

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMPLAINT

Section 1. COMPLAINANT

Lisa Honeycutt
1340 Tamarack Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-255-3715

Section 2. ALLEGED VIOLATOR

Michigan Strong
106 W. Allegan St, Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933

Section 3. ALLEGATIONS

Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) Section alleged to be violated: MCL 169.241.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Tudor Dixon is a candidate running in the Republican primary for Governor of Michigan and has a candidate committee, Tudor Dixon for Governor Inc, registered with the Michigan Secretary of State's Bureau of Election ("BOE").
2. Michigan Strong is a SuperPAC registered with the BOE. Michigan Strong describes itself as "a political action committee dedicated to electing Tudor Dixon Governor of Michigan in 2022." See <https://michiganstrongpac.com/about/> (accessed 6/30/2022).
3. MCL 169.241 prohibits a committee from accepting or expending an anonymous contribution. MCL 169.241(2).
4. MCL 169.241 further prohibits a committee from accepting a contribution "directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than the name by which that person is identified for legal purposes." MCL 169.241(3).

5. MCL 169.241(4) provides that “[a] person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, if the person is an individual, by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both, or, if the person is other than an individual, by a fine of not more than \$10,000.00.”

ALLEGATIONS

6. On December 31, 2021, Michigan Strong reported that it received a \$5,000.00 contribution from an entity named “Tudor PAC.” *See* attached **Exhibit A**, Michigan Strong, Campaign Finance Statement, Contributions, January Quarterly, 2022.

7. Searches and review of state and federal campaign finance records located no PAC or other political committee involving an entity named “Tudor PAC.”

8. An online search of business entities through Michigan’s Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs reveals no business entity registered to operate in Michigan with the name of “Tudor PAC.”

9. Further, Kent County confirmed that there is no business that filed a D/B/A (doing business as) for “Tudor PAC” in the county.

10. Michigan Strong reported Tudor PAC’s address as “801 Broadway Ave, Suite 203, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.”

11. The same address reported by Michigan Strong for Tudor PAC is also listed as the address for NxGen MDx, a genetic screening company. *See* attached **Exhibit B**, Google Search Results for 801 Broadway Ave, Suite 203, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

12. Based on the facts above and applicable law, Michigan Strong accepted an anonymous contribution or a contribution by a person in a name other than the name by which that person is identified for legal purposes.

13. Further, Michigan Strong knowingly filed an incomplete and inaccurate campaign statement by accepting and reporting an illegal donation from an unknown unregistered PAC.

After reviewing this complaint, any answer, and rebuttal filed, the BOE should complete their investigation and make a finding that there may be reason to believe that Michigan Strong has violated the MCFA. The BOE should assess all penalties or fees necessary to bring Michigan Strong into compliance with the MCFA.

Section 4. CERTIFICATION

I certify 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.

Lisa Honeycutt
LISA HONEYCUTT

07/7/2022
Date

Exhibit A

SOS Home (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos>)Contact the Secretary of State (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,3269,7-127--25634--,00.html>)

Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State

Department of State

(<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127----,00.html>)

Michigan Campaign Statement Contributions

Committee Name: MICHIGAN STRONG (SUPERPAC)
Statement Type: JANUARY QUARTERLY CS
Statement Year: 2022
Schedule: ALL

Matches 1 – 2 of 2

Receiving Committee	Committee ID-Type	Schedule Type	Description	Received From	City State Zip	Date	Amount	Cumul
MICHIGAN STRONG (SUPERPAC) (https://cfrsearch.nictusa.com/committees/520162)	520162- POL	DIRECT		DUANE VANDER ARK 7979 MANASOTA KEY RD CONSULTANT SFIF	ENGLEWOOD FL 34223	12/02/2021	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
MICHIGAN STRONG (SUPERPAC) (https://cfrsearch.nictusa.com/committees/520162)	520162- POL	DIRECT		TUDOR PAC 801 BROADWAY AVE NW STE 203	GRAND RAPIDS MI 49504	12/31/2021	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

