

State of Michigan Ruth Johnson, Secretary of State DEPARTMENT OF STATE Lansing

August 14, 2012

Patty Niepoth P.O. Box 74 Bellaire, Michigan 49615

Dear Ms. Niepoth:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Brett Baldwin against you, alleging that you violated section 47(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247(1), by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on certain campaign material. A copy of Mr. Baldwin's complaint is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

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).

In support of his complaint, Mr. Baldwin provided copies of newspaper ads which state "Reelect Patty NIEPOTH Register of Deeds [,]" "Be an educated voter, make the right choice August 7th... Antrim county Register of Deeds [,]" and "Re-Elect Patty NIEPOTH [.]" Mr. Baldwin also included pictures of campaign signs which state "Re-Elect Patty NIEPOTH REGISTER OF DEEDS [.]" On this printed campaign material, it appears that there is either no paid for by statement, or the paid for by statement omits your committee's address.

Please note that the Department has dismissed the portion of the complaint that applies to the 2012/2013 Appointment Calendar and To Do List notepad.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department's examination of these matters and your right to respond to the allegations before the Department proceeds further. It is important to understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as true.

If you wish to file a written response to this complaint, you are required to do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Please include any evidence that reflects any corrective measures you have taken to bring your campaign material into compliance with the MCFA. Your response may include any written statement or additional documentary evidence you wish to submit. All materials must be sent to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan

Patty Niepoth August 14, 2012 Page 2

48918. If you fail to submit a response, the Department will render a decision based on the evidence furnished by the complainant.

A copy of your reply will be provided to Mr. Baldwin, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred [.]" MCL 169.215(10). Note that the Department's enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement of the criminal penalty provided in section 47(5) of the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at (517) 241-0395.

Sincerely, Chou's Bombonas

Lori A. Bourbonais Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

c: Brett Baldwin



August 14, 2012

Brett C. Baldwin 13072 Hickin Road Rapid City, Michigan 49676

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

The Department of State (Department) acknowledges receipt of the complaint you filed in which you allege that Patty Niepoth violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, 169.201 et seq., by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on certain campaign-related printed material. This letter concerns the disposition of your complaint as to the 2012/2013 Appointment Calendar and the To Do List notepad.

You allege that these materials "do not include the proper committee identification requirements."

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).

The Department applies the "express advocacy test" to communications to determine if they are subject to the Act. The MCFA provides that a communication that does "not support or oppose a ballot question or candidate by name or clear inference" is not subject to the requirements and limitations of the MCFA, nor is it required to bear the identification statement required by MCL 169.247. MCL 206(2)(b). A communication that expressly supports or opposes a candidate contains words such as "vote for," vote against," "support," "defeat," or equivalent words or phrases.

There are no directives in the calendar or notepad in question telling voters to "vote for," "vote against," "defeat," "support," or "oppose" Ms. Niepoth. Nor are there any equivalent words or phrases. Because nothing in these materials overtly instructs recipients to vote for, vote against, support, or oppose Ms. Niepoth, they are not express advocacy and are not subject to the paid for by identification requirement under the MCFA.

Brett C. Baldwin August 14, 2012 Page 2

Consequently, the portion of your complaint relating to the 2012/2013 Appointment Calendar and the To Do List notepad is dismissed.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS Michigan Department of State DEPT OF STATE Reset Form **Campaign Finance Complaint Form**

 $2012~\rm{AUG}$ $-7~\rm{PM}~2:51$ 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.).

Please print or type all information.

Section 1. Complainant

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Your Name Brett C. Baldwin		Daytime Telephone Number 231-342-5908
Mailing Address 13072 Hickin Rd		
City Rapid City	State MI	^{Zip} 49676
Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Patty Niepoth		
Mailing Address PO Box 74		
Bellaire	State MI	^{Zip} 49615
Section 3. Alleged Violations (Use additi	onal sheet if more space	is needed.)
Section(s) of the MCFA violated: 169.247		
Explain how those sections were violated:		5
The enclosed items	were us	ed as campaign
advertising and c	to not in	chide the proper
	N 2	requirements.
Evidence that supports those allegations (attach copies of p	ertinent documents and other in	nformation).
2012/2013 Appoint	nent Cale	endar; To Do. , li
Two ads in 8/2/	12 ANTRI	M REVIEW;
One ad in 8/2/12	2 EZK RAT	PIDS NEWS!
Two sides of porto	able bill	board in Alden.
Two sides of one	yard sig	n,
	J	

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 Button August 3, 20
Signature of Complainant Pate
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 inquired 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:
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.
Mail or deliver the completed complaint form and evidence to the following address: Michigan Department of State

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

Revised 06/03/2011



Bellaire - Antrim County Seat

2012/2013 APPOINTMENT CALENDAR

Compliments of

PATTY NIEPOTH

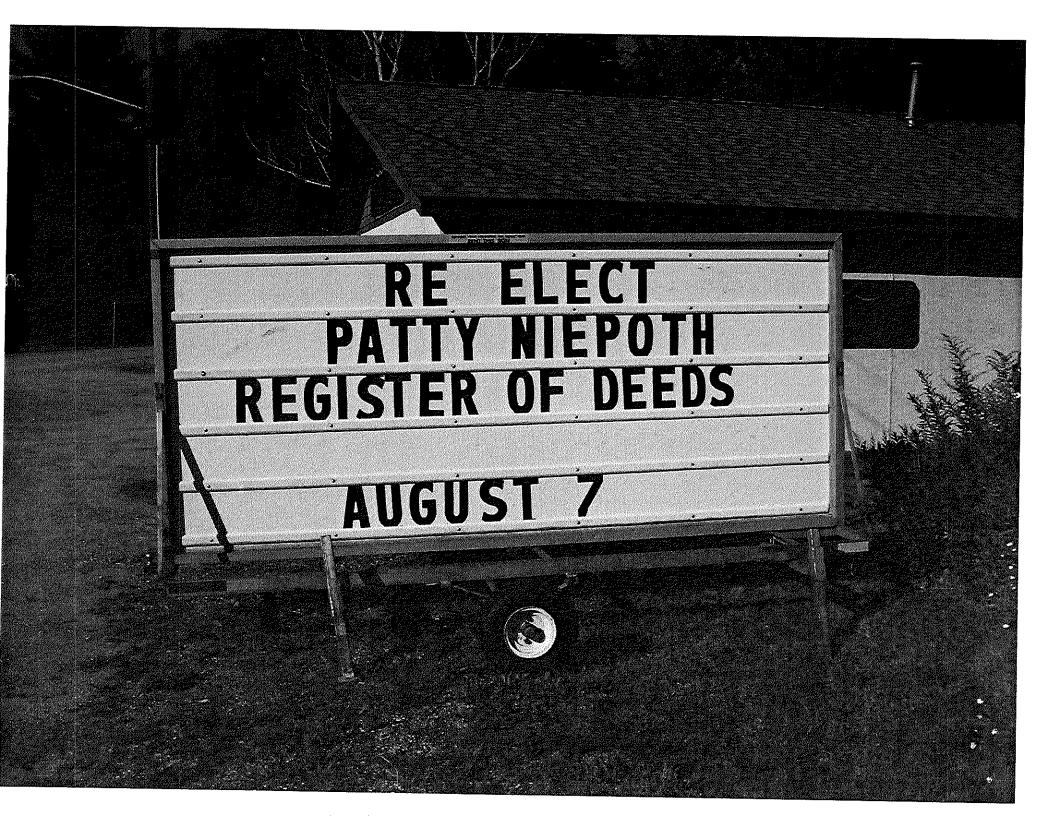
Antrim County Register of Deeds P.O. Box 376 Bellaire, MI 49615 Phone (231) 533-6683 Fax (231) 533-8317 www.antrimcounty.org

