



**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

RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

2022 JUL 18 PM 2: 26

ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

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 Cody A. Mott		Daytime Telephone Number 616-644-5596
Mailing Address 1874 Leffingwell Ave. NE,		
City Grand Rapids	State MI	Zip 49525
Email (optional) codyamott@gmail.com		

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name Committee to Elect Kayle Keith Hinkle Jr.		
Mailing Address 3722 Grand River Dr NE		
City Grand Rapids	State MI	Zip 49525
Email (optional)		

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

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: MCL 169.247(1).

Explain how those sections were violated:

Section 47 of the MCFA states that a "placard, poster, pamphlet, or other printed matter having reference to an election, [or] a candidate . . . shall bear upon it an identification that contains the *name and address* of the person paying for the matter." MCL 169.247(1) (emphasis added). In support of his State Senate race, Candidate Keith Hinkle has been distributing palm cards that do not include an address or other contact information in violation of section 47 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Evidence included with the submission of the complaint that supports the allegations:  
See attached placard.

**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

07/09/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.

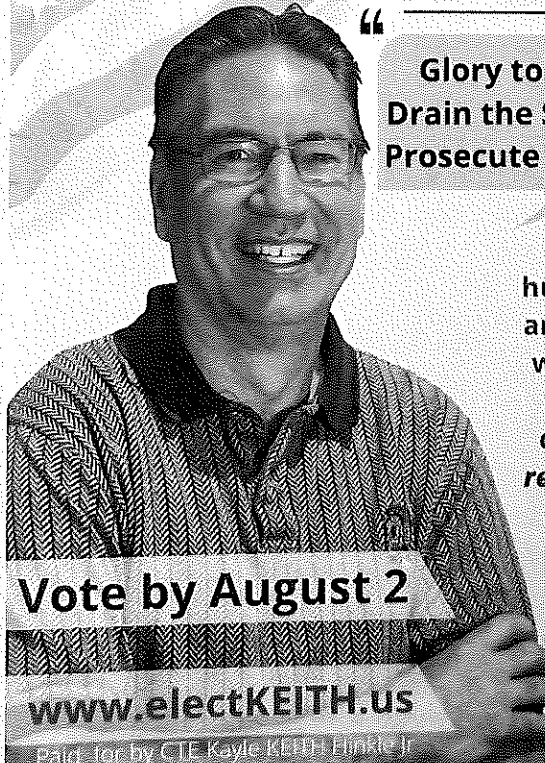
**Section 6. Submission**

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

# **Elect Keith Hinkle for MI State Senate**

**30th District - north GR, GR Twp, Cascade, Ada,  
Plainfield, Rockford, Alpine, Allendale,  
Coopersville, Wright, Tallmadge, Polkton**



“

**Glory to God!!  
Drain the Swamp!  
Prosecute Crimes!**

”

***Conservative  
Christian,  
husband, father,  
and grandfather  
willing to serve  
God and our  
community to  
restore integrity  
to our public  
servant  
legislature***

**Vote by August 2**

**[www.electKEITH.us](http://www.electKEITH.us)**

Paid for by CTE Kayle KEITH Hinkle Jr

## Conservative Candidate

Our political community is filled with people who claim to fight for our cause, but actually only damage our political achievements.

These RINOs participate in our community, appear pleasant and trustworthy, even seem well meaning, but will not stand on our critical principles of truth and honesty.

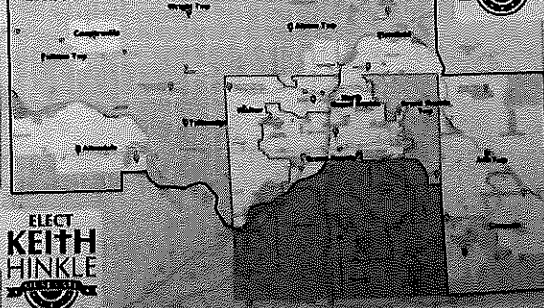
As state senator I plan to satisfy the 90% of republican voters that want the swamp drained of these RINOs and every other freedom rebuking political figure.

NOW is our chance to accomplish this in our district.

With your vote we will instill integrity and transparency along with honoring the constitution and the 2016 Republican platform that defends the constitution.

### Our District:

MICHIGAN SENATE  
90TH DISTRICT



ELECT  
KEITH  
HINKLE

Paid for by CTE Kayle KEITH Hinkle Jr



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

September 6, 2022

Committee to Elect Keith Hinkle, Jr.  
3722 Grand River Drive, NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Re: *Mott v Committee to Elect Kayle [sic] Keith Hinkle, Jr.*  
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022-07-50-247

Dear Committee Chairperson:

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 campaign identifiers on printed placards; 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

Attachment

c: Mr. Cody A. Mott – Via email at [codyamott@gmail.com](mailto:codyamott@gmail.com)