15 November 2021

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

Campaign Finance Complaint ICO: Ginger Obermeyer

Name & phone number of persons filing the complaint: David H. Atchison / Ph (301) 653-8354

Address of person filing complaint: 108 West Erie St, Albion, MI. 49224

The alleged violator's name: Ginger Obermeyer (Kids First Campaign Treasurer)

The Alleged violator's address: 215 East Drive

Marshall, MI 49068

Allegations:

Section(s) of the MCFA Violated:

Section 26 (1) (b) & (1) (j) Section 33 (1), (10) & (11) Section 34 (7)

Kids First Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete and inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign finance report as detailed below.

- 1. Section 26 (1) (b) of the MCFA was violated as follows: The Committee's actual business address was not entered into Block 6. Ginger Obermeyer is employed by the Calhoun County Intermediate School System. Block 6 shows Ginger Obermeyer's residential address NOT her business address. The address shown in Block 5 and Block 6 are both her residential address.
- 2. Section 26 (1) (j); 33 (1); 33 (10); (11); and 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: Campaign Committee Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer filed an incomplete and inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Report by omitting the full name and street address of each person or business entity to whom expenditures were made failed to report the amounts and purposes of numerous expenditures made, or in-kind contributions received during the period 8/26/21 to 10/17/21. Ginger Obermeyer demonstrated an understanding of her responsibility, as Committee Treasurer to report expenditures on the Committee's Pre-Election report as evidenced by her inclusion of the \$84.08 in fees expended for online fees to Stripe INC. However, Giner Obermeyer omitted more than ten (10) individual expeditures required to be disclosed by the MCFA, and as a result of knowing the mandated reporting requirements outlined in MCFA, Ginger Obermeyer knowingky filed an incomplete and inaccurate report in violation of the MCFA.

- 3. Section 26 (1) (e) of the MCFA was violated as follows: Schedule 4A, Page 2 of 12 for the Pre-election report has an inaccurate name in Block 3 for Contribution #4. The correct name is: Ian Gilyard-Schnaitman. The name entered by Ms. Obermeyer is Ian Schnaitman
- 4. Section 26 (1) (e) of the MCFA was violated as follows: Schedule 4A, Page 3 of 12 for the Pre-election report has an incorrect name in Block 3 for Contribution #3. The correct name is: Mae Olla Dunklin. The name entered by Ms. Obermeyer is Mae Olla. (Refer to extract from Registered Voter Roll for City of Albion provided as substantiating evidence.)
- 5. Sections 26 (1)(e), (1)(g) & 33 (10) of the MCFA were violated as follows: Schedule 4A, Page 12 of 12 for the Pre-election report has a false name in Block 3 for Contribution #1. Kingscott Associates, is a business contracted by MPS in support of developing and getting the bond passed as a local ballot question. Mr. Robert Atkins (3rd) is the President of Kingscott Associates, located at 259 E Michigan Ave #308, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Ginger Obermeyer knowingly filed an inaccurate report by entering a name of someone other than the actual contributor. The address entered into Block #1 is the business address for Kingscott Associates. It is unknown whether the \$500.00 was actually donated by the president of the company or some other Kingscott employee. (Refer to extract from LinkedIn provided as supporting evidence.)
- 6. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: Kids First Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the professional production services of the Kids First Committee campaign logo by BlueFish Consulting, LLC located at 115 W Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI 49068. (A copy of a screenshot from 2 Sep 2021 -during the period of the report showing the logo, is provided as substantiating documentation.)
- 7. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the professional graphic production services of the *Kids First Committee* campaign digital ads WHERE? Created on or before 21 September 2021 -during the period of the report. (A copy of a screenshot from 21 Sep 2021 showing the add is provided as substantiating documentation.)
- 8. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the professional graphic production services of the *Kids First Committee* campaign digital

add WHERE? Created on or before 21 September 2021 -during the period of the report. (A copy of a screenshot from 21 Sep 2021 showing the add is provided as substantiating documentation.)

- 9. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the professional graphic services to produce the campaign video "MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2021 BOND" for the *Kids First Committee* campaign. Created on or before 22 September 2021 -during the period of the report. (A copy of a screenshot from 22 Sep 2021 showing the video is provided as substantiating documentation.)
- 10. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: Kids First Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the purchase of Kids First Committee campaign yard signs and "H" sign brackets during the Pre-Election reporting period. *Substantiating evidence provided includes: copy of a screenshot from 2 Oct 2021, taken from campaign committee FB page showing a sign and advertising the signs are available; screenshot taken of MPS School Board member Matt Davis' personal FB page offering -Kids First Committee VOTE YES campaign signs to Campaign Committee Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, District Superintendent Becky Lynn Jones, School Board President Richard Lindsey and the remaining members of the MPS School Board (Shawana Gamble, Larry Williams & Amanda Lankerd); witness statement from Michele Johnson stating she took the screen shot of Matt Davis' FB page showing/ offering VOTE YES campaign signs 1 October 2021. It is not plausible to believe Committee Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer was unaware committee funds were expended by the committee, or in-kind contribution in the form of campaign signs were received during the period of the report with the more than 50 signs on displays in resident yards within MPS District.
- 11. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the professional graphic services to produce the *Kids First Committee* campaign digital ads WHERE? Created on or before 21 September 2021 -during the period of the report. (A copy of a screenshot from 21 Sep 2021 showing the add is provided as substantiating documentation.)
- 12. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the

professional graphic services which produced a series of four (4) social media adds featuring quotes and photo cameos of supporters for the school bond posted 5 October 2 (Carol Stewart), 6 October 202 (Matt & Danielle Seibert), 17 October 2021 (Tara & Ryan) and 17 October 2021 (Steve & Kathy Searles. (Copies of screen shots of each of the 4 adds are provided as substantiating evidence.)