Matches 1 – 2 of 2

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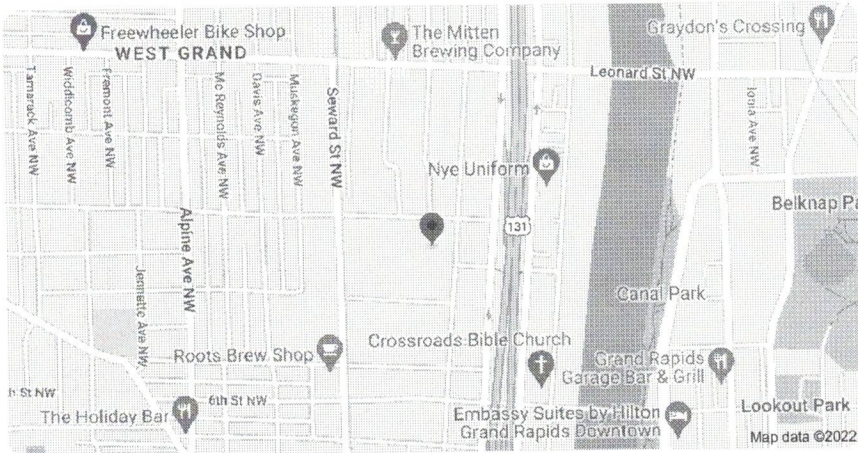
v1.0.8+bb78c45

FOIA (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127--357908--,00.html>)Transparency (<http://www.michigan.gov/openmichigan/0,4648,7-266-58520---,00.html>)Office of Regulatory Reinvention (<http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-35738---,00.html>)Forms (http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1640_11777---,00.html)FAQ (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-12539---F,00.html>)Online Services (<https://onlineservices.michigan.gov/ExpressSOS>)SOS Home (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos>)Contact the Secretary of State (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127--25634--,00.html>)State Web Sites (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127----A,00.html>)Michigan.gov Home (<http://www.michigan.gov/>)Michigan News (<http://www.michigan.gov/minewswire>)Policies (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127--281460--,00.html>)

Exhibit B

🔍 All📍 Maps🛒 Shopping📰 News🖼️ Images⋮ MoreTools

About 27,500 results (0.65 seconds)



801 Broadway Ave NW #203
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Most popular places at this address

- NxGen MDx
2.8 (52)
- MorningStar Health
2.9 (20)
- Future Buildings - Prefabricated Steel & Metal Buildings
3.8 (17)

<https://nxgenmdx.com> > contact-us
Contact Us - Accurate, Best-in-Class Genetic Screening
Contact Information. 801 Broadway Ave NW Suite 203. Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Phone: (855) 776-9436. Fax: (616) 710-4667. Email: info@nxgenmdx.com

<https://web.grandrapids.org> > directory > results > direct...
Directions to NXGen MDx
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-4463 | map. (855) 776-9436 | fax: (616) 710-4667. Visit Site. Get directions to: NXGen MDx, 801 Broadway Ave NW Ste 203, Grand Rapids ...

<https://www.mapquest.com> > grand-rapids > 49504-4459
801 Broadway Ave NW, ste 203 - Grand Rapids MI - MapQuest
View detailed information and reviews for 801 Broadway Ave NW, ste 203 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and get driving directions ... Grand Rapids | MI 49504-4459.

<https://www.mapquest.com> > ... > Grand Rapids
Puzzle Creative - Grand Rapids - MapQuest
801 Broadway Ave NW, Ste 203, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. (616) 259-5050. Claim this business (616) 259-5050. Favorite. More. Directions. MapQuest ...

<https://www.cbinsights.com> > company > nxgen-mdx
NxGEN MDx - Headquarter Locations, Products, Competitors ...
NxGEN MDx Headquarter Location. 801 Broadway Ave NW Suite 203. Grand Rapids, Michigan,

NXGEN MDX, LLC · 801 Broadway Ave Nw, Suite ... - OpenNPI
Address: **801 Broadway Ave Nw, Suite 203, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-4462**. NXGEN MDX, LLC (NPI# 1326484569) is a health care provider registered in Centers for ...

<https://www.mercyhealthphysicianpartners.com> › location
Trinity Health Medical Group, Primary Care - Broadway
Housed in the historic American Seating Building, **801 Broadway, NW**, its high ceilings and exposed brick walls hint at a time when the location powered.
Missing: **203**; | Must include: **203**,

<https://www.yellowpages.com> › ... › Billing Service
NxGen MDx - Grand Rapids - Yellow Pages
Details. Phone: (855) 776-9436. Address: **801 Broadway Ave NW Ste 203, Grand Rapids, MI 49504**. Website: <https://nxgenmdx.com> ...

