

Michigan Department of State - Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building 1st Floor
430 W. Allegan St, Lansing, MI 48918

6 June 2022


Complainant	Alleged Violator
Jason A. Watts PO Box 216 Allegan, MI 49010-0216 269.569.0848 Jaw.watts@gmail.com	CTE Kaleb Hudson 717 72 nd St SE Grand Rapids, MI 49548
Section of MCFA alleged to be violated:	MCL 169.247

Now appears Mr. Jason A. Watts, Complainant, PO Box 216, Allegan, MI 49010, making his complaint against CTE Kaleb Hudson, 717 72nd St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49548. In this complaint, Mr. Watts states:

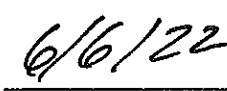
1. That CTE Kaleb Hudson is the committee for Kaleb Hudson, candidate for State Senate – 20th District, filed with the Michigan Bureau of Elections.
2. That CTE Kaleb Hudson is distributing literature **without** any sort of disclaimer (attached in violation of MCL 169.247 (pictured). A proper disclaimer must say: "Paid for by [Committee Name] [Committee Address]".
3. That CTE Kaleb Hudson is displaying signs **with** the proper disclaimer (attached).

Mr. Watts believes that CTE Kaleb Hudson by not having a disclaimer on his literature, yet having a proper disclaimer on their signs is knowingly trying to circumvent the MCFA **169.247** and that a **\$1,000 fine**, imprisonment for up to **93 days**, or **both** be assessed.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, each factual contention of this complaint is supported by evidence.

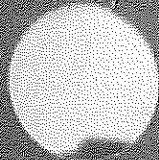


Jason A. Watts, Complainant



Date





*"I'm here to represent the
people and make sure
their voices are heard." -
Kaleb Hudson*



Why am I running?

- I am running because it is now time that the people in Michigan are represented. The people's voices are not being heard anymore. It is time for the people's voices to be heard and time for the power to go back to the people.

Priorities

- Budget: We need to reform the budget so the money that is in it will be used properly.

- Education: The school supplies teachers buy should be state funded and it is time teachers get a pay raise.

- Taxes: Taxes in Michigan are high and it is affecting a lot of Michigan families. We need to lower taxes.

votekalebhudson@gmail.com

votekalebhudson.org

(616)581-0336

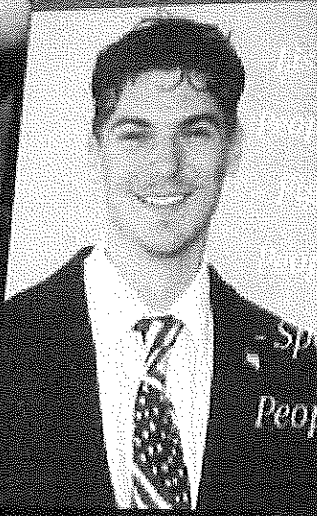
VOTE

KALEB HUDSON

REPUBLICAN STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 20



"A Politician who Cares"



*...ens to the
...ple
...ghts for the
...ple
...Speaks for the
...People*

MDOS-BOERegulatory

From: SOS, Disclosure
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 9:52 AM
To: MDOS-BOERegulatory
Subject: FW: Complaint - CTE Kaleb Hudson Cmte # 520480
Attachments: CTE Hudson Complaint.pdf; image2.jpeg; image1.jpeg; image0.jpeg

From: Jason A. Watts <jaw.watts@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 11:35 PM
To: SOS, Disclosure <Disclosure@michigan.gov>
Subject: Complaint - CTE Kaleb Hudson Cmte # 520480

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

Please find my complaint against the committee listed above and supporting evidence attached. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers below. Thank you.

-Jason A. Watts

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Jason A. Watts
PO Box 216
Allegan, MI 49010-0216
269.998.3991
Tweet: [@jawwatts](https://twitter.com/jawwatts)
jaw.watts@gmail.com

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

August 1, 2022

Committee for Kaleb Hudson
717 72nd Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Re: *Watts v. CTE Kaleb Hudson*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022-06-20-247

Dear Sir/Madam:

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 signs and campaign literature; 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: Jason A. Watts