



Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance
Complaint Form
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS • RICHARD H. AUSTIN
BUILDING - 1st Floor 430 W. ALLEGAN STR
EET • 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 Joseph Stevenson		Daytime Telephone Number 810-4219-41806	
Mailing Address 613 Center St			
City Clio	State MI	Zip 48420	
Email (optional) Josephstevenson782@gmail.com			

Section 2. Alleged Violator			
Name Jasper Ryan Martus			
Mailing Address 612 NORTHWOOD DRIVE			
City FLUSHING	State MI	Zip 48433	
Email (optional)			

RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
2022 SEP 28 AM 11:43
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

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

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: Jasper Martus has violated Section 169.247

Explain how those sections were violated:

Jasper Martus has had a billboard, multiple small campaign yard signs, and large yard signs that do not have a mailing address. My photos show he was notified on July 13th, 2022, and, the individual acknowledged this, however, he illegally kept the signs up during the primaries. Once confronted on a clear violation of the law, he said he will get new stickers for the general to go over the address. The photos I have taken were all past the primary election, and they are still up. This indicates he did not remove all of the signs with the bad address. Which is illegal, especially after being notified through text on the number associated with his Election Committee. The text chain shows at least ONE undeniable example on Aug. 3, 2022, at 8:27 p.m. (photos 1/2).

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

Photo of billboard on Linden and Flushing, Flint, (3- July 13), sign on Stanley and Saginaw RD, Mt Morris (4- Aug 3rd), sign on Clio Road and Frances (5- Aug. 9), a sign in the Laborers Union parking lot on Dort Hwy, Mt. Morris (6- Sep. 12) and one on Stanley and Dort Hwy (7- Sep. 12). If needed for confirmation of these, contact me and I can provide the proof via the photo app which shows exact location of the photo with the date and time on my iPhone

Section 4. Certification (Required)

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

X


Signature of Complainant

9-26-22

Date

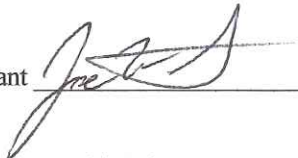
Section 5. Certification without Evidence (Supplemental to Section 4)

If, after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, you are unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported by evidence as indicated above, you may make the following certification:

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, or belief, there are grounds to conclude that the following specifically identified factual contentions are likely to be supported by evidence after a reasonable opportunity for further inquiry. Those specific contentions are:

If the photo evidence is not enough, then after acknowledgement of the violation, Jasper Martus should have removed all his signs and replaced them with new signs, or he should have placed an updated sticker on the signs. Considering Jasper Martus was notified as early as July 13th via text message, he is guilty of violating this section, and MCFA law. The punishment is as follows: a person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or imprisonment for not more than 93 days, or both. Further, his signs are still up. I see them all the time. This implies they were up during Primaries, showing he violated the law multiple times

X Signature of Complainant



Date

9-26-22

Section 15(8) of the MCFA provides that a person who files a complaint with a false certification is responsible for a civil violation of the MCFA. The person may be required to pay a civil fine of up to \$1,000.00 and some, or all, of the expenses incurred by the Michigan Department of State and the alleged violator as a direct result of the filing of the complaint.

Section 6. Submission

Once completed, mail or hand deliver the complaint form with your evidence to the address below. The complaint is considered filed upon receipt by the Bureau of Elections.

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



[https://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(hw5atb4xrlwdhgof1xg2lo0y\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectName=mcl-169-247](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(hw5atb4xrlwdhgof1xg2lo0y))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectName=mcl-169-247)

Not positive street and zip passes. Might want to check this out.

Jul 13, 8:46 PM



Hello! My apologies but it doesn't seem that I have your contact.

(810) 964-5324 • Jul 13, 8:48 PM

Yeah I just saw your board and didn't see the address. Just letting you know

2

will do. Good luck

Jul 13, 8:56 PM



Aug 3, 8:27 PM



We have stickers to add to old signs and will have new signs printed for the general.

(810) 964-5324 • Aug 3, 8:28 PM

That doesn't matter. It's illegal. You should've known that before you launched a campaign. And maybe you're lucky and no one does anything with it.

Aug 3, 8:38 PM



Some people tried to and then they lost yesterday







5

JASPER

Democrat for MI
State Representative

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jasper Martus, Flushing, MI 48433

5







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

October 10, 2022

Jasper Ryan Martus
612 Northwood Dr
Flushing, MI 48433

Re: *Stevenson v. Martus*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 - 9 - 125 - 47

Dear Mr. Martus:

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 a billboard and campaign yard 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: Joseph Stevenson