- 13. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: Kids First Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the professional graphic services to produce of the Kids First Committee campaign digital ads WHERE? Created on or before 21 September 2021 -during the period of the report. (A copy of a screenshot from 21 Sep 2021 showing the add is provided as substantiating documentation.)
- 14. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the for two (2) political campaign adds published in local newspapers during the period of the report. Copies of the newspaper adds are provided as substantive evidence.
 - a. Published 7 October 2021 in *The Recorder*, (Albion, MI.)
 - b. Published 9 October 2021 in e Ad-Visor & Chronicle)Marshall, MI.)
- 15. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the professional production and printing of large quantities of 7" X 9" color, glossy, double-sided campaign cards. Copies of screen shots of multiple cards and an actual campaign card are provided as substantive evidence.
- 16. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the legal services provided by law firm representing the *Kids First Committee*. A copy of the 28 September 2021 letter issued by law firm is provided as substantive evidence.

17. Sections 26 (1)(b), (j); 33 (1), (10), (11); & 34 (7) of the MCFA were violated as follows: *Kids First* Campaign Treasurer Ginger Obermeyer, knowingly filed an incomplete – inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report by failing to report in-kind contributions or expenditures of committee funds during the period of the report for the first-class postage & direct campaign mail sent in September 2021 on behalf of the *Kids First Committee*. A copy of the campaign mailer is provided as substantive evidence.

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.

· (Jam P

Date

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Get a \$650 Prepaid Card. - Switch to Comcast Business for our Best Deal of the



Robert Atkins · 3rd

President at Kingscott Associates

- Kingscott
 - Kingscott Associates
- Michigan Technological University

Kalamazoo, Michigan, United States · Contact info

500+ connections

Connect



More

About

Have been in the professional consulting business since 1992 working in the following areas/markets:

... see more

Activity

863 followers

Posts Robert created, shared, or commented on in the last 90 days are displayed here.

See all activity

Schaeffer Law Offices

J. Thomas Schaeffer, Attorney at Law Aaron A. Bartell, Attorney at Law

206 S. Kalamazoo Avenue - Marshall, Michigan 49068-1582 Telephone: (269) 781-5193 - Fax: (269) 781-2157 Email: schaefferlawoffices@gmail.com www.SchaefferLawOffices.com

September 28, 2021

Erica Robinson 17354 20-1/2 Mile Road Marshall, MI 49068

Kristin Burkwalt 27709 D Drive North Albion, MI 49224

Dear Ms. Robinson and Ms. Burkwalt:

Please be advised that this office represents Kids First Campaign Committee concerning certain postings on the internet that are inaccurate and defamatory. Reference has been made on Monday, September 20, 2021 and Tuesday, September 21, 2021 to a return address on an envelope belonging to someone who is in prison and previously lived at said address pursuant to the allegations on the internet. These allegations are false, and they are defamatory to the point that they give improper connotations in light of the discussions thereafter. This letter is sent with a demand that you cease and desist making such allegations concerning this address.

If in fact the postings concerning these false allegations continue, then appropriate legal action will be taken to deal with damages that are being inflicted upon the Kids First Campaign Committee. Further, discussion of these falsities by the publication of this letter or any other letter will be taken as exacerbation of the damages that you have already inflicted.

If you have questions concerning this, please advise.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

J. Thomas Schaeffer Schaeffer Law Offices

JTS/slh







Q Kids First Campaign - Ma...



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Kids First Campaign - Marshall Public School District updated their profile picture.

Sep 2 · 3



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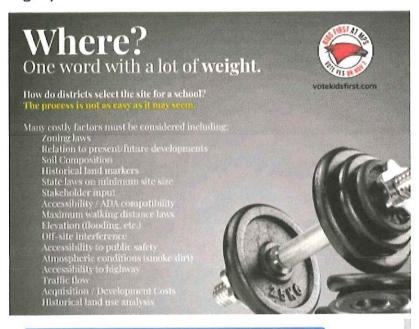
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Kids First Campaign - Marshall Public School District

Sep 21 · 3

What is involved with selecting a location for a new school? A lot. Take a look at this graphic for a list of some of the... See More



Save

1/1







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Kids First Campaign - Marshall Public School District

Sep 22 · 3

A short video with details about the bond. Please feel free to ask questions.



89 Comments • 64 Shares • 3.2K Views



☐ Save

1/1

This post on social media occurred 10/1/2021 by an MPS Board Member (Matt Davis) and tagging other MPS Board members (Richard Lindsey, Shawna Gamble, Larry Williams, Amanda Lankerd) and District Staff (Becky Lynn Jones).



Matt Davis

Would any of my friends in the Marshall Public Schools district like a sign to show support for the upcoming millage? Please let me know. Thank you. Ginger Obermyer, Richard C. Lindsey Jr., Shawna Gamble, Larry Williams, Amanda Lankerd Becky Lynn.



At the conclusion of the MPS Bond Forum on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at Marshall Opportunity High School, 225 East Watson Street, Alboin Michigan, I witnessed MPS Board of Education Trustee Shawana Gable make an announcement to the crowd as everyone was leaving the auditorium, "If anyone wants a Kids First sign, I have some in my car."

