

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

June 9, 2014

Brad Moss 108 East Bay Drive Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

Dear Mr. Moss:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Ken Crider, which concerns an alleged violation 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 <u>within 10 business days</u> 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,

Lori A. Bourbonais

Bureau of Elections Michigan Department of State

c: Ken Crider

Dear Lori Bourbonais,

Here is my response to the campaign finance complaint filed by Mr. Brad Moss.

MR. Moss's Complaint #1&2: The candidate failed to file a Statement of Organization in a timely manner and failed to disclose campaign expenditures.

The complaint states that I (Ken) posted a picture with a campaign logo on May 5th and didn't file his Statement of Organization until 7/29/14. Exhibits A and B are screen shots of a post on a social media network, Facebook. This photo was an old file that I (Ken) photoshopped on my personal computer on a Sunday afternoon. Since no money had been spent and since there were no campaign contributions, there was no requirement for a Statement of Organization to be filed at that time.

MR. Moss's Complaint # 3: in-kind contributions "Charcoal Grill"

Legal advice from a republican party lawyer indicated that bringing personal cooking equipment to a district committee picnic involved no expenditure, and did not require campaign expense reporting. The personally owned grill has never been for hire or for rent. The grill is not the property of Friends of Ken Crider Committee.

MR. Moss's complaint #4: Disclaimer missing on Pizza "Politics and Pistols" material

As can be seen in the attached photo (Exhibit #1) the "paid for by" is clearly visible. Mr. Moss's Exhibit H apparently has been altered to obscure the "paid for by" line.

MR. Moss's complaint #5: Disclaimer missing on "Grill Provided By" sign

It is true that the required disclaimer was missing from one hastily made sign. This was at the very beginning of my first state regulated campaign, and after attending my first campaign school through Citizens for Traditional Values, I realized my error and permanently retired the sign. I want to assure you that I have included the "Paid for by" disclaimer on all of my campaign materials since.

Sincerely, Ken Crider Candidate for MI 19th

Exhibit H

Michigan's 11th Congressional District Republican Committee Liked - October 3, 2013 (**)

Like - Comment Share

Write a comment



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

LANSING

June 27, 2014

Kenneth Crider 16381 Fairway Street Livonia, Michigan 48154

Dear Mr. Crider:

This letter concerns the complaint that was recently filed against you by Brad Moss, which relates to purported violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 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. Moss' 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: Kenneth Crider

W

June 23, 2014

Lori Bourbonais

Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor

430 W. Allegan

Lansing, MI 48918

Re: Rebuttal Statement to Ken Crider/Friends of Ken Crider in response to violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act

Dear Ms. Lori Bourbonais,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Mr. Crider's response. I will address the complaints and response in sequence:

Complaint #1: Violation of MCL 129.221(1) and MCL 169.224(1)

Candidate Crider states in his rebuttal dated May 29, 2014 that the photos posted on his Facebook page were both "old file that I (Ken) photo shopped on my personal computer on a Sunday afternoon." He told the Livonia Observer a different story on May 28, 2014 in his statement that the postings were his way of "kind of feeling the waters." (Exhibit D). Candidate Crider admits to posting a campaign logo on his Facebook page on May 5, 2013 (Exhibit B), and again on June 14, 2013 (Exhibit A). Candidate Crider filed his Statement of Organization on July 29, 2013 (Exhibit C). This is in direct violation of the State of Michigan's Campaign Finance laws, as MCL 169.221(1), which states:

"A candidate, within 10 days after becoming a candidate, shall form a candidate committee."

Mr. Crider's actions are also in violation of MCL 169.224(1), which states:

"A committee shall file a statement of organization with the filing officials designated in section 36 to receive the committee's campaign statements. A statement of organization shall be filed within 10 days after a committee is formed. A filing official shall maintain a statement of organization by a committee until 5 years after the official date of the committee's dissolution. A person who fails to file a statement of organization required by this subsection shall pay a late

filing fee of \$10.00 for each business day the statement remains not filed in violation of this subsection. The late filing fee shall not exceed \$300.00. A person who violates this subsection by failing to file for more than 30 days after a statement of organization is required to be filed is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00."

