



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 "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 [.] " 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.

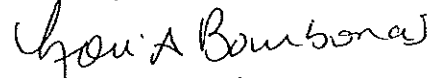
If you wish to file a written response to this complaint, you are required to do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Please include any evidence that reflects any corrective measures you have taken to bring your campaign material into compliance with the MCFA. Your response may include 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

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,



Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Brett Baldwin



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

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
MI DEPT OF STATE

2012 AUG -7 PM 2: 51

Reset Form

Michigan Department of State
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		
City Rapid City	State MI	Zip 49676

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name Patty Niepoth		
Mailing Address PO Box 74		
City Bellaire	State MI	Zip 49615

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

Section(s) of the MCFA violated: 169.247

Explain how those sections were violated:

The enclosed items were used as campaign advertising and do not include the proper committee identification requirements.

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

2012/2013 Appointment Calendar; To Do... list;
Two ads in 8/2/12 ANTRIM REVIEW;
One ad in 8/2/12 ELK RAPIDS NEWS;
Two sides of portable billboard in Alden.
Two sides of one yard sign.

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

Brett C. Baldron
Signature of Complainant

August 3, 2012
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:

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



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

Date: _____

Bellaire - Antrim County Seat

**RE ELECT
PATTY NIEPOTH
REGISTER OF DEEDS**

AUGUST 7



**RE ELECT
PATTY NIEPOTH
REGISTER OF DEEDS**

AUGUST 7

Welcome
DRIVE IN
All Available
Units Marked

DRYDOCKS
Surge Underway
\$25,900
Dennis Irelan
888-264-8814
231-883-5020

© 2004 - Patented 5,882,896; 5,878,517; US 8,337,451 B1 and Related Patent Pending

Re-Elect

Patty

NIEPOTH

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Made for by the Patty Nieposh for Register of Deeds Committee

Re-Elect

*Patty*
NIEPOTH

REGISTER OF DEEDS

And for the Patty Register of Deeds Committee

June 5, 2012

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

Brenton Alan Evans, 27, of Kewadin, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stepka on one count of operating while impaired, sentenced to 365 days probation, 24 hours com-

munity service, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,375.00 in fines and costs.

Elisabet Garcia, 21, of Charlevoix, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stepka on one count of embezzlement-agent/trustee > \$200 < \$1,000, sentenced to 60 days in jail with 60 days credit, 730 days probation, 80 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$2,496.14 in restitution and \$975.00 in fines and costs.

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

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

June 14, 2012

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

Anthony Ray Jeska, 29, of Mancelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating - license suspended/allow person, sentenced to 25 days jail with 25 days credit, and ordered to pay \$475.00 in fines and costs.

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

Theodore Jacob Jahnke, 18, of Mancelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of innkeeper - defrauding, sentenced to 90 days probation 2 days jail with 2 days credit, and ordered to pay \$100.00 in restitution and \$475.00 in fines and costs.

Ann Marie Flynn, 50, of Hartland, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating - impaired, sentenced to 90 days probation, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

June 19, 2012

Ronald Gordon Brooks, 64, of East Jordan, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stepka on one count of operating impaired, sentenced to 365 days probation and 24 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$625.00 in fines and costs.

Jason Allen Douglas, 24, of Central Lake, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stepka on one count of malicious destruction of building less than 200, sentenced to 93 days in jail, and ordered to pay \$1,238.00 in restitution and \$475.00 in fines and costs.

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

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

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

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

Joshua Phillip Craft, 27, of Mancelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stepka on one count of domestic violence and one count of operating impaired, sentenced to 93 days jail, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

June 21, 2012

Robert Gordon Brant, 50, of Petoskey, was sentenced by Michael J. Haley on one count of operating while intoxicated, sentenced to 183 days probation, 80 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

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

Jeffery Kevin Holstine, 48, of Rapid City, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating impaired, sentenced to 183 days probation, 24 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

Jeremy Daniel Fuller, 26, of Mancelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating without license on person, ordered to pay \$575.00 in fines and costs.

Bryan Joseph Buck, 18, of Bellaire, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of disturbing the peace, sentenced to 183 days probation, 24 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$425.00 in fines and costs.

June 26, 2012

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

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

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.

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



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

OVER

will face off on Tuesday for the position of Trustee to be decided

Banks

Continued from Front

ing opinions on the issue in the township.

"I think it's getting close to being resolved. There's been a lot of compromises made," said Township Clerk Donna Heeres.