Medilik

Michele Johnson – Eckford Township, Michigan

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Kids First Campaign - Marshall Public School District

Oct 2 . 3

Show your support with a yard sign. If you'd like one, please message us with your address. We'll deliver it to ... See More



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Kids First Campaign - Marshall Public School District

Oct 15 · 3

"I often recall what my former principal would say, 'For many children the best part of their day is when they're in s... See More



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Oct 16 · 3

"Education is more than content. It's a safe and comfortable learning space. It's resources for teachers and staf... See More



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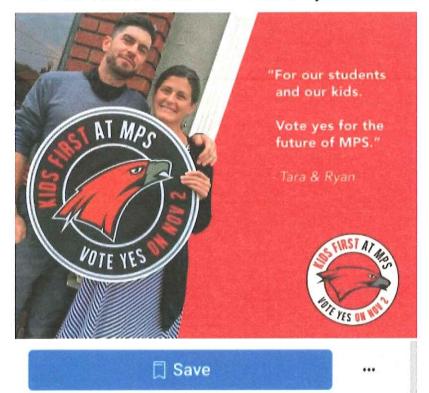
Photos



Kids First Campaign - Marshall Public School District

Oct 17 · 3

"For our students and our kids. Vote yes for the future of MPS." - Tara & Ryan



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Q Kids First Campaign - Ma...



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1 Comment • 5 Shares



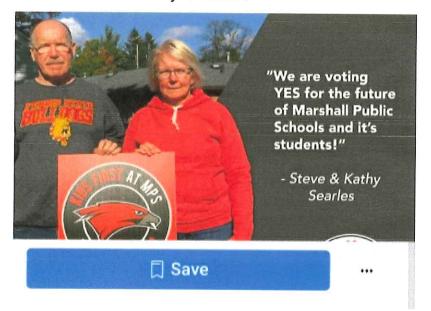


Kids First Campaign - Marshall Public School District

Oct 17 · 3

"We are voting yes for the future of Marshall Public Schools and its students!"

- Steve and Kathy Searles









BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE COVER PAGE

Report must be legible, typed or printed in ink and signed by the treasurer or designated record keeper. 1. Committee i.D. Number 1. Committee i.D. Number 2. Committee Name 2. Committee Name 2. Committee Name 3. This Statement covers From: 8/26/21 To 10/11 4. Committee's Mailing Address 21.5 EST TOWN 4. Committee's Mailing Address MISSTERM 490C8 MISSTERM 11/15 box is different from the committee mailing address the Statement of Organization, mail may be sent to this address by the official.	<u>ar</u>
1. Committee's Mailing Address 144097 2. Committee Name Wids First Campaign Area Code and Phone: 419008 Area Code and Phone: 419008 Area Code and Phone: 419008 Area Code and Phone: 61 in the committee mailing address in this box is different from the committee mailing address the Statement of Organization, mail may be sent to this address by the official.	
2. Committee Name Wids First Campaign Area Code and Phone: 416-200-4429 If the address in this box is different from the committee mailing address the Statement of Organization, mail may be sent to this address by the official.	ĺ
2. Committee Name Wids First Campaign Area Code and Phone: 49000 If the address in this box is different from the committee mailing address the Statement of Organization, mail may be sent to this address by the official.	
the Statement of Organization, mail may be sent to this address by the official. 5. Treasurer's Name and Residential Address	1
5. Treasurer's Name and Residential Address	on ling
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Chrocobernat	Ì
als Est De mashell mI grace	
Area Code and Phone 415-242-4427	
6. Treasurer's Business Address 7. Designated Record Keeper's Name and Mailing Address (if the committee has a Designated Record Keeper)	
215 Fest Dive Derek Allen	
morshall, mx 49008 morshall, mx 49008 morshall, mx 49008 morshall, mx 49008	1
Area Code and Phone 419-202-4429 Area Code and Phone 517-418-000	
Area Code and Phone 1/1/2004/1/40 Mea Code and Phone 51/1/2004 Bb. Bd: Bf. DISSOLUTION OF	
8. TYPE OF STATEMENT: Post Pelition Sample Filing COMMITTEE REQUEST	1
FEBRUARY STATEMENT Under MCL 168.483a Effective Date of Dissolution	
8a. PRE- ELECTION APRIL STATEMENT (Required of Statewide Ballot	
Cluster Question Committees only after	
The submission of a sample petition the submission of a sample petition the committee has no assets outstanding debts, including the petition.	that
Pre-Election or Post-Election Statement relates to: PRIMARY Outstanding debts, including thing fees, Note: The disposition fees, Note: The disposition residual funds must be report Schedule 4B and the Summe Page.	on of
PRIMARY BC ANNUAL STATEMENT 86. CAMPAIGN STATEMENT Schedule 4B and the Summs	У
GENERAL (Coverage Year) (Complete Item 8a, 8b, 8c 8d, or 8f	
being amended)	
SPECIAL OTHER:	
Date of Election:	
A committee that does not have a Reporting Walver must file all required Campaign Statements. The Campaign Statements must include all app Schedules. Direct contributions, in-kind contributions, toans, expanditures and outstanding debts count against the \$1,000 Reporting Walver time if any of the information listed in items 4,5,5, or 7 has changed since the information was shown on the committee's Statement of Organization amendment to the Statement of Organization should accompany this Campaign Statement. If a request for a Reporting Walver is not received or before the filling deadline of a required campaign statement, that campaign statement can not be waived.	cable hold.
If any of the information listed in items 4, 5, 5, or 7 has changed since the information was shown on the changed statement of organization should accompany this Campaign Statement. If a request for a Reporting Waiver is not received or before the filling deadline of a required campaign statement, that campaign statement can not be waived.	on
9. Verification: Logrify that all reasonable diligence was used in the preparation of this statement and attached schedules (if any) and to the best of	
my knowledge and belief the contents are true, accurate and complete.	
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Current Treasurer or Designated Record Keeper Character Obermus Jack	