To	Date:
<u>Do</u>	
D 4 ЛУГОТ 7 Т	
Antrim Register	of Deeds • P.O. Box 376

Phone: (231) 533-6683

Bellaire - Antrim County Seat



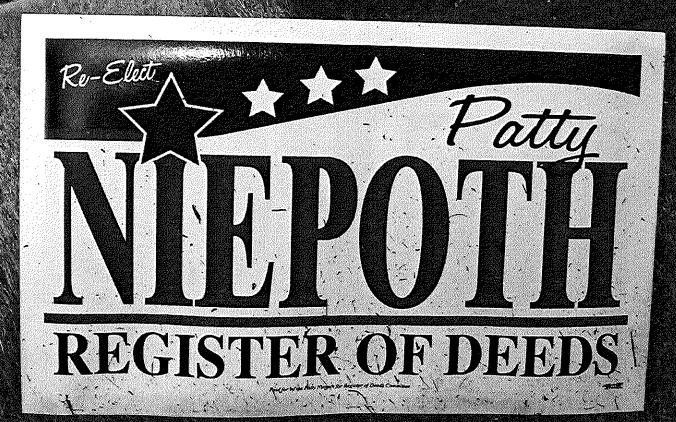


177 US 8 307 451 51 and Release Peters Purelly

Po-Elita Patty Patty In the second of the

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Puld for by the Palty Niepath for Re



June 5, 2012

of Grand Rapids, was sentenced \$1,375.00 in fines and costs.

Kewadin, was sentenced by the in jail with 60 days credit, 730 by the Honorable Michael S. in fines and costs. Honorable Michael S. Stepka days probation, 80 hours com- Stepka on one count of domeson one count of operating while munity service, and ordered to tic violence second offense not.

Brenton Alan Evans, 27, of \$1,000, sentenced to 60 days 52, of Elmira, was sentenced \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,958 and costs.

munity service, and ordered to Nicholas Scott Meadows, 17, June 14, 2012 Chad Michael Harmsen, 34. pay \$125.00 in restitution and of Mancelona, was sentenced by Jerry Dean Ordway, 43, of Central Lake, was sentenced by Robert Gordon Brant, 50,

une 7, 2012

Bethany Lynne Spencer, 50, days credit, and ordered to pay of Mancelona, was sentenced by \$475.00 in fines and costs. the Honorable Michael S. Stepka

June 12, 2012

the Honorable Thomas J. Phil- land, was sentenced by the Hon- and costs. lips on one count of operating orable Michael J. Haley on one Ronald Matthew Shannon, nity service, and ordered to pay while impaired, sentenced to 2 count of operating - impaired, 22, of Sault Ste Marie, was sen- \$425.00 in fines and costs. days jail with 2 days credit, 365 sentenced to 90 days probation, tenced by the Honorable Michael days probation, 24 hours com- and ordered to pay \$125.00 in S. Stepka on one count of oper- June 26, 2012 munity service, and ordered to restitution and \$1.025.00 in fines ating without license on person, Jeremy James Romine, 28, \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

Anthony Scott Kida, 27, of June 19, 2012

impaired, sentenced to 365 pay \$2,496.14 in restitution and sentenced to 365 days jail, and Mancelona, was sentenced by on one count of MDOP trees, sentenced by the Honorable Miordered to pay \$1,280.00 in fines the Honorable Michael J. Haley shrubs, crops > \$200 < \$1,000, chael J. Haley on one count of sentenced to 25 days jail with 25 costs.

ordered to pay \$875.00 in fines restitution and \$1,180.00 in fines and costs.

James Anders Erickson, 35, \$475.00 in fines and costs.

Phillips on one count of OUIL by the Honorable Michael S. ka on one count of domestic vio- and costs. w/bac > .17, sentenced to 5 days Stepka on one count of operational lence and one count of operating jail with I days credit, 365 days ing impaired, sentenced to 365 impaired, sentenced to 93 days Ellsworth, was sentenced by the probation, and ordered to pay days probation and 24 hours jail, and ordered to pay \$125.00 Honorable Thomas J. Phillips on community service, and ordered in restitution and \$1.025.00 in one count of disorderly/jostling, to pay \$125.00 in restitution and fines and costs. \$625.00 in fines and costs.

the Honorable Michael S. Stepka Mancelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Step- of Petoskey, was sentenced by by the Honorable Michael S. Elisabet Garcia, 21, of Charon on one count of assault/assault the Honorable Michael J. Haley ka on one count of malicious Michael J. Haley on one count

> Denise Lynn Brothers, 49, of and costs. Kewadin, was sentenced by the James Clifford McMichael

Robert Paul Labute, 44, of Jeffery Kevin Holstine, 48, of

East Jordan, was sentenced by of Mancelona, was sentenced Mancelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley the Honorable Thomas J. Phillips by the Honorable Michael J. the Honorable Michael S. Stepka on one count of operating withon one count of operating while Haley on one count of innkeeper on one count of OUIL w/bac > out license on person, ordered to impaired, sentenced to 365 days - defrauding, sentenced to 90 .17 and one count of attempted pay \$575.00 in fines and costs. in probation, and ordered to pay days probation 2 days jail with p/o assault/resist/obstruct, sen-\$125.00 in restitution \$1,025.00 2 days credit, and ordered to tenced to 730 days probation and Bellaire, was sentenced by the pay \$100.00 in restitution and 120 days in jail with I day credit, Honorable Michael J. Haley of Mancelona, was sentenced by Ann Marie Flynn, 50, of Hart-restitution and \$1,253.00 in fines peace, sentenced to 183 days and ordered to pay \$125.00 in on one count of disturbing the

and costs.