Ellsworth's Village President Hugh Campbell attended the meeting to inform the township that the village has received a Michigan Department Of Transportation Rural Taskforce Grant to upgrade M-48 in the village from the high school to the sports park to a class A road.

The project, which is expected to cost over \$400,000 and is scheduled to begin in June of 2014, covers 80 percent of the construction engineering costs of the project, with the village paying 20 percent of the construction expenses and 100 percent of the preliminary engineering costs.

A new EMT, Richelle McCalib, has joined the Banks Township Fire Department. McCalib was trained by the East Jordan Ambulance and is serving with

them for a year as payment for the training. "That's a neat program which will give her the experience she will need," Heeres said.

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

Greg Guggemos, co-owner of Antrim Dells and the A-Ga-Ming Golf Course, addressed the board seeking their approval in the process to secure liquor licenses for the golf course properties. Under a new licensing procedure implemented earlier this year by the State of Michigan, approval from local municipalities and inspections by the sheriff department is necessary before final approval is granted from the state liquor control commission. The license will allow the golf courses to continue to sell open containers on the course as well as on Sunday morning.

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

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

"Several of the board members popped into Mancelona to see what they had to offer, with no notice or warning that they

had indicated that any and all of Bellaire's former food services personnel would be encouraged to apply for positions with the company.

"They told us that they would be particularly interested in those

teaching position with a public school district in Independence, Kentucky.

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

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

Daisy

Continued from Front

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

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

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

person to ring the school bell placed in the old school's belfry by the Antrim County Historical Society during the first pig roast they held a couple of years ago to raise funds for the school's restoration," 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 high school, especially when you lived so far away. I was very lucky," she smiled.

As a teen, the young Daisy spent her summer days working for a family who summered on the east side of Intermedicate Lake, and occasional evenings serving meals during the nightly dances held at the well-known Fisk Lodge, a popular resort and hunting and fishing lodge located near what today is known as Mohrman Park. "My

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

Daisy Mae was at another dance, this one in what was then known as Pleasant Valley, when she met Earl Wilson, whom she married in 1934. The couple moved with three of their children to the old farmhouse on M-88 she still lives in today, and where her youngest son Nicholas was born, in 1943.

This Saturday, all of those children, as well as many of Daisy's 10 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, will gather for a very special pig roast at the Area

Senior's Activity Center in Bellaire to celebrate her 100th birthday, an event she is very much looking forward to.

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

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

But you can bet she'd probably accept a couple of Tigers tickets, too.

Re-Elect

Patty NIEPOTH

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

The 50th Annual Juried Portside Arts Fair

"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!

Free Children's Craft Booth - Refreshments
Entertainment - E.J. Historical Museum

OVER

Re-Elect

NIEPOTH

Patty

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

Endorsements

"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 Antrim 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 Veltquette, Cherry Ke, Elk Rapids





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

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Patty Niepoth



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

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

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

2012 AUG 28 P 3:19
DEPT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

Dear Ms. Bourbonais:

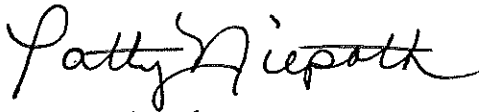
I am hereby writing this letter in response to the complaint filed by Brett Baldwin on August 3rd, 2012. With regards to the two ads in the Antrim Review newspaper, I was unaware of the rule which states the requirement to include my name as well as my address. The second ad was taken out by my husband 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
MI DEPT OF STATE

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

Reset Form

2012 AUG -7 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.

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	
City	State	Zip
Rapid City	MI	49676

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name	Patty Niepoth	
Mailing Address	PO Box 74	
City	State	Zip
Bellaire	MI	49615

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

Section(s) of the MCFA violated: 169.247

Explain how those sections were violated:

The enclosed items were used as campaign
advertising and do not include the proper
committee identification requirements.

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

2012/2013 Appointment Calendar; To Do... list;
Two ads in 8/2/12 ANTRIM REVIEW;
One ad in 8/2/12 ELK RAPIDS NEWS;
Two sides of portable billboard in Alden.
Two sides of one yard sign.

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

Brett C. Baldwin
Signature of Complainant

August 3, 2012
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:

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

June 5, 2012

Chad Michael Hartman, 34, pay \$125.00 in restitution and of Grand Rapids, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stephens on one count of operating without license on person, ordered to pay \$385.00 in fines and costs.

Breton Alan Evans, 27, of \$1,000, sentenced to 60 days in jail with 60 days credit, 730 days probation, 80 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$2,495.14 in restitution and \$975.00 in fines and costs.