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SUMMARY PAGE	1. Committee I.D. Number 1446	<u> </u>
BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE	2. Committee Name Kids Fi	rst Campaign
RECEIPTS	Column I This Period	Golumn II Cumulative for Election Cycle
Contributions But an area of the state of the st	(3a.) \$ 5630.00 V	
Unitemized Contributions (less than \$20.01 - no Schedule)	(3b.) \$ NOT APPLICABLE	,
c. Subjetal of Contributions	• (3c.) \$	(18.)\$
4. Other Receipts (Schedule 4A-1, Column 6)	(4.) \$	(19.) \$
5. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER RECEIPTS (Add Line 3 c + Line 4)	(5.) \$ 5630.00 V	(20.) \$
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS		
6. In-Kind Contributions a. Itemized In-Kind Contributions (Schedule 4-IK, Column 7)	(6s.) \$	· .
b. Unitemized (less than \$20.01 each - no Schedule)	(6b.) \$ NOT APPLICABLE	
7. TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS (Add Line 6a + Line 6b)	(7.) \$	(21.) \$
EXPENDITURES		
8. Expenditurés	0/140	
a. Itemized Direct Expenditures (Schedule 48, Column 7)	(8a.) \$ 84.08 V	
b. Itemized Get-Out-The Vote (Schedule 48-G, Column 6)	(8b.) \$	
c. (n-Kind Expenditures - Purchase of Goods or Services (Schedule 4B-2, Column 7)	(8c.) \$	
d. Unitemized Expenditures (\$50,00 or less-no Schedule)	(8d.) \$	
e. Subtotal of Expenditures	* (8e.) \$	(22.) \$
9, Independent Expenditures (Schedule 4B-1, Column 7)	(9.) \$	(23.) \$
10. YOTAL EXPENDITURES (Add Line 8e + Line 9)	(10.) \$ 84.08 V	(24.) \$
IN-KIND EXPENDITURES 11. Total In-Kind Expenditures-Endorsements, Donations or Loans of Goods or Services (Schedule 48-2, Column 8)	(11.) \$	(25.) \$
DEBTS AND OBLIGATIONS. 12. Debts and Obligations a, Owed by the Committee (Schedule 4E)	(12a.)\$	
b. Owed to the Committee (Schedule 4E)	(126.) \$	
BALANCE STATEMENT		
Ending Balance of last report filed (Enter zero if no previous reports have been filed.)	(13.) \$	
Amount received during reporting period (Line 5, Column I, Total Contributions & Other Receipts)	(14.)+ 5630.00)
15. SUBTOTAL Add lines 13 and 14	(15.) = 5630.00	/
16. Amount expended during reporting period (Line 10, Column I, Total Expenditures)	(16.)- 84.08 1	
17. ENDING BALANCE (Subtract line 16 from line 15)	(17.)8 5545.92 /	*

^{*}If your ending balance is negative, please recheck your math.



ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE 4A

BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE

1. Committee I.D. Number 144097

Vids First Campaign

BALLOT QUESTION COM	MITTEE	2. Committee N	lame <u>0051</u>	131 C-111	<u>~"71 </u>
Please enter contributors name and address. If comiddle initial.	intribution is from an	individual, enter i	ast name, first name,	d. Amount	7. Cumulative for Election Cycle for Each Contributor (Through date of receipt)
Name & Address:		ଷ୍ଟ୍ରକ୍ଷେ		•	
Obermyer, Ginger				\$ 5,00	\$ 5.00
Obermy, Gings 215 2-51 Drive Marshall, mt 49068 5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide:				Click Here for Mei	mo Hemization
Occupation Empl	oyer				
Business Address					
Type of Contribution: Direct	Loan from a pa	- 1	Fund Raiser		
Name & Address:	Date of Receipt	<u> </u>			
Davis, Vivian 901 Hundraton Bluck Albion, mz 49224				s <u>60.00</u>	<u> 50.00</u>
Alpen, WI 41994					on the standard
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide:				Click Here for Men	no nemizavon
Occupation Empl	loyer				
Business Address					
Type of Contribution: Direct	Loan from a pers		Fund Raiser		
3. Contribution #3 Name & Address: Stellart, Ica 515 Schuyler Marshell, mI 450C8	Date of Receipt	9/30/21	1444	s 25.00	<u>, 26.00</u>
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide:				Click Here for Men	no Itemization
OccupationEmp	loyer		·		
Business Address			1		
Type of Contribution: Direct	Loan from a peri		Fund Raiser		
Name & Address:	Date of Receipt	9130121			
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505 North Maddan				s 50.00	<u>, 50.00</u>
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide:	.9			Click Here for Mer	
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Business Address 505 North Mc	dison mas	pell wit	45008		
Type of Contribution: Direct	Loan from a ;	person	Fund Raiser		
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10%		(Complete d	on last page of Schedule	Enter this total	_
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ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE 4A

BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE

144097

1. Committee I.D. Number			
2. Committee Name <u>K</u>	ids	First	Campaign

the state of the s				
Please enter contributors name and address. If α middle initial,	ntribution is from an individual, enter	last name, first name,	6. Arnount	7, Cumulative for Election Cycle for Each Contributor (Through date of receipt)
3. Contribution # 1 4. Name & Address: Skidmose, Enn	Date of Receipt 913021			
ELS SCHUMES			s 5.00	_{\$} _5.00
morshell, MI 4500	8		Click Here for Me	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide:				
Occupation Empl	oyer			
Business Address				
Type of Contribution: Direct	Loan from a person	Fund Ralser		
Name & Address:	Date of Receipt 9/30/2	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
Egnatuk, tara 300 North Lindon Mashall, MI 49068 5. If over \$180.00 oumulative, please provide:			s <u>60.0</u>	s, 60.00 _
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			Click Here for Mei	no neguzation
Occupation Emp	loyer			
Business Address		rud piese		
Type of Contribution: Direct	Loan from a person	Fund Raiser		
3. Contribution #3 Name & Address: Rocal, Kety U26 N Division St	Date of Receipt 9/30/2		ام ار سم	<i>C</i> 40
USEN DIVERSION ST			<u>\$ 5,00</u>	\$_ 5.00
Mashall, MT 49008 5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide:			Click Here for Mer	no Itemization
Occupation Emp	oloyer			
Business Address Type of Contribution: Direct	Loan from a person	Fund Raiser		
	Date of Receipt 9/30/2			
Schneitman, Ian				16. AB
737 Green St USOCA			\$ 10.00	s_10.00
Maskell, MI 49068 5. If over \$100,00 cumulative, please provide:			Click Here for Me	mo Itemization
Occupation Emp	loyer			
Business Address				
Type of Contribution; Direct	Loan from a person	Fund Reiser		T
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SCHEDULE 4A BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE

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2. Committee Name Lids First Campaign

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ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE 4A BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE

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ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE 4A **BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE**

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ITEMIZED DIRECT EXPENDITURES SCHEDULE 4B

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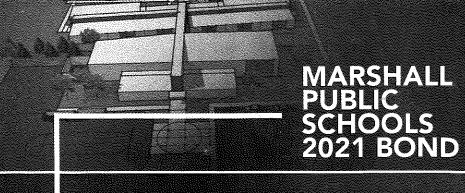
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to continue to support iere are several good the local United Way, asons include that doad Homer specific proig decisions are made or lists are never shared and payroll deductions

always be mailed to 5, Albion, MI 49224, albionhomeruw.org or at 517-499-2563. re Carolyn Amos, Donardette, David Diemert, in Hopkins, Art Kale, huler, Gary Tompkins,



\$45,580,000 Million

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Albion taxpayers will experience a tax increase of 3 mills, whereas Marshall taxpayers will continue paying 7.05 mills.



Those of us who are parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, big brothers, big sisters, foster parents, mentors, etc. want the children we love and care about to have plenty of opportunities to thrive. A good place to start is by providing them with access to safe and up-to-date facilities, grounds, technology, and equipment in learning environments that will prepare them for the world of tomorrow. We believe this bond supports this goal.

Learn more at VoteKidsFirst.com

Paid for by the Kids First Committee

Call The Recorder at 517-629-0041 or email information to therecorder@frontiernet.net.

Marshall

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nce of having the providers you need right in your community. Our certified rics & Gynecology Specialists in Marshall provide a wide range of services for ding annual check-ups, gynecologic care, pregnancy and childbirth, and more.

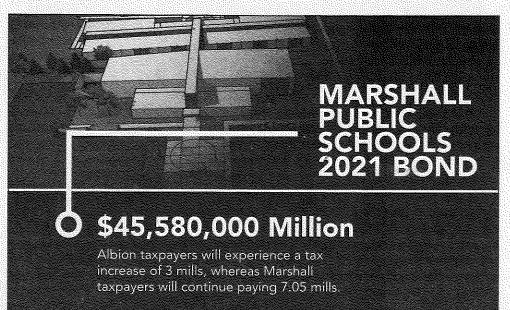
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50/; M. West 561; C. Garber 536; S. Parks 524; S. Hutchings 507; J. Razkowic 502; N. Main 497; T. George

10; Speedy Chick 9; Livin' on a Spare 7.5; Borderline Professionals 7; Here





Those of us who are parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, big brothers, big sisters, foster parents, mentors, etc. want the children we love and care about to have plenty of opportunities to thrive. A good place to start is by providing them with access to safe and up-to-date facilities, grounds, technology, and equipment in learning environments that will prepare them for the world of tomorrow. We believe this bond supports this goal.

Learn more at VoteKidsFirst.com

Paid for by the Kids First Committee

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Ad-Visoa Chronicle 900 2021

The Marshall Public Schools 2021 Bond includes an all-new K-5 elementary school in Albion.

We're proud of the youth in Albion. With enrollment at Harrington Elementary currently at capacity, this means that the Albion community is growing and full of potential. Passing the Marshall Public Schools 2021 Bond means that Albion children will have access to a state-of-the-art facility – the newest in the district.



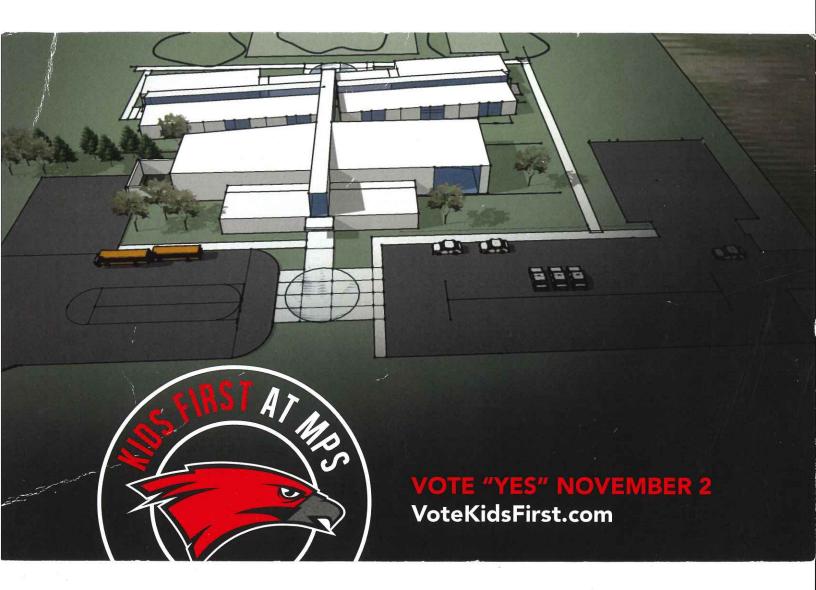
Features include:

- 56,000 square feet
- Upper and lower elementary playground equipment
- Separate bus and student drop off zones
- General & special education classrooms
- Media center
- Art room
- Music room
- Gymnasium
- Cafeteria

Passing the 2021 bond means:

- \$16,920,000 will be put back into the Albion community in the form of a new school.
- Families of Albion will have access to a modern educational environment that's close to home.
- Albion taxpayers will experience a tax increase of 3.0 mills, whereas Marshall taxpayers will continue paying 7.05 mills.

