



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

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

2020 JUL 14 AM 8:04

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

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name	Jill Stern	Daytime Telephone Number 810-423-8861
Mailing Address	1445 Munger Rd	
City	Holly	State MI Zip 48442
Email (optional)	jill-stern@yahoo.com	

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name	Linda Stouffer	
Mailing Address	11585 Hensell Rd	
City	Holly	State MI Zip 48442
Email (optional)	Unknown	

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

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: 169.247 Sec 47 (1)

Explain how those sections were violated:

Complainant observed and photographed campaign signs for Alleged Violator, in Rose Township, that lack the required identification containing the address of the person paying for the matter.

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

Two photographic images. One image depicts the sign in its entirety. The second is a close-up depiction of the same 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

  
Signature of Complainant

7-6-2020  
Date

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

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

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, or belief, there are grounds to conclude that the following specifically identified factual contentions are likely to be supported by evidence after a reasonable opportunity for further inquiry. Those specific contentions are:*

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X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Complainant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Section 15(8) of the MCFA provides that a person who files a complaint with a false certification is responsible for a civil violation of the MCFA. The person may be required to pay a civil fine of up to \$1,000.00 and some, or all, of the expenses incurred by the Michigan Department of State and the alleged violator as a direct result of the filing of the complaint.

#### Section 6. Submission

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

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



Rose Township

Linda

Stouffer

for Clerk

Paid for by the Committee to elect Linda Stouffer as Rose Township Clerk #97362



Q

R

T

Clerk #97362



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

July 24, 2020

Linda Stouffer  
11585 Hensell Road  
Holly, MI 48442

Re: *Stern v. Stouffer*  
Campaign Finance Complaint  
No. 2020-07-59-47

Dear Ms. Stouffer:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint alleging you have violated MCL 169.247 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) by failing to include a complete and correct identification statement on certain campaign-related materials. A copy of the complaint is enclosed.

The complaint was submitted to the Department on July 14, 2020 and alleges that you have distributed yard signs that did not include a proper paid for by statement. A picture of the yard signs is included with the complaint.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), R 169.36(2). A knowing violation constitutes a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.00, imprisonment for up to 93 days, or both. MCL 169.247(6).

Upon review, the evidence submitted supports the conclusion that a potential violation of the Act has occurred. From the outset, the Department must consider whether it is an expenditure covered by the MCFA. The yard sign specifically states "Linda Stouffer for Clerk" which uses words of express advocacy as defined by the Act. MCL 169.206(2)(j). Because it urges voters to vote for you using words of express advocacy and was published by your committee, the signs are covered by the gambit of the Act and must include the paid for by statement outlined under section 47. MCL 169.206(2)(j). While the paid for by statement is present, it has omitted the full address of your committee. Since this is absent, the Department concludes that a violation has occurred.

After reaching this conclusion, the Act requires the Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods [,]" if it finds that "there may

Linda Stouffer  
July 24, 2020  
Page 2

be reason to believe that a violation ... has occurred [.]” MCL 169.215(10). The objective of an informal resolution is “to correct the violation or prevent a further violation [.]” *Id.*

Given this, the Department concludes that a formal warning is a sufficient resolution to the complaint and is hereby advising you that MCL 169.247(1) and R 169.36(2) require you to print a complete and accurate identification statement on all campaign materials, consisting of the phrase “paid for by” followed by the full name and address of your committee.

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

Please be advised that this notice has served to remind you of your obligation under the Act to identify your printed matter and may be used in future proceedings as evidence that tends to establish a knowing violation of the Act. A knowing violation is a misdemeanor offense and may merit referral to the Attorney General for enforcement action. MCL 169.247(6), 215(10).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Fracassi", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Fracassi  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure  
c: Jill Stern





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

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

2020 JUL 14 PM 2:11

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Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name <u>Jill Stern</u>		Daytime Telephone Number <u>810-423-8861</u>
Mailing Address <u>1445 Munger Rd</u>		
City <u>Holly</u>	State <u>MI</u>	Zip <u>48442</u>
Email (optional) <u>jill-stern@yahoo.com</u>		

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name <u>Linda Stauffer</u>		
Mailing Address <u>11585 Hensell Rd</u>		
City <u>Holly</u>	State <u>MI</u>	Zip <u>48442</u>
Email (optional) <u>unknown</u>		

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

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: 169-247 Sec 47 (1)

Explain how those sections were violated:

Complainant observed and photographed Campaign Postcards  
has mailed to Rose Township residents that lack the  
required identification containing the address of  
the person paying for the matter. This is a different  
complaint than the previous complaint for Campaign signs

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

3 photographed images of a postcard mailed  
by alleged violator. Front, Back, and close up  
of address which is not complete/does not comply  
with MCFA 169-247 sec 47 (1)

#### 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



Signature of Complainant

7.8.2020

Date

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

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X

Signature of Complainant

Date

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Lansing, Michigan 48918



# Stouffer

POSTCARD  
FRONT

## for Clerk

It is time for a change in Rose Township!



