



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

December 5, 2012

Dinah L. Savoie
19976 South Biscuit Road
Rudyard, Michigan 49780

Dear Ms. Savoie:

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

You alleged that Mr. Parr paid for an endorsement of another candidate with campaign funds. The MCFA prohibits a candidate committee from making a "contribution to or an independent expenditure in behalf of another candidate committee." MCL 169.244(2). A knowing violation of section 44 is a misdemeanor offense, punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or both. MCL 169.244(5).

You filed your complaint on August 9, 2012. Mr. Parr filed a written response to your complaint on August 24, 2012, and you filed a rebuttal statement on September 7, 2012.

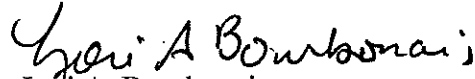
As evidence, you provided the Department a section of *The Evening News* dated August 3, 2012. The newspaper contained an ad which appears to be a letter from James Parr to the voters of Chippewa County. In the ad, Mr. Parr indicated that he wished all of his "support go to Paul Rambo for the Office of Sheriff of Chippewa County." The ad contained a disclaimer at the bottom which stated "Paid for by the committee to elect James Parr for Sheriff."

In response, Mr. Parr stated that payment for the ad was made with his personal funds. He asserted that as of July 26, 2012, the Committee to Elect James Parr for Sheriff had no money in its account. Mr. Parr further stated that he was informed by staff at the newspaper that the only way the ad could run was if it contained a disclaimer statement stating the ad was "[p]aid for by the Committee to Elect James Parr Sheriff." Mr. Parr provided a copy of a receipt showing \$213.92 paid for a political ad on August 2, 2012.

The Department has reviewed the campaign finance statements provided to it by the Chippewa County Clerk and also spoke via telephone with a representative from *The Evening News*. Mr. Parr's claim that the committee had no money in its account when payment for the ad was made is supported by the Department's review of the committee's campaign finance statements. Additionally, a representative from *The Evening News* confirmed that Mr. Parr paid for the ad with his own personal funds, despite the newspaper's insistence that the paid-for-by disclaimer be included on the ad.

After carefully reviewing the evidence submitted by the parties, the Department has concluded that the evidence does not tend to show that Mr. Parr used committee funds to make a contribution to or expenditure in behalf of another committee and the Department does not have a reason to believe that Mr. Parr violated section 44 of the MCFA. As a result, your complaint is dismissed. The Department's file in this matter is closed and no further enforcement action will be taken.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Secretary of State

c: James Parr