VOTE "YES" NOVEMBER 2, 2021 | VoteKidsFirst.com





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

February 9, 2022

Ginger Obermeyer 215 East Drive Marshall, MI 49068

Re: Atchison v. Obermeyer

Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2021-11-67-26

Dear Ms. Obermeyer,

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by David Atchison. The complaint alleges that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or ACT) by submitting inaccurate campaign statements in your role as treasurer for the Kids First Ballot Question committee by failing to report campaign expenditures.

In Michigan, ballot question committees registered under the MCFA are required to file campaign statements reporting contributions and expenditures. MCL 226(1). A contribution is "a payment, gift, subscription, assessment, expenditure, contract, payment for services, dues, advance, forbearance, loan, or donation of money or anything of ascertainable monetary value, or a transfer of anything of ascertainable monetary value to a person, made for the purpose of influencing . . . the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question." MCL 169.204(1). An expenditure is "a payment, donation, loan, or promise of payment of money or anything of ascertainable monetary value for goods, materials, services, or facilities in assistance of, or in opposition to . . . the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question." MCL 169.206(1). A knowing omission or under-report of contributions or expenditures may be punishable by "a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or the amount of the contributions and expenditures omitted or underreported, whichever is greater." MCL 169.233(11).

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department's examination of these matters and of your right to respond to the allegations before the Department proceeds further. It is important to understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as true. The investigation and resolution of this complaint are governed by section 15 of the Act

¹ The Department notes that the filing official is responsible for determining issues of substantial compliance when they accept the campaign statement. MCL 169.216(6). This means that, while the Department will investigate complaints alleging unreported or under-reported contributions or expenditures, the Department will not investigate complaints alleging de minimis mistakes in contributor names, reported addresses, or similar issues.

and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq.* An explanation of the investigation process is enclosed with this letter and a copy is available on the Department's <u>website</u>.

If you wish to file a written response to this complaint, you are required to do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Your response may include any written statement or additional documentary evidence you wish to submit.

All materials must be sent to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 420 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918. Materials should also be sent via email to <u>Elections@Michigan.gov</u> given the ongoing pandemic. If you fail to submit a response, the Department will render a decision based on the evidence furnished by the complainant.

A copy of your answers will be provided to Mr. Atchison, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all the statements and materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred." MCL 169.215(10).

Sincerely,

Adam Fracassi Regulatory Manager Bureau of Elections

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the letter I received dated February 9, 2022 in regards to a formal complaint filed against me by David Atchison. First, I did not knowingly file an incomplete or inaccurate Pre-Election Campaign finance report. Additionally I am willing to amend, or correct anything that is in fact incorrect, but nothing was done intentionally. I volunteered to fill out paperwork for my kids schools VOTE YES bond committee. I have never done this and filled it out to the best of my ability. Since in Mr. Atchison's complaint it is number, I will try to respond to each number.

- I am not employed and was not employed by Calhoun Intermediate Schools at the time of this. I
 answered Block 6 as my personal address because that was the address the Kids First
 Committee used and I thought that is what it was asking for.
- 2. I do not completely know what this point is saying, but I did not knowingly leave off expenditures. I included everything we had invoices for at the time of filling out the paperwork.
- 3. I used the form we received from Stripe.com to show what people listed as their name and address. Ian Schnaiman is listed as Ian Schnaitman, as you can see in the attached document.
- 4. I used the form we received from Stripe.com to show what people listed as their name and address. Mae Olla is listed as Mae Olla, as you can see in the attached document.
- 5. Kingscott Associates was who donated the \$500. In an email from Teri Lowe she told me to include an occupation for the company. I filled it out to the best of my ability.
- 6-15. We were working with a third party, BluFish for help with the advertising. The committee had not received an invoice or estimate of any kind at the time of me filling out the Pre-Election. I don't know how I was supposed to fill it out if I had no idea of an actual expense. The Post-Election form does have this information on it.
- 16. I had no idea this was a Kids First expense and did not receive an invoice before filling out the Pre or Post election forms.
- 17. We were working with a third party, BluFish for help with the advertising. The committee had not received an invoice or estimate of any kind at the time of me filling out the Pre-Election. I don't know how I was supposed to fill it out if I had no idea of an actual expense. The Post-Election form does have this information on it.

I was a little shocked at the nastiness and work that went into trying to volunteer for my kids school. I have never experienced anything like it. I have never done this before and after the nastiness we have endured, I likely will not again. Again, I am willing to amend any record the Bureau of Elections asks me to. I would like to just close the committee out with the proper reports and be done with this. Additionally, I would like to add that throughout the entire report my last name is spelled incorrectly. It is Obermyer, not Obermeyer, as Mr. Atchison has in the complaint. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or need anything else.