As Clerk I promise to:

- Execute my duties with the highest ethical standards.
- Work effectively with other departments to better utilize resources.
- Be an active listener.
- Conduct township business in a friendly, efficient manner.

My 35 years career in engineering and marketing in addition to being a successful business owner, have given me the skills needed to be your next Clerk.

ferForClerk.org

Close up provided on separate  
copy, enclosed

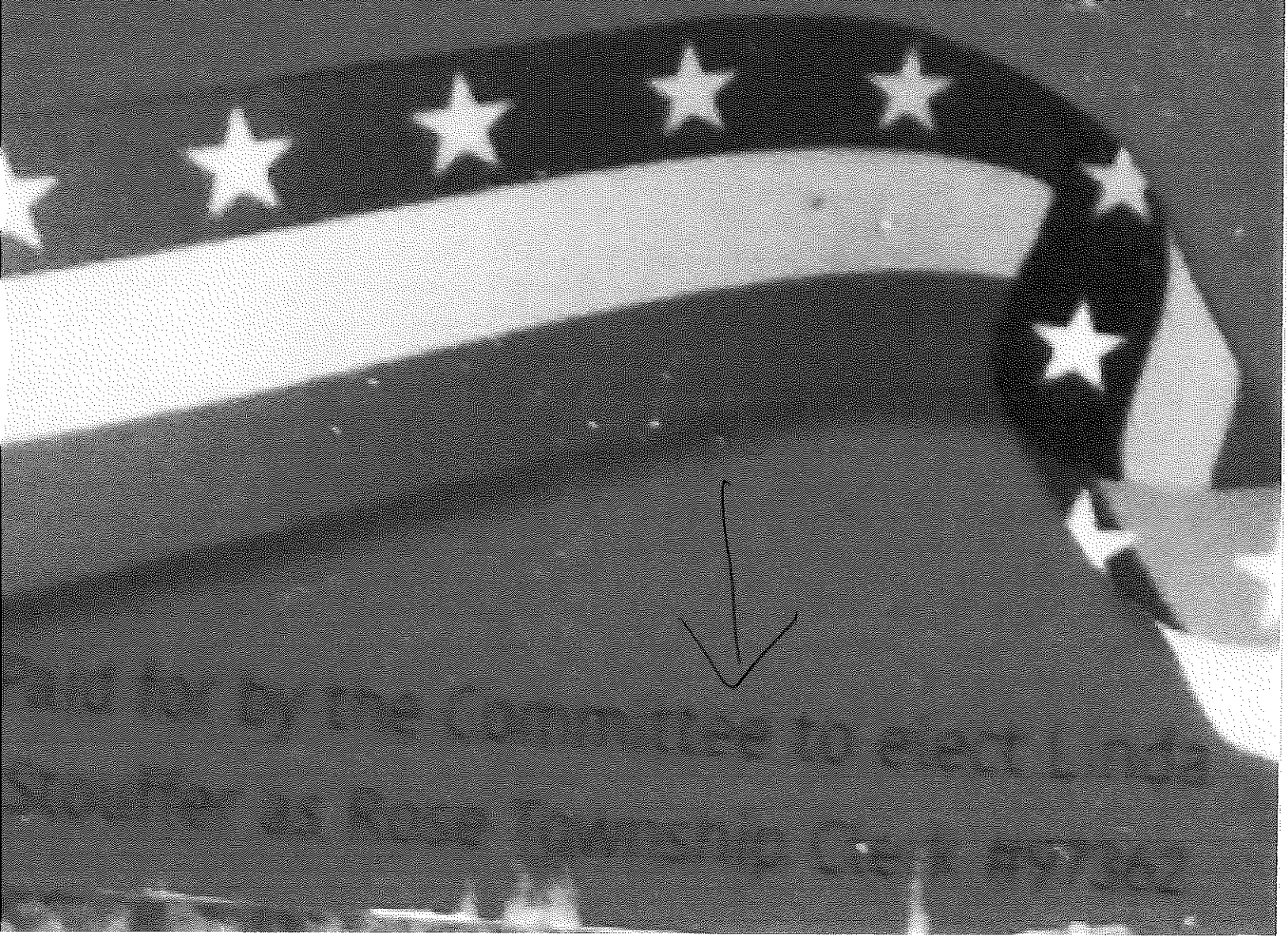




POSTCARD  
FRONT

My 35 y  
market  
business  
needed

orClerk.org

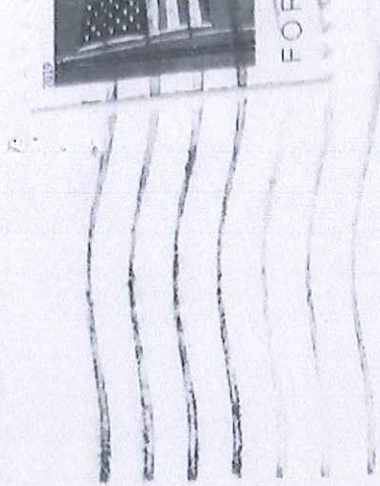




Remember to

VOTE

August 4th



Thank you for your  
support!

Linda

7225  
7225  
7225

POSTCARD  
BACK