In addition to his statements, Mr. Crider uses the words in the postings: "MI 19th District **Serving** all of Livonia", "**Vote** in the Primary Election August 5, 2014", "**Vote** in the General Election November 4, 2014" (Exhibit B) and "**Elect** Ken Crider **For State Rep**." (Exhibit A) all language consistent with promoting a candidate for election in a campaign. Candidate Crider publishes Facebook group addresses to join to further an election of a candidate, Candidate Crider.

The Secretary of State website indicates that Mr. Crider did not file a statement of organization until July 29, 2013 (Exhibit C) - 76 days after he admitted using the campaign material on May 5, 2013. MCL 169.224(1) requires misdemeanor prosecution for any failure to file within 30 days of a committee's formation. Accordingly, I request you refer Mr. Crider to the Attorney General's office for prosecution.

Complaint #3 and #5: Violation of MCL 169.229(1) (c)

Candidate Crider states in his rebuttal on May 29, 2014 that "bringing personal cooking equipment to a district committee picnic involved no expenditure, and did not require campaign expense reporting...The grill is not property of Friends of Ken Crider Committee" (Exhibit E). In a statement to the Livonia Observer on May 28, 2014, Candidate Crider said that "It's not an in-kind contribution, because it's not something that has a monetary value" (Exhibit D). If the grill were seen as being of no value, signage would not be necessary. The grill was advertised on a yard sign reading "Elect Ken Crider for Michigan State Representative. A Common Man with Common Sense. Grill Provided by Ken Crider for State Representative. 19th District." This act was a direct violation of MCL Sec. 169.229, Sec. 29.1 (c) which specifically states:

"Candidate must include an itemized list of all expenditures, including in-kind contributions and expenditures during the period covered by the campaign statement that were contributions to a candidate committee of a candidate for elected office."

The use of the grill by Candidate Crider was also in violation of MCL Section 169.229, Sec. 29.1 (c) by not reporting the cost of expenditures for the creation of a campaign logo, business cards, campaign literature and/or other materials that promote the candidate (Exhibit F). Candidate Crider admits this violation in the rebuttal from May 29, 2013 in stating that "the required disclaimer was missing from one...sign."

Candidate Crider's contribution of the grill directly violated MCL Section 169.229, which states:

- "Sec. 29. (1) A campaign statement filed by a political party committee shall contain all of the following information:
- (c) An itemized list of all expenditures, including in-kind contributions and expenditures and loans, made during the period covered by the campaign statement that were contributions to a candidate committee of a candidate for elective office or a ballot question committee; or independent expenditures in support of the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question or in support of the nomination or election of a candidate for elective office or the defeat of any of the candidate's opponents."

An adequate penalty for a violation of 169,229 can be found in Michigan Campaign Finance Law 169,233 Sec. 33:

- "(9) If a candidate is found guilty of a violation of this section, the circuit court for that county, on application by the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney of that county, may prohibit that candidate from assuming the duties of a public office or from receiving compensation from public funds, or both.
- (10) If a candidate, treasurer, or other individual designated as responsible for a committee's record keeping, report preparation, or report filing knowingly files an incomplete or inaccurate statement or report required by this section, that individual is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00.
- (11) If a candidate, treasurer, or other individual designated as responsible for a committee's record keeping, report preparation, or report filing knowingly omits or underreports individual contributions or individual expenditures required to be disclosed by this act, that individual is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or the amount of the contributions and expenditures omitted or underreported, whichever is greater."

Accordingly, I request you refer Mr. Crider to the Attorney General's office for prosecution.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this rebuttal and your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your action on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Brad Moss