Stepka on one count of operat- levoix, was sentenced by the and battery, sentenced to 365 on one count of operating while destruction of building less than of operating while intoxicated, ing without license on person. Honorable Michael S. Stepka days probation, and ordered to intoxicated/impaired 2nd of 200, sentenced to 93 days in jail, sentenced to 183 days probation, ordered to pay \$385.00 in fines on one count of embezzle- pay \$675.00 in fines and costs. fense, sentenced to 1,096 days and ordered to pay \$1,238.00 in 80 hours community service. ment-agent/trustee > \$200 < Charles William Marrs Jr., probation, and ordered to pay restitution and \$475.00 in fines and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines

Anthony Ray Jeska, 29, of Honorable Michael S. Stepka III, 25, of Central Lake, was on one count of operating -li- ordered to pay \$2,225.00 in res- oper-license susp/allow person, cense suspended/allow person, titution and \$925.00 in fines and ordered to pay \$730.00 in fines and costs.

Boyne City, was sentenced by the Rapid City, was sentenced by the Anthony Ray Jeska, 29, of Honorable Michael S. Stepka on Honorable Michael J. Haley on on one count of retail fraud - 3rd Mancelona, was sentenced by one count of operating while in- one count of operating impaired, degree, sentenced to 183 days the Honorable Michael J. Haley toxicated/impaired 2nd offense, sentenced to 183 days probation, probation, 24 hours commu- on one count of oper-susp lic/al- sentenced to 730 days probation, 24 hours community service, nity service, and ordered to pay low person 2nd, sentenced to 25 13 days in jail with 1 days credit, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in days jail with 25 days credit, and and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines

Travis Gary Trojanek, 27, of Theodore Jacob Jahnke, 18, Ed Charles LeClair, 21, of Mancelona, was sentenced by

ordered to pay \$285.00 in fines of Petoskey, was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas J. Phil-Traverse City, was sentenced Ronald Gordon Brooks, 64, Mancelona, was sentenced by without license on person, and by the Honorable Thomas J. of East Jordan, was sentenced the Honorable Michael S. Step- ordered to pay \$475.00 in fines

> sentenced to 365 days probation, 5 days in jail, and ordered to pay \$1,375.00 in fines and costs.

Edward H. Niepoth Jr. Husband of Patty Niepoth Antrim County Register of Deeds

Antrim County Voters

To be a success one must deal with the

issues and facts.

Anyone can spread rumors and lies.

When in doubt, ask questions and seek out

the answers and solutions, get the information

straight before committing yourself.

Be an educated voter, make the right choice

August 7th.



UNIQUE, ONE OF A KIND HOME. Often said but rarely true; you must see this house to appreciate the special beauty and dramatic impact from the setting and architectural character of the home. Beautiful post and beam construction, cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, granite counters and high quality appliances. Several decks and gardens invite Northern Michigan nature into the home; dramatic views of Lake Bellaire, Legend Golf Course and ski slopes can be seen throughout the home. Custom golf cart and furniture included in sale, \$475,000 # 1735330

Mike Griffin, Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors 5780 Shanty Creek Road, Bellaire, MI 49615 (231) 944-9089 • mike griffin@cbgreatlakes.com

Hugh Campbell attended the Zoning Board of Appeals. meeting to inform the township park to a class A road.

expenses and 100 percent of the es will allow the golf courses to thought of ourselves as poor." preliminary engineering costs.

ib, has joined the Banks Town- day morning. ship Fire Department. McCalib

them for a year as payment for country." the training. "That's a neat pro-

Bill Austin was re-appointed "I think it's getting close to to the township Planning Combeing resolved. There's been a mission and Dennis Penfold, lot of compromises made," said Jeff Cook, Mike McDuffy, Jack Daisy Township Clerk Donna Heeres. Danbert, and Jack Costolo were Continued from Front Ellsworth's Village President re-appointed to the township's

from the high school to the sports the golf course properties. Under what we see today. a new licensing procedure implecontinue to sell open containers Her first eight years of school nings serving meals during the A new EMT, Richelle McCal- on the course as well as on Sun- was spent in the old Derenzy nightly dances held at the well-

was trained by the East Jordan Township Board of Trustees will holds very close to her heart. "I lodge located near what today is Ambulance and is serving with be held August 27 at 7:30 p.m. had the honor of being the first known as Mohrmann Park. "My

cessfully by schools as well as had indicated that any and all of teaching position with a public "But the good news is we've got

gram which will give her the ex- bers popped into Mancelona to company. perience she will need," Heeres see what they had to offer, with

personnel would be encouraged Kentucky. "Several of the board mem- to apply for positions with the

major corporations all over the Bellaire's former food services school district in Independence, a nice group of kindergarteners

Although it had been proposed the best." that as many as 4.6 teachers "They told us that they would might have to be laid off to help no notice or warning that they be particularly interested in those the district meet the goals of their

coming in, so we're hoping for

Born on the family homestead Greg Guggemos, co-owner of on McKinney Road in Kearney that the village has received a Antrim Dells and the A-Ga-Ming Township on October 10, 1912, Michigan Department Of Trans- Golf Course, addressed the board the former Daisy Mae Lambert portation Rural Taskforce Grant seeking their approval in the proto upgrade M-48 in the village cess to secure liquor licenses for landscape very different from

"We led a very simple life," The project, which is expect- mented earlier this year by the Wilson said Monday of her for- high school, especially when ed to cost over \$400,000 and is State of Michigan, approval from mative years with her four sisters you lived so far away. I was very scheduled to begin in June of local municipalities and inspec- and three brothers. "It was quite a lucky," she smiled. 2014, covers 80 percent of the tions by the sheriff department is jaunt to get to town in those days, As a teen, the young Daisy construction engineering costs of necessary before final approval now it takes 10 minutes to get to spent her summer days workthe project, with the village pay- is granted from the state liquor Bellaire from McKinney Road. ing for a family who summered ing 20 percent of the construction control commission. The licens- We had a good life, and never on the east side of Intermedi-

> School, which as perhaps the known Fisk Lodge, a popular The next meeting of the Banks only surviving student of she still resort and hunting and fishing

ration," she proudly recalled.