<https://www.yellowpages.com> › ... › Insurance
Mills Benefit Group - Grand Rapids - Yellow Pages
Details. Phone: (616) 459-1069. Address: **801 Broadway Ave NW Ste 203, Grand Rapids, MI 49504**. Website: <http://www.millsbenefitgroup.com> ...

<https://www.healthgrades.com> › mi-michigan › grand-rapi...
Prima Healthcare, Grand Rapids, MI - Healthgrades
Prima Healthcare. Family Medicine • 1 Provider. **801 Broadway Ave Nw Ste 105, Grand Rapids MI, 49504**. Make an Appointment. Show Phone Number ...

- Where is Prima Healthcare located? ▾
- What are the top specialties practiced at Prima Healthcare? ▾

Related searches

NxGen MSU

Feedback

- nxgen universal panel

nxgen

nxgen mdx leadership

how long to get nxgen results

nexgen genetics

nextgen pay bill

nxgen mdx genetic testing cost



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

September 26, 2022

Michigan Strong
106 W. Allegan St., Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: *Honeycutt v. Michigan Strong*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 – 09 – 123 – 41

Dear Michigan Strong:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Lisa Honeycutt alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you accepted a contribution on December 31, 2021, from “Tudor PAC”, which is not a registered political action committee with the State of Michigan. Accordingly, the complaint alleges that you either accepted an anonymous contribution or accepted a contribution from a person in a name other than the person’s name for legal purposes. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

Section 41 of the MCFA bars a person or committee from accepting and/or expending an anonymous contribution. MCL 169.241(2). Anonymous contributions are required to be given to a tax-exempt charity with a receipt given, and the receipt is to be maintained. *Id.* The Act prohibits a contribution “made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than by which that person is identified for legal purposes.” MCL 169.241(3). A knowing violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. MCL 169.241(4).

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department’s examination of these matters and 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 is governed by section 15 of the Act and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq.* An explanation of the process is included in the enclosed guidebook.

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. Materials 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. 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 answer will be provided to Ms. Honeycutt, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing 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). Note that the Department’s enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement of the penalty provided in section 33(11) of the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the Regulatory Section of the Bureau of Elections at BOERegulatory@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State



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

October 21, 2022

SECOND NOTICE

Michigan Strong
106 W. Allegan St., Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: *Honeycutt v. Michigan Strong*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 – 09 – 123 – 41

Dear Michigan Strong:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Lisa Honeycutt alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you accepted a contribution on December 31, 2021, from “Tudor PAC”, which is not a registered political action committee with the State of Michigan. Accordingly, the complaint alleges that you either accepted an anonymous contribution or accepted a contribution from a person in a name other than the person’s name for legal purposes. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

The Department sent you notice of this complaint in a letter dated September 28, 2022. That letter informed you that you had 15 business days from that date to provide a response to the complaint. **As a courtesy, the Department is extending you an opportunity to submit a response within 15 business days of the date of this second notice.** If you do not submit a response within 15 business days of the date of this notice, the Department will have no choice but to adjudicate the complaint based on the facts and allegations included in the complaint alone.

Section 41 of the MCFA bars a person or committee from accepting and/or expending an anonymous contribution. MCL 169.241(2). Anonymous contributions are required to be given to a tax-exempt charity with a receipt given, and the receipt is to be maintained. *Id.* The Act prohibits a contribution “made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than by which that person is identified for legal purposes.” MCL 169.241(3). A knowing violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. MCL 169.241(4). The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department’s examination of these matters and 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 is governed by section 15 of the Act and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq*. An explanation of the process is available on the Department's [website](#).

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. Materials 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. 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 answer will be provided to Ms. Honeycutt, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing 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). Note that the Department’s enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the Regulatory Section of the Bureau of Elections at BOERegulatory@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure
c: Lisa Honeycutt



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

October 24, 2022

SECOND NOTICE

Michigan Strong
106 W. Allegan St., Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933

2024 Third Ave. N Ste. 212
Birmingham, AL 35203

Re: *Honeycutt v. Michigan Strong*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 – 09 – 123 – 41

Dear Michigan Strong:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Lisa Honeycutt alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you accepted a contribution on December 31, 2021, from “Tudor PAC”, which is not a registered political action committee with the State of Michigan. Accordingly, the complaint alleges that you either accepted an anonymous contribution or accepted a contribution from a person in a name other than the person’s name for legal purposes. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

The Department sent you notice of this complaint in a letter dated September 28, 2022. That letter informed you that you had 15 business days from that date to provide a response to the complaint. **As a courtesy, the Department is extending you an opportunity to submit a response within 15 business days of the date of this second notice.** If you do not submit a response within 15 business days of the date of this notice, the Department will have no choice but to adjudicate the complaint based on the facts and allegations included in the complaint alone.

