



Michigan Department of State
Campaign Finance Complaint Form

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

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA). For instructions on how to complete this form, see the Campaign Finance Complaint Guidebook & Procedures document. All spaces are required unless otherwise indicated.

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name <u>Terry Prince</u>		Daytime Telephone Number <u>586 275 7354</u>
Mailing Address <u>47869 LAVENDER CT</u>		
City <u>MACOMB</u>	State <u>MI</u>	Zip <u>48044</u>
Email (optional)		

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name <u>COMMITTEE TO ELECT CHRISTOPHER GURA</u>		
Mailing Address <u>20238 COUNTRYSIDE</u>		
City <u>MACOMB</u>	State <u>MI</u>	Zip <u>48044</u>
Email (optional)		

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

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: 169.247 Sec 47 (i)

Explain how those sections were violated:

ALL SIGNS DO NOT INCLUDE THE REQUIRED
DISCLAIMER STATEMENT-THERE IS NO
ADDRESS PRESENT IN THE DISCLAIMER.

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

SEE ATTACHED PICTURES



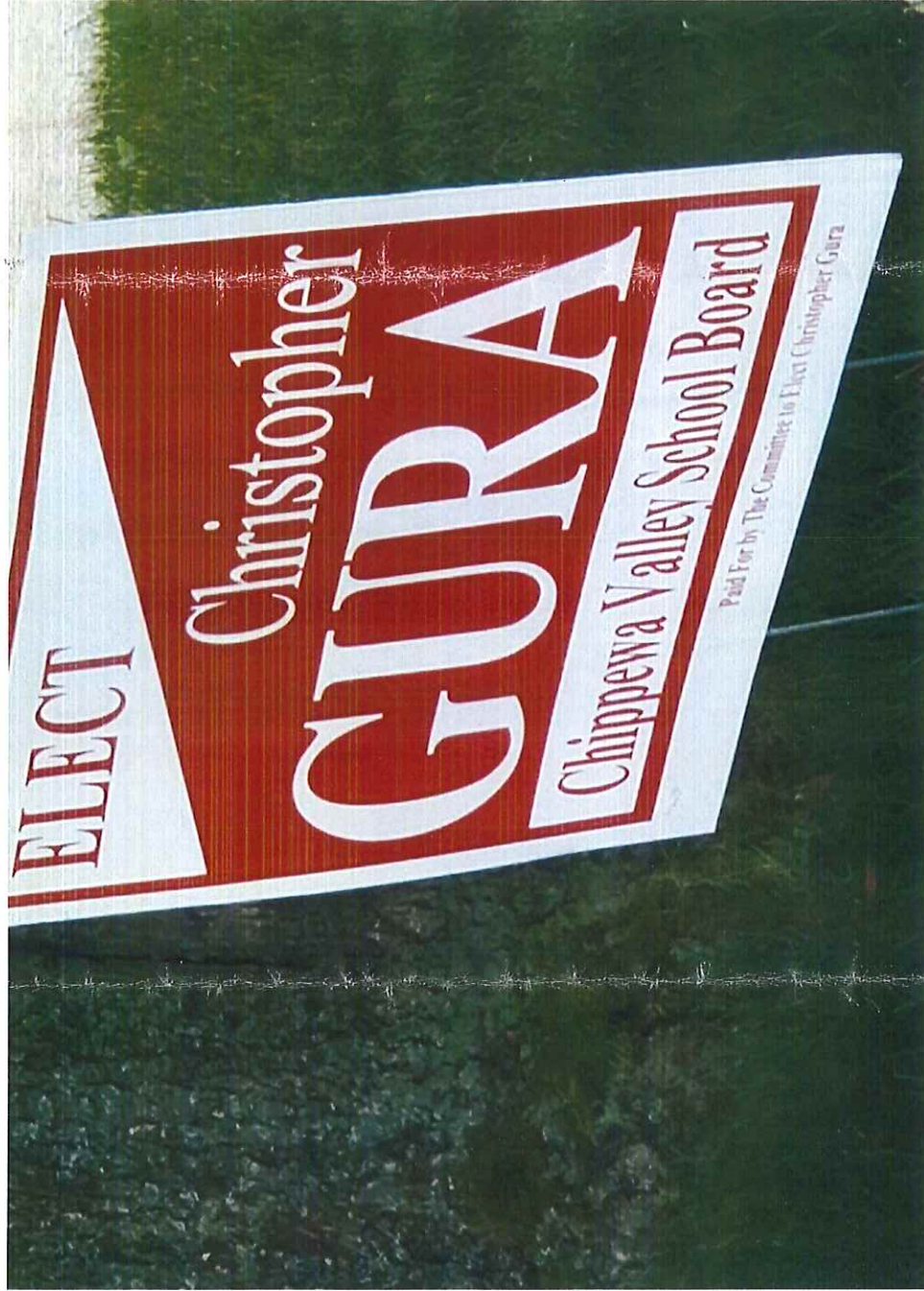
Signs Located AT 16530 21 Mile Rd
NACOMBS MI 48044



Sign Located AT 16530 21 Mile Rd
Macomb MI 48044



Sign Located AT 16530 21 Mile Rd
Macomb MI 48041



Sign located at 21106 Summerfield
Matcombs MI 48044



Sign Located Near 19120 Cass Ave,
Clinton Twp MI 48038



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

October 3, 2022

Committee to Elect Christopher Gura
20238 Countryside
Macomb, MI 48044

Re: *Prince v. Committee to Elect Christopher Gura*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 - 9 - 127 - 47

Dear Mr. Gura:

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 an identification statement on campaign signs. Pictures are included with the complaint; 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 at the address below or BOERegulatory@michigan.gov 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: Terry Prince