Ken Crider



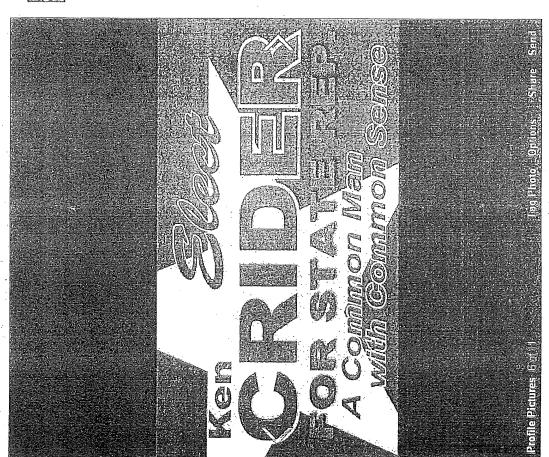


Exhibit B

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Ken Grider v. Ken Crider for State Rep. May 5, 2013 ©

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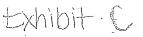
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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

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STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION FORM FOR CANDIDATE COMMITTEES

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Exhibit Day

Livonia state House candidate faces campaign finance violation complaint

May 28, 2014 | Written by David Veselenak Staff Writer



One candidate running to represent most of Livonia in the state Housed of Representatives has been accused of violating Michigan's campaign finance laws. Ken Crider, a Republican candidate in the state House 19th District race, had a complaint filed with the Secretary of State against him and his campaign earlier this month.

The complaint, filed by Walled Lake resident Brad Moss, alleges Crider began campaigning before officially filing his committee's Statement of Organization, failing to disclosure in-kind contributions made by his campaign to local Republican Party fundraisers and not providing disclosure on certain campaign materials.

Crider said he plans on fighting the complaint.

"The issues are a little suspect," he said. "I'm going to end up hiring an attorney, because I feel that I'm in the right in this."

He said as of Tuesday afternoon, he had not yet sent a rebuttal letter to the Secretary of State.

Under state law, Crider has 15 days from the letter's date to respond to the complaint. After that, the Secretary of State will offer Moss 10 days to issue a rebuttal statement.

After all the statements are collected, the Secretary of State has 60 days to determine whether a violation is believed to have occurred.

"Because it is an active investigation, no other information will be released until a determination is made," said Tracy Ward, a Secretary of State spokesperson.

The violations' penalties range from a civil infraction subject to a fine to a misdemeanor.

Crider is currently campaigning to represent most of Livonia in the 19th District. He will face current Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox in the Aug. 5 primary. The winner of that race will go on to run against Democrat Stacey Dogonski in the Nov. 4 general election.

The complaint

In the letter to the Secretary of State, Moss alleges Crider began campaigning before filing to run as a candidate. The complaint states Crider filed information on his candidate committee 61 days after beginning to campaign, over the 10 days according to law.

The complaint states that materials were posted on a Facebook page promoting Crider's candidacy on May 5, 2013, and that paperwork on his candidate committee was not filed until June 29, 2013.

"The candidate flagrantly disregarded the law by failing to file within 10 days after becoming a candidate and a statement or organization within 20 days after the committee was formed," the complaint reads. "The attached picture of the candidate's Facebook profile picture provides further evidence that the candidate began promoting the campaign logo well before the candidate filed for office and therefore is in violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act."

Crider said the post on Facebook was not any form of campaigning, and did not officially begin doing campaign work until later in the year.

"You don't officially announce your campaign on Facebook. To me, that was kind of feeling the waters," he said. "That wasn't campaigning."

The complaint states Crider's campaign provided pizza for an event held in October for the Republican Party and did not include a disclaimer that shows his campaign had paid for it. Crider said the signage clearly indicates the pizza was paid for by his campaign committee at the bottom.

The complaint also alleges that Crider's lending of a grill to several Republican Party events last year also was a violation, as it was not reported as an in-kind contribution.

It states on three occasions, Crider loaned his grill to be used for the U.S. House 11th District Republican Committee Picnic on July 20, 2013 in Farmington Hills; the Wayne 11th Picnic July 24, 2013, in Canton; and the Wayne County Republican Committee Picnic on Sept. 15, 2013.

Crider said the grill was one he and his son built together and was not something that had no monetary value attached to it.

"It's my own personal grill that I do not loand out to anybody," he said. "It's not an inkind contribution, because it's not something that has a monetary value. It's my own personal grill."

Ken Crider for State Rep. Liked January 2 🔅



With Paul Cusick, Audrey Robinson, Jordyn Salmon and Mark Hutchins.

