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MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

(no subject)

1 message

2022 AUG -9 AM 10: 23

FILED IN ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

Dixie Anderson <dix.lee.anderson@gmail.com>
To: Dixie Anderson <dix.lee.anderson@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 10:04 AM

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

Enclosed please find:

1
Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance Complaint Form and supporting documentation of alleged violation of Michigan Election Code.

Section 168.944

2
July 7, 2022
E-mail correspondence between me and Schoolcraft County Clerk. Beth Edwards, regarding the content of campaign material being used by Mr. Craig Reiter in his bid for office in Schoolcraft County Commissioner.

3
July 12
My request to the Schoolcraft County Sheriff Charles Willour for an investigation of a potential violation of Michigan Election Code.

4.
Picture of the sign that was at that time posted in Mr. Reiter's yard.

5.
Pictures of the literature that at that time being distributed by Mr. Reiter which is duplicated on his Facebook posting.

July 14, 2022 I discussed the matter with Sheriff Willour and confirmed that an officer had discussed the matter with Mr. Reiter and that the sign had been revised and the term "Re-Elect" modified to "Elect". I have also become aware that the written material has also been revised..

At this point the Facebook posting has not been corrected

Section 169.247

Exhibits 4 and 5 demonstrate that the required disclosure information is absent from the campaign materials.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dixie Anderson



Michigan Department of State
Campaign Finance Complaint Form

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

RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

2022 AUG -9 AM 10:24

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 <u>Dixie Anderson</u>		Daytime Telephone Number <u>906 341-6545</u>	
Mailing Address <u>5730 W U.S. Hwy 2</u>			
City <u>Manistiquet</u>	State <u>MI</u>	Zip <u>49854</u>	
Email (optional) <u>dix.lee.anderson@gmail.com</u>			

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name <u>Craig Reiter</u>		
Mailing Address <u>P.O. Box 87</u>		
City <u>Gulliver</u>	State <u>MI</u>	Zip <u>49840</u>
Email (optional)		

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

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: 168.944 and 169.247

Explain how those sections were violated:

168.944 False designation of
incumbency
169.247

Election materials - signs, literature
do not have identification or disclaimer

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

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

Daniel Anderson
Signature of Complainant

8-1-22

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



Yard signs a hand outs

6 messages

Dixie Anderson <dix.lee.anderson@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 12:25 PM

To: Beth Edwards - County Clerk <clerk@schoolcraftcounty.us>

Ms Edward's.

I have noticed that Craig Reiter is using the term "re-elect". on his campaign signs and material. I am, at this time asking you if tha is allowed in view of the fact that is is not currently in office? Thank you for your timely response to this inquiry,

Dixie Anderson
Chairperson
Schoolcraft County Democratic Party.

Beth A. Edwards <clerk@schoolcraftcounty.us>

Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 4:13 PM

To: Dixie Anderson <dix.lee.anderson@gmail.com>

I have place a call to Election Bureau and will get back to you when I get an answer. Thank you.

Beth A. Edwards

Schoolcraft County Clerk

300 Walnut Street, Rm 164

Manistique, MI 49854

(906) 341-3618

[Quoted text hidden]

Beth A. Edwards <clerk@schoolcraftcounty.us>

Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 4:58 PM

To: Dixie Anderson <dix.lee.anderson@gmail.com>

I don't believe that is allowed as he is not currently a commissioner. If you wish to file a complaint it would need to be filed with the Michigan State Police or Sheriff's Department or you could call him as well.

Have a great evening.

Beth A. Edwards

Schoolcraft County Clerk

300 Walnut Street, Rm 164

Manistique, MI 49854

Schoolcraft County Sheriff
Charles Willour
300 Main Street
Manistique, MI
49854

Election Code Violation.

Pursuant to the communications between myself, Dixie Anderson, and Ms. Beth Edwards, Schoolcraft County Clerk,

I am requesting an investigation of a violation of
Election Code 168.944,

False designation of incumbency, misdemeanor

Sec.944 by Mr. Craig Reiter, candidate for the office of County Commissioner for District 1, Schoolcraft County.

As I advised Ms. Edwards in the attached email, I have noticed that Mr. Craig Reiter, is using the term "Re-Elect' on and in his campaign materials.

In order to correct this violation of the law, and to counteract the false/misleading information distributed by Craig Reiter I am at this time asking;

1.

Craig Reiter cease and desist using the term "Re-elect/reelect" in his campaign.