June 14, 2012

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

Charles William Morris Jr., 52, of Elmira, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stephens on one count of domestic violence second offense not, sentenced to 365 days jail, and ordered to pay \$1,280.00 in fines and costs.

June 7, 2012

Bethany Lynne Spencer, 50, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stephens on one count of retail fraud - 3rd degree, sentenced to 183 days probation, 24 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$550.00 in fines and costs.

June 12, 2012

Travis Gary Tojnak, 27, of East Jordan, was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas J. Phillips on one count of operating while impaired, sentenced to 365 days probation, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

James Anders Erickson, 35, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas J. Phillips on one count of operating while impaired, sentenced to 2 days jail with 2 days credit, 365 days probation, 24 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

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

June 19, 2012

Ronald Gordon Brooks, 64, of East Jordan, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stephens on one count of operating impaired, sentenced to 365 days probation, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

Anthony Ray Jeska, 29, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating while impaired, sentenced to 25 days jail with 25 days credit, and ordered to pay \$475.00 in fines and costs.

Anthony Ray Jeska, 29, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating while impaired, sentenced to 25 days jail with 25 days credit, and ordered to pay \$475.00 in fines and costs.

Theodore Jacob Janke, 18, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of OVI, w/bac > .17 and one count of attempted pilo assault/obstruction, sentenced to 730 days probation and 120 days in jail with 1 day credit, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,253.00 in fines and costs.

Anna Marie Flynn, 50, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating while impaired, sentenced to 90 days probation, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

Ronald Matthew Shannon, 22, of Saint Ste Marie, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stephens on one count of operating without license on person, ordered to pay \$285.00 in fines and costs.

Joshua Phillip Craft, 27, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael S. Stephens on one count of operating while impaired, sentenced to 365 days probation, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

June 21, 2012

Robert Gordon Brant, 50, of Petoskey, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating while intoxicated, sentenced to 183 days probation, 80 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,025.00 in fines and costs.

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

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

Ed Charles LeClair, 21, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of OVI, w/bac > .17 and one count of attempted pilo assault/obstruction, sentenced to 730 days probation and 120 days in jail with 1 day credit, and ordered to pay \$125.00 in restitution and \$1,253.00 in fines and costs.

Jeremy Daniel Fuller, 26, of Manacelona, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of operating without license on person, ordered to pay \$575.00 in fines and costs.

Bryan Joseph Buck, 18, of Bellare, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael J. Haley on one count of disturbing the peace, sentenced to 183 days probation, 24 hours community service, and ordered to pay \$425.00 in fines and costs.

June 26, 2012

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

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

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.

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



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, central ceiling, hardwood floors, granite counters and high quality appliances. Several decks and gardens have Northern Michigan charm into the home, dramatic views of Lake Belaire, Legend Golf Course and six acres can be seen throughout the home. Custom built and furniture included in sale. \$475,000 * 1735350

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

Custer, Helena & Fortner

OVER

Re-Elect ★★★★★★

NiepOTH Patty

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

Endorsements

"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 Antrim 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."

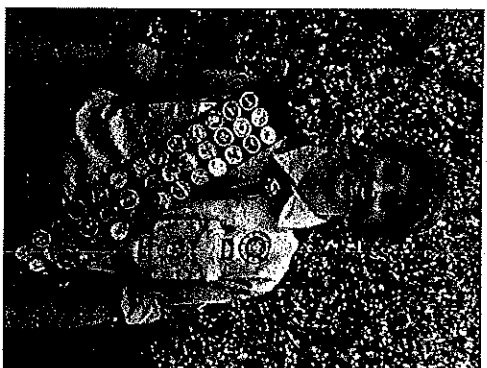
- Norm Veliquette, Cherry Ke, Elk Rapids



Busy summer for new Eagle Scout

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

Jacob did not stop there however, the week and a half directly following the last day of school in June, he went to Camp Grelick, located in the Traverse City - Spider Lake area. There he, for the fifth year in a row, was one of three other assistant course leaders who, with the course leader, conducted a Boy Scout course called *National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)*. The program is designed for top scouts from all over northern Michigan to go through an extensive weeklong leadership training. He is looking forward to next year's camp where he will be the course leader and will lead the rest of the staff in running the entire camp.



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

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

RE ELECT
PATY MIEPOTH
REGISTER OF DEEDS

AUGUST 7

Re-Elect



Party

NTPOTH

REGISTER OF DEEDS



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

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Brett Baldwin

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
MI DEPT OF STATE

September 10, 2012

2012 SEP 13 AM 10:13

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,

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



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

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

c: Brett Baldwin