle as part of my compensation.  
 c. Develop a means of accepting information from township employees on potential financial abuses while protecting their identity.  
 d. Subject every property and resident in the township to the same standards.  
 e. Maintain the present high level of election processes established by the present Clerk.  
 f. Maintain the Passport photo services established by the present Clerk.  
 g. Provide electronic notification to the residents who consent to receive the information electronically.

#### • Consultant

- 1. - Worked with Akoon to develop supplier contracts and review supplier capabilities 2008-2009

#### • Financial Planner - 2007 - 2008

#### • Realtor - 2017 to present

#### • Mortgage Loan Officer 2017 - present

#### • Professor - 2009 to present - Henry Ford Community College

#### • Licenses I hold or held:

- 1. - Insurance - Producer - expired
- 2. - Series 66 - State of Michigan - expired
- 3. - Series 7 - FINRA - expired
- 4. - Real Estate Agent - in force
- 5. - Mortgage Loan Originator - in force



**Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)**

---

**From:** Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 4:23 PM  
**To:** 'joe@joedisano.net'  
**Subject:** DiSano v. Thomas - Campaign Finance Complaint  
**Attachments:** Warning Letter.pdf; Complaint.pdf

Mr. DiSano,

Please see attached a copy of correspondence sent in the abovementioned campaign finance complaint.

Thank you,

**Adam Fracassi**, Election Law Specialist  
Michigan Bureau of Elections  
P.O. Box 20126  
Lansing, Michigan 48901

**Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)**

---

**From:** Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** David C. Thomas  
**Subject:** DiSano v. Thomas - Campaign Finance Complaint  
**Attachments:** Warning Letter.pdf; Complaint.pdf

Mr. Thomas,

Please see attached correspondence regarding the abovementioned campaign finance complaint. If you have any questions, please let me know.

**Adam Fracassi**, Election Law Specialist  
Michigan Bureau of Elections  
P.O. Box 20126  
Lansing, Michigan 48901



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

July 6, 2020

David Thomas  
2945 W. Hickory Grove Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

*Via Email*

Re: *DiSano v. Thomas*  
Campaign Finance Complaint  
No. 2020-06-41-47

Dear Mr. Thomas:

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. A copy of the complaint is enclosed.

The complaint was submitted to the Department on June 23, 2020 and alleges that your website does not include a proper paid for by statement. A screen shot of the website is included in the complaint, and the website can be viewed at [www.electdavidthomas.com](http://www.electdavidthomas.com).

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).

Upon review, the evidence submitted supports the conclusion that a potential violation of the Act has occurred. From the outset, the Department must consider whether it is an expenditure covered by the MCFA. The website specifically asks voters to support your candidacy using words of express advocacy as defined by the Act. MCL 169.206(2)(j). Because it urges voters to vote for you using words of express advocacy and was published by your committee, the website is covered by the Act and must include the paid for by statement outlined under section 47. MCL 169.206(2)(j). However, the website appears have completely omitted the required paid for by statement. Since this phrase is absent, the evidence supports the conclusion that a potential violation has occurred.

David Thomas  
July 6, 2020  
Page 2

After reaching this conclusion, the Act 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.*

Given this, the Department concludes that a formal warning is a sufficient resolution to the complaint and 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 referencing you or your candidacy produced in the future must include this identification statement. For all materials currently in circulation, the paid for by statement must be corrected. If this information has been included in your materials and you wish to rebut the Department’s conclusion, you must respond in writing to the Department within 15 business days of the date of this letter otherwise the Department will treat the complaint as resolved.

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).

Sincerely,



Adam Fracassi  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure  
c: Joe DiSano