Thank you,

Ginger Obermyer

donate-2021-10-15

on Amount Name (First)	Name (Last)	Address (Street Address	Address (City)	Payment Date	Payment State
\$200.00 A Slawin	Davis		Marshall		Paid
\$50.0 0 B anielle	Siebert	21406 Division Drive	Marshall	49068 10/15/2021 11:13	Paid
\$5.00 Ad	Mattson		Albion	49224 2021-10-15 11:18:54	Paid
\$100.90_clare	loughrige	50 Kristin	Marshall	49068 2021-10-15 11:14:52	Paid
\$50.00 Lauren	Bartshe	1206 Crescent Drive	Albion	49224 2021-10-15 11:13:06	Paid
\$50.00 Kelly	Finn	302 Perry Street	Albior	49224 2021-10-15 11:09:28	Paid
\$1,000.00 Jennifer	Conley	565 North Madison	MarshalJ	49068 2021-10-15 09:03:20	Paid
\$125.00 Ryan	Traver	115 W. MICHIGAN AVE.	MARSHALL	49068 2021-10-11 12:45:20	Paid
\$100.00 John	Shedd	1001 south locust lane	Albion	49224 2021-10-10 17:44:38	Paid
\$500.00 Kathleen and D	avid Lambrix	546 Hill Rd	Marshall	49068 2021-10-08 11:42:33	Paid
\$20.00 Łori	Kiffne-Closson	536 Cosmopolitan	Marshall	49068 2021-10-08 09:02:44	Paid
\$20.00 Dana	Huggett	315 North Madison	Marshall	49068 2021-10-05 17:23:38	Paid
\$25.00 John	Thompson II		Marshall	49068-9612 2021-10-04 09:54:17	Paid
\$5.00 Kyle	Fuller	811 Orchard Dr	Marshall	49015 2021-10-02 13:40:29	Paid
\$5.00 Kaitlin	Fuller	811 Orchard Dr	Marshall	49015-2021-10-02 13:37:40	Paid
\$10.00 Raymond	Lessnau	223 N Marshall Ave	Marshall	49068 2021-10-01 17:03:32	Paid
\$15.69 Warner	Ball	102 E Michigan Ave	Marshall	49068 2021-10-01 12:50:53	Paid
\$100.00 Dave	Diemert	412 Elizabeth st	Albion	49224 2021-10-04 09:16:56	Paid
\$40.00 Dan	Stulberg	508 ORCHARD ROAD	MARSHALL	49068 2021-10-01 08:49:29	Paid
\$100.00 Relly	Finn	302 Perry Street	Albion	49224 2021-10-01 08:17:08	Paid
\$50.00 Jim	Stealy	501 Sibley Lane	Marshall	MI 2021-10-01 06:58:26	Paid
\$10.00/Laura	McFadden	17290 H Drive S	Marshall	49068 2021-10-01 04:53:09	Paid
\$20.00 Eddie	Williams	704 Orchard Dr	Albion	49224 2021-10-01 00:18:42	Paid
\$100.00/Matt	Daviş	708 Wright Lane	Marshall	49068 2021-09-30 23:30:03	Paid
\$75.00 Tom & Darlene	Neidlinger	7221 Monroe Rd	Springport	49284 2021-09-30 22:02:09	Paid
\$50.00 Lisa	Middleton	92 Kristin dr	Marshall	49068 2021-09-30 22:01:27	Paid
\$25.00 Steve & Kathy	Searles	14932 W MICHIGAN AVE	MARSHALL	49068 2021-09-30 21:55:59	Paid
\$100.00 Mae	Ola	707 Huntington Blvd	Albion	49224-9404 2021-09-30 21:53:44	Paid
\$100.09 Derek	Allen/	524 W Green St.	Marshall	49068 2021-09-30 21:47:29	Paid
\$20.00 Ryam	Underhill/	811 E Green St	Marshall	49068 2021-09-30 21:38:10	Paid
\$10.00 lany	Schnaitman	737 W GREEN STREET	MARSHALL	49068 2021-09-30 20:50:51	Paid
\$5.00 Katy	Reed	425 N. Division St.	Marshall	49068 2021-09-30 20:33:57	Paid
\$50.00 Tara	Egnatuk	320 North Linden	Marshall	49068 2021-09-30 20:25:50	Paid
\$5.00 Erin /	Skidmore	515 Schuyler	Marshall	49068 2021-09-30 20:14:35	Paid
\$50.00 Jennifer	Conley Darling	565 North Madison	Marshall	49068 2021-09-30 19:59:22	Paid
	Donation Amount Name (First)	David	Parker Davis Siebert Mattson loughrige Bartshe Finn Conley Traver Shedd David Lambrix Kiffne-Closson Huggett Thompson II Fuller Fuller Fuller Stulberg Finn Williams Davis Neidlinger Middleton Searles Ola Allen Schnaitman Reed Egnatuk Skidmore Conley Darling	Parker 210 S Monroe St Davis 576 Orchard Road Siebert 21406 Division Drive Mattson 4922 Kellogg Center loughrige 50 Kristin Bartshe 1206 Crescent Drive Finn 302 Perry Street Conley 565 North Madison Traver 115 W. MICHIGAN AVE. Shedd 1001 south locust lane Huggett 315 North Madison Thompson II 752 Wright Ln Fuller 811 Orchard Dr Fuller 811 Orchard Dr Lessnau 223 N Marshall Ave Ball 102 E Michigan Ave Diemert 412 Elizabeth st Stulberg 508 ORCHARD ROAD Finn 302 Perry Street Stealy 501 Sibley Lane McFadden 17290 H Drive S Williams 704 Orchard Dr Davisy 708 Wright Lane Neidlinger 7221 Monroe Rd Middleton 92 Kristin dr Searles 14932 W MICHIGAN AVE Ola 707 Huntington Blvd Allen 524 W Green St Egnatuk 320 North Madison Conley Darling 565 North Madison	Name (Last) Address (Street Address (City) Address (ZIP / Pof Payment Date Davis 210 S Monroe St