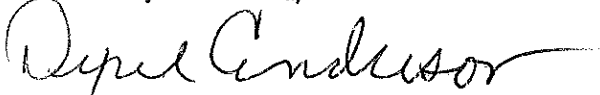
2,

All campaign literature, web posts, Facebook posts, campaign signs and any other campaign information that contains the term "Re-Elect or Reelect" be immediately removed and or corrected

3.

Because Mr. Reiter has been using the term "Re-elect" and creating misinformation among the voters, Mr Reiter submit to the local newspaper, a public statement acknowledging that he published inaccurate and misleading campaign.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dixie Anderson



Sign

1 message

ALAN K <ak6000@live.com>

To: Dixie Anderson <dix.lee.anderson@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 10, 2022 at 9:45 PM



Alan Kilar

RE-ELECT

Craig A. REITER

County Commissioner ★ District 1

The "Right" Choice

- ☒ Supports Gun Rights
- ☒ Supports Law Enforcement
- ☒ Supports The Constitution
- ☒ Supports The Bill of Rights
- ☒ Conservative
- ☒ 35 Year County Resident
- ☒ 10 Years Experience
- ☒ Proud Veteran



COMMON-SENSE CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP

Front

Craig A
REITER
County Commissioner ★ District 1

Common-Sense Conservative



About Craig:

Pro Life
Pro 2nd Amendment

35 Year Schoolcraft
County resident,
1st Vice President
in Community Mental Health
Association of Michigan.

**Standing Up For
Schoolcraft County**

"I am running again for County Commission because I want to keep Schoolcraft County moving in the right direction. Now more than ever, our community and country need people who are willing to step up, ask tough questions, and truly offer service to the public. We need people who are willing to dig in and do the work with a common-sense approach."

Craig A Reiter

COMMON-SENSE CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP

VOTE REITER AUG.2ND AND NOV. 8th

Back



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

September 14, 2022

Craig Reiter
PO Box 87
Gulliver, MI 49840

Dear Mr. Reiter:

The Department of State (Department) has received a complaint filed against you pursuant to section 15(5) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.215(5). The complaint alleges that you falsely claim you are an incumbent under the MCFA and that your materials fail to provide a proper paid for by statement. This letter concerns the disposition of the complaint.

The MCFA generally regulates the source, amount, and disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures. The campaign finance complaint process, which is described more fully at MCL 169.215, is designed to address allegations relating to the receipt of prohibited contributions, unauthorized expenditures, improper disclosure, and so on. In contrast, the Michigan Election Law (MEL), 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 *et seq.*, governs the administration of elections including the circulation and filing of petitions, voter registration, ballot counting procedures, certification of election results and provides a list of certain election-related offenses such as forgery, perjury, and the false designation of incumbency.

It is important to understand that the Department's investigatory powers are strictly limited to purported violations of the MCFA. MCL 169.215(5), (10). Upon a careful review of the complaint and supporting documentation submitted, alleges that you violated the MEL by claiming on his campaign literature that he is a current councilman. The MEL provides:

Any person who advertises or uses in any campaign material, including radio, television, newspapers, circulars, cards, or stationery, the words incumbent, re-elect, re-election, or otherwise indicates, represents, or gives the impression that a candidate for public office is the incumbent, when in fact the candidate is not the incumbent, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable as provided in section 934.

MCL 168.944. Other provisions of the MEL, specifically sections 940 and 941, MCL 168.940 and 168.941, confer upon law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys the authority to investigate and prosecute such criminal violations of the MEL.

Since this part of the complaint concerns the application and enforcement of the MEL, this cannot be the subject of a campaign finance complaint filed under the MCFA. See MCL 169.215(5) (“[a] person may file with the secretary of state a complaint that alleges a violation of *this act* [,]”) and MCL 169.215(10) (the secretary of state may “refer the matter to the attorney

general for the enforcement of a criminal penalty provided *by this act.*") (Emphasis added). The campaign finance complaint process simply is not designed to resolve complaints involving purported violations of the MEL.

For this reason, the Department has no alternative but to dismiss this portion of the complaint.

Paid for By Statement

Regarding the second portion of 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 material specifically 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 materials are covered by the ambit of the Act and must include the paid for by statement outlined under section 47. MCL 169.206(2)(j). However, the signs have completely omitted the required paid for by statement. Since this phrase 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 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Fracassi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Adam Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State