High school, which she graduated from in 1931, was completed by moving into the village of Bellaire. "In those days, not everybody was able to finish

ate Lake, and occasional eve-

Society during the first pig roast special times," she said, her eyes looking forward to. they held a couple of years ago to twinkling as she remembered the

dance, this one in what was then In lieu of gifts, the centenarian she met Earl Wilson, whom she making a financial gift to the Anwas born, in 1943.

dren, as well as many of Daisy's resident. 10 grandchildren and eight great But you can bet she'd probably grandchildren, will gather for a accept a couple of Tigers tickets. very special pig roast at the Area too.

person to ring the school bell mother worked for Charity Fisk, Senior's Activity Center in Belplaced in the old school's belfry too," recalled Wilson. "They had laire to celebrate her 100th birthby the Antrim County Historical a special orchestra-those were day, an event she is very much

Asked to what she attributes raise funds for the school's resto- young men who would ask her to her longevity, Daisy laughed and said. "Green tea-and living my Daisy Mae was at another entire life in Antrim County."

known as Pleasant Valley, when is asking everyone to consider married in 1934. The couple trim County Historical Society to moved with three of their chil- support the ongoing restoration dren to the old farmhouse on efforts at the Derenzy School, or M-88 she still lives in today, and to the Grass River Natural Area where her youngest son Nicholas to support the preservation of Antrim County's wild lands, also This Saturday, all of those chil- very important to the lifelong

Re-Elect

Register of Deeds

Integrity - Friendly - Courteous

The Mission of Antrim County Register of Deeds Office is to provide timely, secure and accurate recording services that are delivered in a prompt & courteous manner.

"I consider it a privilege and a pleasure to serve in the capacity as your Antrim County Register of Deeds and when elected I will continue modernizing the office with the many projects already under way."

25 Years Experience

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Patty Niepoth

Endorsements:

Kevin Elsenheimer Former State Representative

Jerome E. Jelinek President and General Counsel Corporate Settlement Solutions

Norm Veliquette Elk Rapids

Walt Mann Real Estate One, Top Producer

Experience:

- · 11 years as Register of Deeds
- · 25 years in the office of the Register of Deeds
- · Level II Assessor



"Always the First Weekend in August"

Saturday, August 4 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Sunday, August 5 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

at Elm Pointe

1.5 miles North of East Jordan, MI

"On the shore of Lake Charlevoix"

01656 S. M-66 Hwy. East Jordan (231) 536-3282 - www.portsideartsfair.org

A Family Friendly Fair!7 Free Children's Craft Booth - Refreshments

Entertainment - E.J. Historical Museum

Experience

- First elected Register of Deeds, November 2000
- 11 years as Register of Deeds
- 25 years in the office of the Register of Deeds
- Past District Chair, Northwest Region of Elected Register of Deeds (covers 16 counties)
- · Level II Assessor

Endorgements

"I have known Patty and her family for many years and have worked with Patty as a board member of the Republican Party. She has always been a dedicated public official."

- Kevin Elsenheimer, Former State Representative

"Antrim County has been well served by Patty Niepoth as Register of Deeds. Her responsible leadership includes being active in the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds and implementing technology changes that have improved the core functions of her office: recording and indexing real property records; and, providing access to those records to the public. Her experience as Antrim County Register of Deeds is an important factor in restoring growth and stability to the housing industry so vital to Antrim County's prosperity. My staff and I support the re-election of Patty

Niepoth as Antrini County Register of Deeds."

- Jerome E. Jelinek, President and General Counsel

Corporate Settlement Solutions

"Patty Niepoth has integrity and resourcefulness. She's the right person for Register of Deeds."

- Norm Veliquette, Cherry Ke, Elk Rapids



August 29, 2012

Brett C. Baldwin 13072 Hickin Road Rapid City, Michigan 49676

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Patty Niepoth, which concerns alleged violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to send it within 10 business days of the date of this letter to the Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely, Gourboncuis

Lori A. Bourbonais Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

c: Patty Niepoth



September 4, 2012

Brett C. Baldwin 13072 Hickin Road Rapid City, Michigan 49676

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Patty Niepoth, which concerns alleged violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 et seq. A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to send it within 10 business days of the date of this letter to the Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

Gon' A Brubernas Lori A. Bourbonais Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

c: Patty Niepoth

August 22, 2012

Department of State
Bureau of Elections
Attn: Lori A Bourbonais
Richard H Austin Building
1st Floor 430 W Allegan Street
Lansing MI 48918

Dear Ms. Bourbonais:

I am hereby writing this letter in response to the complaint filed by Brett Baldwin on August 3rd, 2012. With regards to the two ads in the Antrim Review newspaper, I was unaware of the rule which states the requirement to include my name as well as my address. The second ad was taken out by my husband and paid for with personal funds. The ad in the Elk Rapids News should have had "Paid for" but was mistakenly omitted. With regards to the portable billboard in Alden, again I did not realize a "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]" was required for this particular kind of signage. My two sided yard signs were printed in 2004 for a previous election and received no complaints therefore their reuse.

Since the Primary Election, I have placed 3 additional ads thanking the Antrim County voters for their support and have failed to put the complete address in these ads as well.

Now knowing the necessary requirements please be advised that I will make the corrections in any possible future campaigns.

In regards to all of my campaign expenses, they will be itemized on my campaign report.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me on my cell phone: 231-350-2672.

Sincerely,

Patty Niepoth

Antrim County Register of Deeds

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS Michigan Department of State DEPT OF STATE Reset Form

Campaign Finance Complaint Form

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.).

Please print or type all information.

