



Michigan Department of State
Campaign Finance Complaint Form

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

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 MARLYN BACHOCHIN		Daytime Telephone Number (586) 713-7284	
Mailing Address 7079 MIDDLECOFF DRIVE			
City WASHINGTON TWP.	State MI	Zip 48094	
Email (optional) mjmbac11@comcast.net			

Section 2. Alleged Violator			
Name BENEDICT BONGIORNO JR.			
Mailing Address 57734 FRED A DRIVE			
City WASHINGTON TWP.	State MI	Zip 48094	
Email (optional)			

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:

ADDRESS MISSING IN "PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO
ELECT BENEDICT BONGIORNO" ON THE POLITICAL SIGN.

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

TWO PHOTOS OF POLITICAL 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 Marlyn Bachichin 6-15-2022
Signature of Complainant 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:

NOT Applicable

X Marlyn Bachichin 6-15-2022
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

MDOS-BOERegulatory

From: SOS, Disclosure
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 1:50 PM
To: MDOS-BOERegulatory
Subject: FW: August 2, 2022 Washington Twp Trustee Candidate Ben Bongiorno CTE Sign Violation
Attachments: Campaign Finance Complaint Form_15Jun2022.pdf; Bongiorno_CTE Violation_Image 2_3Jun2022.jpg; Bongiorno_CTE Violation_Image 1_3Jun2022.jpg

From: Marlyn Bachochin <mjmbac11@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 9:52 AM
To: SOS, Disclosure <Disclosure@michigan.gov>
Subject: August 2, 2022 Washington Twp Trustee Candidate Ben Bongiorno CTE Sign Violation

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Please see attached: **Campaign Finance Complaint Form** along with supporting evidence for the following candidate:

Ben Bongiorno
57734 Freda Drive
Washington Twp., MI 48094

Please contact me if there are any questions.
Marlyn Bachochin
(586) 713-7284

FOR BEN
BONGIORNO
FOR

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
TRUSTE

STANDING FOR THE
PEOPLE

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT BENEDICT BONGIORNO



VOTE FOR

BEN
BONGIORNO

FOR

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

TRUSTEE

**STANDING FOR THE
PEOPLE**

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT BENEDICT BONGIORNO



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

July 22, 2022

Mr. Benedict Bongiorno, Jr.
57734 Freda Drive
Washington Township, MI 48094

Re: *Bachochin v. Bongiorno, Jr.*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022-06-22-247

Dear Mr. Bongiorno:

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 the address of the person paying for your campaign; a copy of the complaint is enclosed.

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 the materials fall within the ambit of the MCFA. Because the materials explicitly advocate for the election or defeat of a candidate, or for the passage or defeat of a ballot proposal, the materials contain express advocacy as defined by the Act. MCL 169.206(2)(j). As explained above, such materials must contain a "paid for by" statement listing the name and address of the committee purchasing the materials. However, the evidence shows that the materials at issue here omit part or all of that required statement. That absence supports the conclusion that a potential violation of the MCFA 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,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure

c: Marlyn Bachochin – Via Email at mjmbac11@comcast.net