Section 41 of the MCFA bars a person or committee from accepting and/or expending an anonymous contribution. MCL 169.241(2). Anonymous contributions are required to be given to a tax-exempt charity with a receipt given, and the receipt is to be maintained. Id. The Act prohibits a contribution “made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than by which that person is identified for legal purposes.” MCL 169.241(3). A knowing violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. MCL 169.241(4).

Michigan
Strong Future
PAC
#516629

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department's examination of these matters and 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 is governed by section 15 of the Act and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq.* An explanation of the process is available on the Department's website.

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. Materials 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. 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 answer will be provided to Ms. Honeycutt, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing 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). Note that the Department's enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the Regulatory Section of the Bureau of Elections at BOERegulatory@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure
c: Lisa Honeycutt



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

November 3, 2022

SECOND NOTICE

Michigan Strong
2024 Third Ave N Ste 212
Birmingham, AL 35203

Judith Sallador, treasurer of Michigan Strong
2601 Jackson Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Re: *Honeycutt v. Michigan Strong*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 – 09 – 123 – 41

Dear Michigan Strong:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Lisa Honeycutt alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you accepted a contribution on December 31, 2021, from “Tudor PAC”, which is not a registered political action committee with the State of Michigan. Accordingly, the complaint alleges that you either accepted an anonymous contribution or accepted a contribution from a person in a name other than the person’s name for legal purposes. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

The Department sent you notice of this complaint in a letter dated September 28, 2022. That letter informed you that you had 15 business days from that date to provide a response to the complaint. **As a courtesy, the Department is extending you an opportunity to submit a response within 15 business days of the date of this second notice.** If you do not submit a response within 15 business days of the date of this notice, the Department will have no choice but to adjudicate the complaint based on the facts and allegations included in the complaint alone.

Section 41 of the MCFA bars a person or committee from accepting and/or expending an anonymous contribution. MCL 169.241(2). Anonymous contributions are required to be given to a tax-exempt charity with a receipt given, and the receipt is to be maintained. Id. The Act prohibits a contribution “made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than by

which that person is identified for legal purposes.” MCL 169.241(3). A knowing violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. MCL 169.241(4).

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department’s examination of these matters and 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 is governed by section 15 of the Act and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq.* An explanation of the process is available on the Department’s [website](#).

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. Materials 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. 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 answer will be provided to Ms. Honeycutt, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing 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). Note that the Department’s enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the Regulatory Section of the Bureau of Elections at BOERegulatory@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure
c: Lisa Honeycutt

December 14, 2022

Michigan Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building
1st Floor
430 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48918 Via

Via Email to: BOERegulatory@michigan.gov

Re: *Honeycutt v. Michigan Strong*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022-09-123-41

Secretary Benson,

We are counsel to Michigan Strong and are in receipt of your letter dated October 24, 2022, labeled as “Second Notice.” Please be advised, however, that our client received this letter today—December 14, 2022—despite it bearing a date of nearly two months ago. Please be further advised that this is the first letter our client received from your office regarding Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022-09-123-41. With that in mind, we are responding as promptly as possible—indeed, this response is submitted the same day that our client received notice of these proceedings—regarding this alleged violation.

Michigan Strong received a copy of a draft of this complaint from a reporter on July 15, 2022.¹ Michigan Strong did not, however, receive a letter or notice from the State Bureau of Elections regarding this matter, and had no knowledge or indication that these proceedings had been commenced.

Upon review of the reporter’s inquiry on July 15, 2022, it became apparent that a contribution had been incorrectly reported on Michigan Strong’s 2022 January quarterly report. Specifically, a \$5,000 contribution from Alan Mack, received January 31, 2022, was incorrectly reported with the contributor listed as “Tudor PAC.” This was a clerical error. The text in the memo line of the corresponding check (attached hereto as Exhibit A) read “Tudor PAC” and that information was input incorrectly by Michigan Strong’s compliance professionals—a human error.