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Exhibit E

MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN STATEMENT EXPENDITURE SEARCH

ISI Committee Name: FRIENDS OF KEN CRIDER ISI Statement Type: ANNUAL CS ISI Statement Year 2014 IDINECT EXPENDITURES IN Schedule: ITEMIZED DIRECT EXPENDITURES Committee Name: FRIENDS OF KEN ORIDER Statement Type: ANNUAL CS

here are no Expenditures of this type attached to this Campaign Statement.

- (Campaign Finance On-Line) - - -

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

October 14, 2014

Kenneth E. Crider 16381 Fairway Street Livonia, Michigan 48154

Dear Mr. Crider:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of the complaint filed against you by Brad Moss, which alleged that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq*. This letter concerns the disposition of Mr. Moss' complaint.

The Act's definition of a candidate includes an individual who "[r]eceives a contribution, makes an expenditure, or gives consent for another person to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with a view to bringing about the individual's nomination or election to an elective office, whether or not the specific elective office for which the individual will seek nomination or election is known at the time the contribution is received or the expenditure is made." MCL 169.203(1)(c). The Act further requires an individual to form a candidate committee within 10 days once the individual becomes a candidate under the definition provided in the Act. MCL 169.203(2), 169.221(1). A committee shall file a statement of organization within 10 days of its formation. MCL 169.224(1). Late fees may be incurred if the statement of organization is filed late. *Id.* Failure to file a statement of organization for more than 30 days is a misdemeanor. *Id.*

The Act also requires candidate committees to file complete and accurate campaign finance statements and reports. MCL 169.233, 169.235. A candidate who knowingly files an incomplete or inaccurate statement or report may be subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000.00. MCL 169.233(10), 235(6). A candidate who knowingly omits or underreports a contribution or expenditure may be subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000.00, or the amount of the undisclosed contribution or expenditure, whichever is greater. MCL 169.233(11).

Finally, 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(6).

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, and if the Department is unable to correct or prevent additional violations, it must ask the Attorney General to prosecute if a crime has been committed. MCL

Kenneth E. Crider October 14, 2014 Page 2

169.215(10)(a). The objective of an informal resolution is "to correct the violation or prevent a further violation [.]" *Id*.

Mr. Moss filed his complaint on May 13, 2014. You filed an answer on June 4, 2014, and Mr. Moss filed a rebuttal statement on June 26, 2014.

Mr. Moss alleged that you failed to file a statement of organization in a timely manner, failed to disclose certain expenditures made by your candidate committee, and failed to include a complete and correct identification statement on certain campaign material.

Statement of Organization

A candidate is required to form a committee within 10 days of becoming a candidate as defined by the Act, and that committee is required to file a Statement of Organization within 10 days of its formation. MCL 169.221(1), 224(1).

Mr. Moss alleged that you became a candidate on May 5th, 2014 when you "began promoting [your] candidacy by posting onto a Facebook page called, 'Ken Crider for State Rep.' a picture of [your] campaign logo [.]" As evidence, Mr. Moss provided a printout of your Facebook page which shows a picture that states "Elect Ken CRIDER FOR STATE REP." and a picture which states "MI 19th District Serving all of Livonia Kenneth Crider . . . Vote in the Primary Election August 5, 2014 [.]" It appears that the first picture was posted on Facebook on May 5, 2013 and the second on June 12, 2013. Mr. Moss also provided a copy of your candidate committee's Statement of Organization which lists the date your committee formed as July 20, 2013.

In response you asserted that you created the pictures yourself, posted them on Facebook yourself, and no money was spent, nor any contributions to your candidacy received. While the Department notes that Mr. Moss is correct that words of "express advocacy" of your nomination were made, merely announcing your candidacy in the absence of filing for office or the making of a contribution or expenditure does not meet the definition of a candidate contained in the Act. In the absence of any evidence that a contribution was received or an expenditure made prior to July 10, 2013 (10 days before your committee formed), the Department takes you at your word and this portion of Mr. Moss' complaint is dismissed.

Inaccurate Campaign Statements

Candidate committees are required to file complete and accurate campaign finance statements and reports. MCL 169.233, 169.235.