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name Brett C. Baldwin		Daytime Telephone Number 231-342-5908
Mailing Address	***************************************	
13072 Hickin Rd	State	Zip
Rapid City	MI	49676
	* V - 1 - 2 - 4 - 2 - 3	
Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Patty Niepoth		
Mailing Address PO Box 74		
City	State MI	^{Zip} 49615
Bellaire	1713	40010
Section 3. Alleged Violations (Use additional's	heet if more space	is needed.)*
a constant at least		
Section(s) of the MCFA Violated: 169.247		
Explain how those sections were violated:		
The enclosed items u	dere us-	ed as campaign
advertising and do	not in	clude the proper
committee identific	ation	requirements.
Evidence that supports those allegations (attach copies of pertinen	it documents and other	information).
2012/2013 Appointme	nt Cal	endar; To Do., lis
7.1		
Two ads in 8/2/12	2 ANTR	IM REVIEW;
One ad in 8/2/12	ECK RA	PIDS NEWS',
Two sides of portab	de bill	board in Alden.
Two sides of one yo	ard sic	an,
100 5100	<u> </u>	J

Sect	ion 4, Certification (Required)	
	I certify that to the best of my knowledge, info a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, complaint is supported by evidence.	rmation, and belief, formed after , each factual contention of this
X	Bythe Bolwon Signature of Complainant	August 3, 2012
Seci	tion 5. Certification without Evidence (Suppleme	ental to Section 4).
section and e	on 15(6) of the MCFA (MCL 169.215) requires on 4 of this form be included in every complaint of the circumstances, you are unable to certify that to vidence, you may also make the following certificates of the certify that to the best of my knowledge, inforgrounds to conclude that the following specific contentions are likely to be supported by evident opportunity for further inquiry. Those specific	t. However, it, after a reasonable inquity certain factual contentions are supported ation: rmation, or belief, there are cally identified factual according to the content of the conten
X .	Signature of Complainant	Date
resp	tion 15(8) of the MCFA provides that a person who soonsible for a civil violation of the MCFA. The person,000,00 and some or all of the expenses incurred by ged violator as a direct result of the filing of the com	y the Michigan Department of State and the
	il or deliver the completed complaint form and evidence	

Mail or deliver the completed complaint form and evidence to the following add

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

ing opinions on the issue in the

lot of compromises made," said Hugh Campbell attended the Township Clerk Donna Heeres. being resolved. There's been a neeting to inform the township Ellsworth's Village President

scheduled to begin in June of 2014, covers 80 percent of the ed to cost over \$400,000 and is park to a class A road. ing 20 percent of the construction construction engineering costs of expenses and 100 percent of the the project, with the village pay-The project which is expectreliminary engineering costs.

ib, has joined the Banks Townwas trained by the East Jordan A new EMT, Richelle McCal-

Re-Elect

perience she will need," Heeres the training. "That's a neat prothem for a year as payment for the training. "That's a neat pro-

"I think it's getting close to to the township Planning Commission and Dennis Penfold, re-appointed to the township's Danbert, and Jack Costolo were Jeff Cook, Mike McDuffy, Jack Zoning Board of Appeals. Bill Austin was re-appointed

to upgrade M.48 in the village portation Rural Taskforce Grant Michigan Department Of Transthat the village has received a from the high school to the sports Golf Course, addressed the board Antrim Dells and the A-Ga-Ming the golf course properties. Under cess to secure liquor licenses for seeking their approval in the prois granted from the state liquor tions by the sheriff department is local municipalities and inspec-State of Michigan, approval from mented carlier this year by the a new licensing procedure implecontinue to sell open containers es will allow the golf courses to necessary before final approval control commission. The licens-Greg Guggemos, co-owner of on the course as well as on Sun-

day morning. be held August 27 at 7:30 p.m. Township Board of Trustees will The next meeting of the Banks

country." major corporations all over the cessfully by schools as well as

bers popped into Mancelona to see what they had to offer, with no notice or warning that they be particularly interested in those "Several of the board mem-

Bellaire's former food services personnel would be encouraged.

company. They told us that they would

to apply for positions with the

had indicated that any and all of teaching position with a public Kentucky.

the district meet the goals of their that as many as 4.6 teachers might have to be laid off to help Although it had been proposed

school district in Independence, a nice group of kindergarteners the best." "But the good news is we've got coming in, so we're hoping for

Daisy Continued from Front

on McKinney Road in Kearney the former Daisy Mac Lambert Township on October 10, 1912. remembers an Antrim County what we see today. landscape very different from Born on the family homestead

Wilson said Menday of her formative years with her four sisters jaunt to get to town in those days, and three brothers. "It was quite a thought of ourselves as poor." Bellaire from McKinney Road. now it takes 10 minutes to get to We had a good life, and never on the east side of intermedi-"We led a very simple life."

was spent in the old Derenzy only surviving student of she still School, which as perhaps the had the honor of being the first holds very close to her heart. "I

resort and hunting and fishing

The 50th Annual Juried

tside

lodge located near what today is

by the Antrim County Historical placed in the old school's belfry person to ring the school bell they held a couple of years ago to Society during the first pig roast

pleted by moving into the village of Bellaire. "In those days, ated from in 1931, was comhigh school, especially when not everybody was able to finish lucky," she smiled you lived so far away. I was very High school, which she gradu-

Her first eight years of school nings serving meals during the ing for a family who summered spent her summer days known Fisk Lodge, a popular nightly dances held at the well-As a teen, the young Daisy

ration," she proudly recalled. raise funds for the school's resto-

married in was born, in 1943.

grandchildren; will gather for a dren, as well as many of Daisy's 10 grandchildren and eight great very special pig roast at the Area

twinkling as she remembered the a special orchestra-those too," recalled Wilson. "They had mother worked for Charity Fisk special times," she said, her eyes young men who would ask her to

dance, this one in what was then she met Earl Wilson, whom she known as Pleasant Valley, when dren to the old farmhouse on moved with three of their chilwhere her youngest son Nicholus M-88 she still lives in today, and Daisy Mae was at another 1934, The couple

This Saturday, all of those chilģ

Senior's Activity Center in Belday, an event she is very much laire to celebrate her 100th birth-

entire life in Antrim County. her longevity, Daisy laughed and said, "Green tea-and living my looking forward to. Asked to what she attributes

is asking everyone to consider trim County Historical Society to making a financial gift to the Ansupport the ongoing restoration to support the preservation of to the Grass River Natural Area efforts at the Derenzy School, or very important to the lifelong Antrim County's wild lands, also In lieu of gifts, the centenarian

resident accept a couple of Tigers tickets But you can bet she'd probably

known as Mohrmann Park "My Endorsements: ·Always the First Weekend in August"

1.5 miles North of East Jordan, Saturday, August 4 "On the shore of Lake Charlevolx Sunday, August 5 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Elm Pointe

Former State Representative Kevin Elsenheimer

President and General Counsel Corporate Settlement Solutions Jerome E. Jelinck

A Family Friendly Fair!-Free Children's Craft Booth - Refreshments Entertainment - E.J. Historical Museum (231) 536-3282 — www.pontsideantsfalt.org 01656 S. M-66 Hwy. East Jordan

The Mission of Antrim County Register of Deeds Office is to provide

Experience: 11 years as Register

Real Estate One, Top Producer

Wait Mano Est Rapids Norm Veliquette

Tutority - Courteous

Register of Deeds

timely, secure and accurate recording services that are delivered in a "I consider it a privilege and a pleasure to serve in the capacity as

prompt & courteous manner.