¹ It is not uncommon for would-be prospective complainants, political activists, or political adversaries to provide the media with draft complaints, but to then never submit the draft complaint to a regulator or adjudicative body. Until today, Michigan Strong was of the belief that this was what happened here, and that no such proceedings had been commenced before the Bureau.

Page 2
Michigan Bureau of Elections

As soon as Michigan Strong became aware of the error—again, that awareness stemmed from an inquiry by a reporter—Michigan Strong amended its 2022 January quarterly report to reflect the correct contributor (Alan Mack). That amendment occurred the same day that Michigan Strong learned of this error—July 15, 2022.

This was nothing more than a clerical error that was immediately resolved once our client was notified. MCL 169.241 provides that “[a] person who *knowingly* violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor...” Michigan Strong did not *knowingly* report a contribution in the name of another. And, as soon as they became aware of the error, Michigan Strong amended the report to accurately reflect the contributor.

For the reasons stated above, Michigan Strong respectfully requests that the Bureau accept this response as timely under MCL 169.215,² and that the Bureau dismiss this complaint and find no reason to believe Michigan Strong violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RTJA", which likely represents Robert Avers and Jessica Bartlett.

Robert Avers
Jessica Bartlett
Counsel to Michigan Strong

² To the extent the Bureau rejects this response or otherwise deems it untimely, Michigan Strong expressly reserves all corresponding rights and defenses, including but not limited to due process violations such as the lack of knowledge of these proceedings and the absence of a reasonable opportunity to respond to the underlying allegations.



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

December 20, 2022

Lisa Honeycutt
1340 Tamarack Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Re: *Honeycutt v. Michigan Strong*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 – 09 – 123 – 41

Dear Ms. Honeycutt:

The Department of State received a response from Michigan Strong 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. If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, 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,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State



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

February 3, 2023

Robert L. Avers
Dickinson Wright PLLC
250 S. Main Street, Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Re: *Honeycutt v. Michigan Strong*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 – 09 – 123 – 41

Dear Mr. Avers:

The Department of State (Department) has finished investigating the campaign finance complaint filed against your client, Michigan Strong, by Lisa Honeycutt on July 7, 2022. The complaint alleges that your client violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that your client accepted a contribution on December 31, 2021, from “Tudor PAC”, which is not a registered political action committee with the State of Michigan. Accordingly, the complaint alleges that your client either accepted an anonymous contribution or accepted a contribution from a person in a name other than the person’s name for legal purposes.

You responded to the complaint on December 14, 2022. In your response you indicated that your client became aware of this complaint from a reporter on July 15, 2022. You state that upon review of the reporter’s inquiry, it became apparent that a contribution had been incorrectly reported on Michigan Strong’s January 2022 quarterly report. You state that due to a clerical error, a contributor was listed as “Tudor PAC” (the text contained in the memo line of the check) rather than Alan Mack (the actual contributor). You go on to indicate that Michigan Strong amended its quarterly report to reflect the correct contributor on the same day it learned of this error, July 15, 2022.

Ms. Honeycutt was notified of your response on December 20, 2022 but did not provide a rebuttal.

Section 41 of the MCFA bars a person or committee from accepting and/or expending an anonymous contribution. MCL 169.241(2). Anonymous contributions are required to be given to a tax-exempt charity with a receipt given, and the receipt is to be maintained. *Id.* The Act prohibits a contribution “made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than by which that person is identified for legal purposes.” MCL 169.241(3). A knowing violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. MCL 169.241(4).

The Department has reviewed your response and finds that the evidence provided, together with the admission in your response, establish that there may reason to believe that a violation 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.*

Upon review of the Michigan Campaign Finance Searchable Database, the Department is satisfied that you have subsequently filed an amended January 2022 Quarterly campaign statement correcting the error raised in this complaint. Given this, the Department concludes that a formal warning is a sufficient resolution to the complaint.

Please be advised that this notice has served to remind you of your obligation under the Act to disclose contributions and expenditures and may be used in future proceedings as evidence that tends to establish a knowing violation of the Act.

Sincerely,



Adam Fracassi, *Regulatory Manager*
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Lisa Honeycutt