Mr. Moss alleged that you failed to report expenditures on your 2014 Annual campaign statement for the use of a grill provided by the committee at the July 20, 2013 11th Congressional District Republican Committee picnic, the July 24, 2013 Wayne 11th picnic, and the September 15, 2013 Wayne County Republican Committee picnic. As evidence Mr. Moss provided screen shots of pictures from your Ken Crider for State Rep. Facebook page. The pictures show the grill along with a sign that states "Grill Provided by Ken Crider for State Representative [.]"

In response you asserted that the grill is owned by you personally and has never been for hire or rent. The Department also notes that your candidate committee's name is "Friends of Ken

Kenneth E. Crider October 14, 2014 Page 3

Crider" not "Ken Crider for State Representative [.]" While it is regrettable that the language used on your sign may lead a reader to believe an expenditure was made by your candidate committee in relation to the use of the grill, absent any evidence that indicates the grill is the property of the committee, the Department takes you at your word that the grill is personally owned by you and this portion of Mr. Moss' complaint is dismissed.

However, the Department notes that the "grill provided by" sign is attached to a sign which states, "Elect Ken CRIDER FOR MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE [.]" The Department reviewed your 2014 Annual campaign statement and no expenditures appear on the statement in regard to this sign. The Department further notes that there are no expenditures disclosed on your 2014 Annual Statement in regard to the sign which appeared at the 11th Congressional District Committee's Pizza, Pistols and Politics event on October 1, 2013 which stated, "PIZZA PROVIDED BY Elect Ken CRIDER FOR STATE REP."

Mr. Moss further alleged that you failed to report expenditures for business cards and other campaign literature. However, Mr. Moss provided no evidence that you paid for business cards or campaign literature in 2013, and your 2014 Pre-Primary campaign statement discloses more than \$3,000.00 in printing costs.

The Department finds that the evidence supports a reason to believe that you omitted expenditures for the above-referenced signs from your 2014 Annual campaign statement. By October 31, 2014 please file an amended 2014 Annual campaign statement with the Department that discloses all expenditures made by the committee in 2013, including all costs associated with campaign signs. After the Department reviews your amended statement, it will determine if any further enforcement action is appropriate.

Missing/Incomplete Identification Statement

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).

Mr. Moss alleged that some of your campaign material failed to contain a proper paid-for-by statement. As evidence, Mr. Moss included pictures of the above-referenced signs.

In response, you stated that "the required disclaimer was missing from one hastily made sign [,]" but that the "paid for by" was on your "PIZZA PROVIDED BY" sign. The Department notes that you included a picture of the "PIZZA PROVIDED BY" sign which does clearly show "PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF KEN CRIDER" at the bottom. However, a complete identification statement must also include the address of your committee. Even with the evidence you provided, the committee's address appears to be omitted from the sign. You further stated in your response that "you realized your error" in omitting an identification statement from one sign, but that you have "included the 'Paid for by' disclaimer on all of [your] campaign material since."

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

Kenneth E. Crider October 14, 2014 Page 4

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 issuing this warning and 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.

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(5), 215(10).

The Department now considers this portion of Mr. Moss' complaint resolved by the issuance of this warning.

Kindly file your Amended 2014 Annual campaign statement with the Department by October 31, 2014. After its review of your amended statement, the Department will determine how to proceed with enforcement.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

Lovi A Bombonais



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

January 22, 2015

Kenneth E. Crider 16381 Fairway Street Livonia, Michigan 48154

Dear Mr. Crider:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of the complaint filed against you by Brad Moss, which alleged that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 et seq.

The Department notified you by letter dated October 14, 2014 that the Department found the evidence in this matter supported a reason to believe that you filed an incomplete or inaccurate 2014 Annual campaign statement. The Department requested that you file a complete and correct Amended 2014 Annual statement. The Department also indicated that after the Department reviewed your amended statement, it would determine if any further enforcement action was appropriate.

You filed your Amended 2014 Annual statement on October 24, 2014. The Department has carefully reviewed this statement and has determined that no further enforcement action is necessary at this time, and now considers this matter closed.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State