



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

February 6, 2013

Cheryl Neilsen
10770 Hossler Road
Atlanta, Michigan 49709

Dear Ms. Neilsen:

The Department of State (Department) has concluded its review of the complaint you filed against Georgette Prince, concerning alleged violations 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 Ms. Prince “fail[ed] to file Pre and Post August 2012 campaign statements once [her committee] exceeded [the] \$1,000.00 reporting waiver.”

The MCFA requires a committee that receives or expends more than \$1,000.00 during any reporting period to file periodic campaign finance reports in compliance with the Act. MCL 169.233(6). The failure to file a single campaign statement may trigger the assessment of late filing fees, while the failure to file two or more campaign statements is a misdemeanor offense. MCL 169.233(7)-(8).

You filed the complaint on September 24, 2012. Ms. Prince filed a written response on October 18, 2012, and you filed a rebuttal statement on November 2, 2012.

You provided the Department with pictures of Ms. Prince’s campaign signs, a printout indicating that 200 18x24 plastic signs and 200 wire stakes would cost \$689.14 from SpeedySignsUSA.com, 4 newspaper campaign ads, a printout indicating that t-shirts from 4imprint.com cost \$8.49 per shirt for 18 shirts with a set-up charge of at least \$40, and a campaign card. You estimated that Ms. Prince’s committee spent approximately \$1,446.00.

In her response, Ms. Prince provided a receipt for her signs in the amount of \$457.07, a copy of a check for t-shirts in the amount of \$20.00, a report from Montmorency Press Inc for 2 ads and 500 cards, a receipt for \$60.00 for radio ads, and a letter from Joyce Addis stating that she contacted the tribune, placed the ads, and paid for 2 of the ads without Ms. Prince’s knowledge. Additionally, Ms. Prince provided copies of receipts from Lewiston Hardware and Lumber totaling \$30.83. Ms. Prince also stated she spent \$12.00 on materials for homemade signs. Ms. Prince provided a list of expenditures that totaled \$716.15.

After reviewing the evidence submitted by the parties, the Department is satisfied that the evidence supports a determination that Ms. Prince did not reach the \$1,000.00 threshold for expenditures that would trigger the reporting requirements of the MCFA. Even if the

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Department were to determine that the cost of the ads purchased by Ms. Addis would need to be reported and that the cost of the materials for the homemade signs was higher than reported by Ms. Prince, the committee would still be under the \$1,000.00 threshold. Therefore, the Department concludes that Ms. Prince qualifies for the reporting waiver, and no campaign finance statements are due.

As a result, your complaint is dismissed. The Department's file in this matter has been closed and no further enforcement action will be taken.

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: Georgette Prince