OVER

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25 Years Experience

Level II Assessor the Register of Deeds

25 years in the office of

your Antrim County Register of Deeds and when elected I will continue

modernizing the office with the marry projects already under way."

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Party Niepoth

Custer, Helena & Forest us...

the hame. Custom golf curt and furniture included in sale. \$475,600 # 1735330

news of Lake Bellaire, Legend Golf Course and sid slopes can be seen thro

cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, grante counters and high quality appliances. Several decks and gardens invite Northern Michigan nature into the horner dramatic house to appreciate the special beauty and dramatic impact from the setting and architectural character of the home. Beauthul post and beam construction,

UNIQUE, ONE OF A KIND HOME. Often said but rarely true; you must see this

OUT DISTRICT COURT NEWS JUNE 2012

ing without license on person, ordered to pay \$385.00 in fines Steples on one count of operatby the Honorable Michael S. of Grand Rapids, was sentenced and costs. Chad Michael Harmsen, 34,

days probation, 24 hours comon one count of operating while unpaired, sentenced to 365 Brenton Alan Evans, 27, of Kewadin, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stepka \$975.00 in fines and costs.

levoix, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stepka munity service, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,375.00 in fines and costs. Elisabet Garcia, 21, of Char-

pay \$2,496.14 in restitution and munity service, and ordered to days probation, 80 hours comin jail with 60 days credit, 730 \$1,000, sentenced to 60 days on one count of embezzle.

ment-agent/trustee > \$200 <

of Mancelona, was sentenced by pay \$675.00 in fines and costs. days probation, and ordered to and battery, sentenced to 365 on one count of assault/assault the Honorable Michael S. Stepka Nicholas Scott Mendows, 17,

sentenced to 365 days jail, and and costs. ordered to pay \$1,280.00 in fines tic violence second offense not. Stepka on one count of domes-52, of Elmira, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S.

June 7, 2012

the answers and solutions, get the information **Antrim County Voters** nity service, and ordered to pay \$650.00 in fines and costs. probation, 24 hours commuof Mancelona, was sentenced by degree, sentenced to 183 days the Honorable Michael S. Stepka on one count of retail fraud - 3rd Bethany Lynne Spencer, 50,

When in doubt, ask questions and seek out

straight before committing yourself.

August 7th.

To be a success one must deal with the

Anyone can spread rumors and lies. issues and facts.

June 12, 2012

Be an educated voter, make the right choice \$125.00 in restitution \$1,025.00 in probation, and ordered to pay impaired, sentenced to 365 days on one count of operating while the Honorable Thomas J. Phillips East Jordan, was sentenced by Travis Gary Trojanek, 27, of

Antrim County Register of Deeds Husband of Patty Niepoth Edward H. Niepoth Jr.

pay \$125.00 in restitution and days probation, 24 hours comdays jail with 2 days credit, 365 James Anders Erickson, 35, of Mancelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas J. Philmunity service, and ordered to lips on one count of operating while impaired, sentenced to 2 ,025,00 in fines and costs

probation, and ordered to pay \$1,275.00 in fines and costs. jul with 1 days credit, 365 days w/bac > .17, sentenced to 5 days Phillips on one count of OUIL Traverse City, was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas J. Anthony Scott Kida, 27, of

Charles William Marrs Jr.,

\$475.00 in fines and costs. days credit and ordered to pay

ordered to pay \$875.00 in fines low person 2nd, sentenced to 25 days jail with 25 days credit, and on one count of oper-susp lic/aland costs the Honorable Michael J. Haley Mancelona, was sentenced by Anthony Ray Jeska, 29, of

count of operating - impaired, land, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one \$475.00 in fines and costs. 2 days credit, and ordered to pay \$100.00 in restitution and Haley on one count of innkeeper days probation 2 days jail with of Manceiona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Ann Marie Flynn, 50, of Hartdefrauding, sentenced to 90 Theodore Jacob Jahnke, 18,

in fines and costs.

and costs. restitution and \$1.025.00 in fines and ordered to pay \$125.00 in sentenced to 90 days probation, Ronald Gordon Brooks, 64,

June 19, 2012

to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$625.00 in fines and costs. days probation and 24 hours of East Jordan, was sentenced community service, and ordered ing impaired, sentenced to 365. Stepka on one count of operatby the Honorable Michael S.

june 14, 2012

in fines and costs, \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,958 probation, and ordered to pay iense, sentenced to 1,096 days on one count of operating while the Honorable Michael J. Haley Mancelona, was sentenced intoxicated/impaired Jerry Dean Ordway, 43, 2nd ofá <u>۾</u>

the Honorable Michael J. Haley Mancelona, was sentenced by cense suspended/ailow person, on one count of operating .lisentenced to 25 days jail with 25 Anthony Ray Jeska, 29, of

fines and costs. lence and one count of operating Mancelona, was sentenced in restitution and \$1.025.00 in jail, and ordered to pay \$125.00 impaired, sentenced to 93 days ka on one count of domestic viothe Honorable Michael S. Stepá

Jason Allen Donglas, 24, of

and costs. restitution and \$475.00 in fines and ordered to pay \$1,238.00 in 200, sentenced to 93 days in jail destruction of building less than

titution and \$925.00 in fines and ordered to pay \$2,225.00 in resshrubs, crops > \$200 < \$1,000, on one count of MDOP trees, Honorable Michael S. Stepka Kewadin, was sentenced by the Denise Lynn Brothers, 49, of

restitution and \$1,180.00 in fines and ordered to pay \$125.00 in 13 days in jail with 1 days credit, sentenced to 730 days probation, and costs. toxicated/impaired 2nd offense. one count of operating while in-Honorable Michael S. Stepka on Boyne City, was sentenced by the Robert Paul Labute, 44, of

restitution and \$1,253.00 in fines 120 days in jail with 1 day credit. and costs. and ordered to pay \$125.00 in tenced to 730 days probation and p/o assault/resist/obstruct, sen-.17 and one count of attempted on one count of OUIL w/bac > the Honorable Michael S. Stepka Mancelona, was sentenced by Ed Charles LeClair, 21, of

ating without license on person, ordered to pay \$285.00 in fines S. Stepka on one count of opertenced by the Honorable Michael 22, of Sault Ste Marie, was senand costs Ronald Matthew Shannon,

