



Michigan Department of State
Campaign Finance Complaint Form

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

2020 SEP -9 PM 1:29

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 VICKI WHITE		Daytime Telephone Number 906-884-4424
Mailing Address 35837 LP WALSH RD		
City ONTONAGON	State MI	Zip 49953
Email (optional) VICKIWHITE4424@yahoo.com		

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name MATT Weaver		
Mailing Address 34038 Halfway River Rd		
City ONTONAGON	State MI	Zip 49953
Email (optional)		

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

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

Explain how those sections were violated:

Candidate failed to include identifier as to who paid for printed matter including highway signs, yard signs, handouts.

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

PHOTOS OF SIGNS

HANDOUT

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

Vicki J. White
Signature of Complainant

09-02-2020

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:

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



Please **ELECT**

Matt



Weaver

ONTONAGON CO. SHERIFF

Please ELECT

Matt

Weaver

ONTONAGON CO. SHERIFF



Please ELECT
**Matt
Weaver**
ONTONAGON CO. SHERIFF





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

October 8, 2020

Matt Weaver
34038 Halfway River Road
Ontonagon, MI 49953

Re: *White v. Weaver*
Campaign Finance Complaint
No. 2020-09-154-47

Dear Mr. Weaver:

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 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 "Elect Matt Weaver Ontonagon Co. Sheriff" 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). However, the signs appear to have completely omitted the required paid for by statement. Since the address is absent, the evidence supports the conclusion that a potential 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

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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", written in a cursive style.

Adam Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

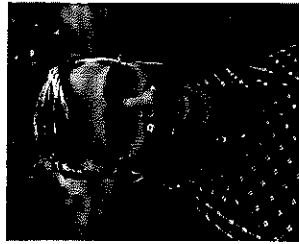
Enclosure
c: Vicki White

- ~ Eagle Scout 1979
- ~ Graduated Central Florida College 1983
- ~ Enlisted U.S. Army 1983
- ~ Married Jennifer Weaver 1987
- ~ Graduated Metropolitan Nashville Police Academy 1988:
 - Patrol Officer
 - Field Training Officer (FTO)
 - Deployed to Persian Gulf War 1990
 - Paul Scurry Officer of the Year Award 2001
 - Police Chaplain
- Retired

~ Ontonagon Co. Sheriff Deputy 2009-Present

Goals:

- ~ Continuing Education/Training for Officers
- ~ Employee Accountability
- ~ Increase Number of Road Officers
- ~ Improved Emergency Readiness



Please **ELECT**

Matt



Weaver

ONTONAGON COUNTY SHERIFF 2020