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

June 10, 2022

David H. Atchison 108 West Erie Street Albion, Michigan 49224

Re: Atchison v. Obermeyer

Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2021-11-67-26

Dear Mr. Atchison:

The Department of State received a response from Ginger Obermeyer to the complaint you filed against them alleging a violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 et seq. A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

You may file a rebuttal statement after reviewing the enclosed response. <u>If you elect to file a rebuttal statement</u>, you are required to do so within 10 business days of the date of this letter. The rebuttal statement may be emailed to BOERegulatory@michigan.gov or mailed to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

Adam Fracassi, Regulatory Manager

Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State



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

September 21, 2022

Ginger Obermyer 215 East Drive Marshall, MI 49068

Re: Atchison v. Obermyer

Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2021-11-67-26

Dear Ms. Obermyer:

The Department of State (Department) has finished investigating the campaign finance complaint filed against you by David Atchison on November 23, 2021. The complaint alleges you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act) by submitting inaccurate campaign statements in your role as treasurer for the Kids First Ballot Question committee by failing to report campaign expenditures

The complaint alleged a series of violations, largely related to expenditures omitted from your pre-election campaign finance report. First, Mr. Atchison alleged that you incorrectly indicated your residential address on the section of the ballot question committee filing that asked for the treasurer's business address. Second, he listed a series of contributors for whom the pre-election report lists a name other than the contributors' legal name or did not include the full street address. Third, he alleged that expenditures to BluFish Consulting were incorrectly omitted from your pre-election campaign finance report and detailed a series of graphic designs and social media ads that indicated that expenditures must have occurred. Fourth, he stated that you failed to include an expenditure for legal services incurred by the committee, and included a letter form a law firm purporting to represent Kids First as proof of the service.

You responded to the complaint on February 23, 2022. In your response you expressed a willingness to correct any incomplete or inaccurate reports. You indicated that you used your personal address in the section of the form asking for the treasurer's business address as that was the address the Kids First Committee used. You also indicate that you entered the information regarding contributors names and addresses to the best of your knowledge, using the information provided by the contributors on the site used by the committee for contributions. With regard to expenditures, you indicate that the committee was working with a third party, BluFish for help with advertising and that at the time of the pre-election campaign statement you had yet to receive an estimate or invoice from them, so you did not list any expenditures in the pre-election statement. You stated that you did list these expenditures on the committee's post-election filing

once you received the invoice. Finally, you replied that you did not realize that the legal services were a Kids First expense and did not receive an invoice before filling out the pre- or post-election forms.

Mr. Atchison was notified of your response in a letter dated June 13, 2022, and was given the opportunity to provide a rebuttal, but he did not do so.

In Michigan, ballot question committees registered under the MCF A are required to file Campaign statements reporting contributions and expenditures. MCL 169.226(1). A contribution is "a payment, gift, subscription, assessment, expenditure, contract, payment for services, dues, advance, forbearance, loan, or donation of money or anything of asceliainable monetary value, or a transfer of anything of ascertainable monetary value to a person, made for the purpose of influencing ... the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question." MCL 169.204(1). An expenditure is "a payment, donation, loan, or promise of payment of money or anything of ascertainable monetary value for goods, materials, services, or facilities in assistance of, or in opposition to ... the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question." MCL 169.206(1). A knowing omission or under-report of contributions or expenditures may be punishable by "a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or the amount of the contributions and expenditures omitted or under-reported, whichever is greater." MCL 169.233(11).

The Department concludes that there is sufficient evidence to determine that a potential violation of the Act has occurred. First, the Department is satisfied that the expenditures to BluFish were included in your post-election report and dismisses the allegations related to their omission. However, you acknowledge in your response that you did not realize that legal services should have been included in your pre- or post-election report. Because they should have been included, but were not reported, the Department concludes that a potential violation of the Act has occurred.

When the Department finds that there may be reason to believe a violation has occurred, the Act requires the Department to use "informal methods such as a conference [or] conciliation" to correct the potential violation or to prevent further violation. MCL 169.215(10). Statute provides 90 business days for the Department to engage this resolution process. *Id.* If this matter is not resolved within 90 business days, or by January 30, 2023, the Department will have no choice but to proceed with either referral to the Attorney General's office for enforcement of any criminal penalties or commence an administrative hearing against you. *Id.*

Upon review, the Department requests you amend your pre-election report to include your legal expenses. Once you have done so, the Department will issue a warning and consider this matter concluded. Please note that you may be assessed late filing fees by the County. Late-filing fees

¹ The Department notes that the filing official is responsible for determining issues of substantial compliance when they accept the campaign statement. MCL 169.216(6). This means that, while the Department will investigate complaints alleging unreported or under-reported contributions or expenditures, the Department will not investigate complaints alleging de minimus mistakes in contributor names, reported addresses, or similar issues.

Atchison v. Obermyer Page 3

are assessed and collected by the filing official with whom the statements are filed. MCL 169.217(1). Any questions regarding these late-filing fees should be directed to the County Clerk's office.

If you have any questions, you may contact me by emailing <u>BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Adam Fracassi, Regulatory Manager

Regulatory Section Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State



STATE OF MICHIGAN JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LANSING

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Dana Nessel Department of Attorney General G. Mennen Williams Building 525 West Ottawa Street Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Atchison v. Obermyer

Michigan Campaign Finance Complaint

Dear Attorney General Nessel:

Please allow this letter to serve as a referral to the Attorney General of the above referenced campaign finance matter for the enforcement of any criminal penalties under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. MCL 169.215(10)(a).

If you or your staff would like any additional information regarding this case, please contact this office.

Sincerely

s/ Michael J. Brady

Michael J. Brady, Chief Legal Director Michigan Secretary of State

cc: Heather Meingast, Division Chief, CLEE Division