Joshua Phillip Craft, 27, of

Central Lake, was sentenced by June 21, 2012

ka on one count of malicious the Honorable Michael S. Stepand costs. and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines 80 hours community service, of operating while intoxicated Michael J. Haley on one count of Petoskey, was sentenced by sentenced to 183 days probation, Robert Gordon Brant,

ordered to pay \$730.00 in fines and costs chael J. Haley on one count of III, 25, of Central Lake oper-license susp/allow person, sentenced by the Honorable Mi-Jeffery Kevin Holstine, 48, of James Clifford McMichael

and costs. restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and ordered to pay \$125.00 in 24 hours community service, one count of operating impaired, sentenced to 183 days probation, Honorable Michael J. Haley on Rapid City, was sentenced by the

nity service, and ordered to pay peace, sentenced to 183 days on one count of disturbing the Bellaire, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley pay \$575.00 in fines and costs. probation, 24 hours commu-Mancelona, was sentenced by out license on person, ordered to on one count of operating withthe Honorable Michael J. Haley Bryan Joseph Buck, 18, of Jeremy Daniel Fuller, 26, of

June 26, 2012

\$425.00 in fines and costs.

and costs. ordered to pay \$475.00 in fines lips on one count of operating without license on person, and the Honorable Thomas I. Phil-Jeremy James Romine, 28, of Petoskey, was sentenced by

one count of disorderly/jostling, \$1,375.00 in fines and costs. 5 days in jail, and ordered to pay sentenced to 365 days probation, Honorable Thomas J. Phillips on Elisworth, was sentenced by the James Willard Ruster, 60, of

VER

Experience

- First elected Register of Deeds, November 2000
- 11 years as Register of Deeds
- 25 years in the office of the Register of Deeds
- Past District Chair, Northwest (covers 16 counties) Region of Elected Register of Deeds
- Level II Assessor

Endorgements

member of the Republican Party. She has always been a dedicated public official:" "I have known Patty and her family for many years and have worked with Patty as a board

- Kevin Elsenheimer, Former State Representative

prosperity. My staff and I support the re-election of Patty restoring growth and stability to the housing industry so vital to Antrim County's public. Her experience as Antrim County Register of Deeds is an important factor in implementing technology changes that have improved the core functions of her office: leadership includes being active in the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds and recording and indexing real property records; and, providing access to those records to the 'Antrim County has been well served by Patty Niepoth as Register of Deeds. Her responsible

 Jerome E. Jelinek, President and General Counsel Corporate Settlement Solutions

Niepoth as Antrim County Register of Deeds."

person for Register of Deeds." "Patty Niepoth has integrity and resourcefulness. She's the right

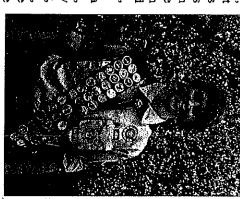
Norm Veliquette, Cherry Ke, Elk Rapide



Busy summer for new Eagle Scout

community with his Eagle service project can be seen a very prestigious award. The title of Eagle Scout is is the highest rank that a boy scout can achieve and is earned his Hagle Scout rank this last spring. Eagle Scout constructed for the Stations of the Cross at his parish and enjoyed in the tranquil, footpath that he cleared and Eagle, always an Eagle." Jacob's contribution to the held for life, thus giving rise to the phrase, "Once an Christ the King Catholic Church, Acme. Jacob Loew, an Elk Rapids High School senior,

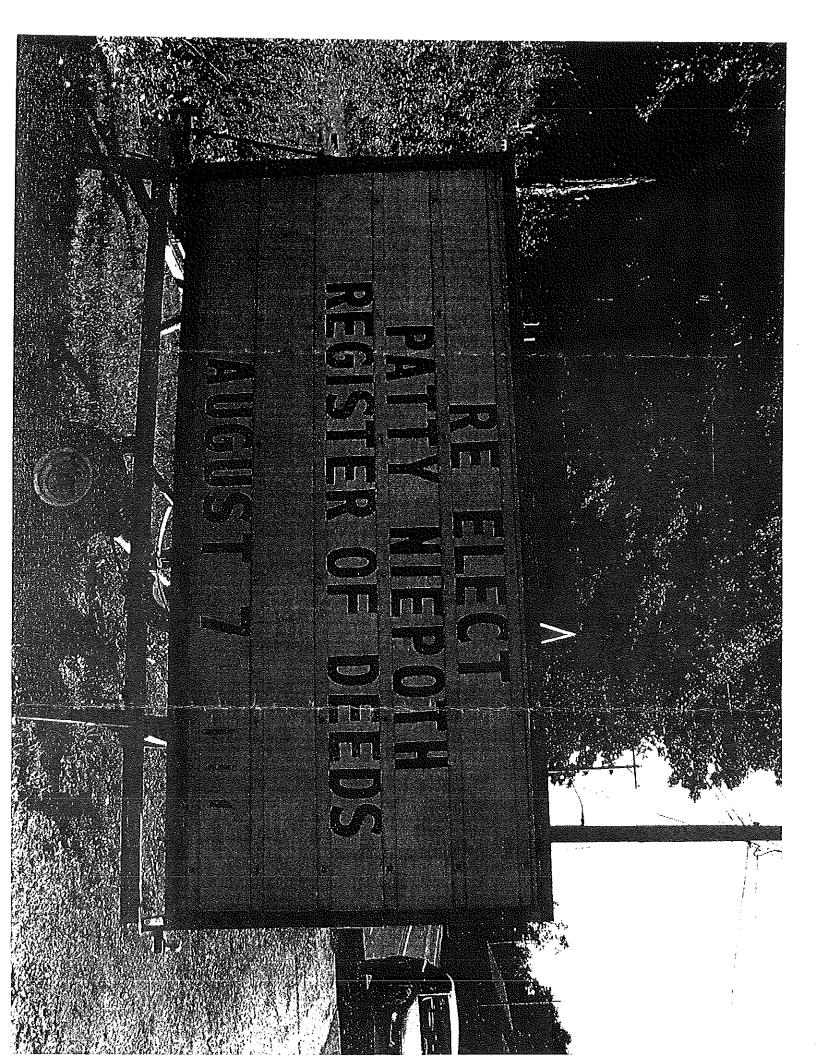
was one of three other assistant course leaders who, called National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). The with the course leader, conducted a Boy Scout course half directly following the last day of school in June, Spider Lake area. There he, for the fifth year in a row, he went to Camp Grelick, located in the Traverse City Jacob did not stop there however; the week and a



program is designed for top scouts from all over northern Michigan to go through an extensive course leader and will lead the rest of the staff in running the entire camp. weeklong leadership training. He is looking forward to next year's camp where he will be the

degree in Architecture and Engineering. what college to attend. Jacob is looking to apply his advanced math and his love of nature to a Lasers at the beginning of August. Like most seniors, he is already looking into careers and to team, and starting his dual enrollment classes of Calculus 1 and Advanced Physics - Lights and great half-time show. He will also be staying busy by trying out for the high school varsity soccer the section leader of eight other trombones this year and is working hard to make sure ER has a able to put those leadership skills to use this last week at ERHS's summer "Band Camp." He is at Philmont Scout Ranch, which is near Raton New Mexico. The course was called National climbed the Tooth of Time, which is a mountain with a peak at 9001 ft. above sea level. He was the nation, learned even more about leadership and related subjects. On their final day there they the Gerald R. Ford BSA Council in Traverse City. He, with 53 other participants from across Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). He was selected and sponsored to attend by for his engineering experience at MTA in Traverse. He participated in another leadership course year at A-Ga-Ming Golf Resort, as well as his internship job as part as his educational requirement After such a crazy beginning to his summer, he then returned to his summer job from last

Eagle Scout and good luck on everything else. Photo and text submitted by Phil and Laurie Loew If you happen to see this very busy kid be sure to tell him congratulations on achieving





September 14, 2012

Patty Niepoth P.O. Box 74 Bellaire, Michigan 49615

Dear Ms. Niepoth:

This letter concerns the complaint that was recently filed against you by Brett Baldwin, which relates to purported violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 et seq. The Department of State has received a rebuttal statement from the complainant, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Section 15(10) of the MCFA, MCL 169.215(10), requires the Department to determine within 60 business days from the receipt of the rebuttal statement whether there is a reason to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. Mr. Baldwin's complaint remains under investigation at this time. At the conclusion of the review, all parties will receive written notice of the outcome of the complaint.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

c: Brett Baldwin

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS MI DEPT OF STATE

September 10, 2012

Department of State
Bureau of Elections
Attn: Lori A. Bourbonais
Richard H. Austin Building 1st Floor
430 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48918

2012 SEP 13 MM 10: 13

Dear Ms. Bourbonais,

This letter is a rebuttal of the response dated August 22, 2012 by Patty Niepoth to my complaint dated August 3, 2012.

Mrs. Niepoth's contention that she was unaware of the rules in regards to proper identification of campaign materials shows a blatant disregard for the laws enacted in the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA). This is Mrs. Niepoth's fourth run for general election. She has held the position of Register of Deeds since 2000 and in the 12-13 years she has been involved in campaigning, hasn't taken the time to make herself aware of the laws with which she should be complying.

Mrs. Niepoth states in her letter that her two sided yard signs were printed in 2004 and "received no complaints". The fact that no one complains has no bearing on whether the law was broken or not. The law was in effect in 2004 and had Mrs. Niepoth taken the time to read the Candidate Committee Manual, let alone the MCFA, at any time, she would have been aware of the requirements. Since she didn't ever bother to read the manual, she couldn't know whether the MCFA had been changed or amended any time since 2000, when she started campaigning.

It does not appear from Mrs. Niepoth's response letter, that she included any evidence of corrective measures that she has taken. Now that she is aware of the law and is already in the next election cycle, a conciliation agreement seems to be too late. And since she has already admitted that she hasn't read the manual or the MCFA, it seems that an administrative hearing would only confirm those facts. I prefer that the matter be turned over to the Attorney General for enforcement of the criminal penalty provided in Section 47(5) of the Act. Anyone that ignores the law should be held accountable.

Sincerely,

Brett Baldwin

toal dion



December 11, 2012

Patty Niepoth P.O. Box 74 Bellaire, Michigan 49615

Dear Ms. Niepoth:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of a complaint filed against you by Brett Baldwin, which alleged that you violated section 47(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.247(1), by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on certain campaign-related material. This letter concerns the disposition of Mr. Baldwin's complaint.

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).

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 complaint was filed by Mr. Baldwin on August 7, 2012. You filed a written response on August 28, 2012, and Mr. Baldwin filed a rebuttal statement on September 13, 2012.

Mr. Baldwin alleged that certain of your campaign signs either did not include a paid-for-by statement or did not include a complete and correct paid-for-by statement. Mr. Baldwin provided as evidence a picture of a portable billboard which states "RE ELECT PATTY NIEPOTH REGISTER OF DEEDS" and a picture of a yard sign which states "Re-Elect Patty NIEPOTH REGISTER OF DEEDS [.]" The portable billboard appears to omit the paid-for-by statement, and the yard sign appears to contain a paid-for-by statement which omits your committee's address.

Mr. Baldwin also alleged that you ran newspaper advertisements which did not include complete and correct paid-for-by statements. As evidence, Mr. Baldwin provided copies of newspaper ads which state "Re-elect Patty NIEPOTH Register of Deeds [,]" "Be an educated voter, make the right choice August 7th . . . Antrim County Register of Deeds [,]" and "Re-Elect Patty NIEPOTH [.]" There appears to be no paid-for-by statements on these ads.

Patty Niepoth December 11, 2012 Page 2

In response, you stated that you were "unaware of the rule which states the requirement to include [your] name as well as your address [,]" that your husband paid for one of the ads with personal funds, and that you did not realize that a paid-for-by-statement was required on the type of portable billboard you used. You also stated that the paid-for-by statement on the ad in the *Elk Rapids News* was mistakenly omitted.

While the Department believes that the evidence tends to show that your campaign material failed to contain a complete paid-for-by statement, section 15(10) of the MCFA requires the Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods such as a conference, conciliation, or persuasion [.]"

The Department is advising you that section 47(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 your candidacy produced in the future must include this identification statement. This includes correcting any existing signs that you may use in a future election.

Please be advised that if the Department is unable to correct or prevent additional violations through informal methods, the act mandates the Department to ask the Attorney General to prosecute if a crime has been committed. MCL 169.215(10). A knowing violation of section 47 of the MCFA is a misdemeanor. MCL 169.247(5). 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.

The Department now considers this matter closed and will take no further action against you at this time.

Sincerely.

Lori Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

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c: Brett Baldwin