



Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance Complaint Form

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA). Electronic submission of the form to BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov is strongly recommended. 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		Daytime telephone number
Mark Brewer		248-483-5000
Mailing address		
17000 W. 10 Mile Road		
City	State	Zip
Southfield	MI	48075
Email (recommended)		
mbrewer@goodmanacker.com		

Section 2. Alleged Violator (Respondent)

Name		
See Attached List		
Mailing address		
City	State	Zip
Email (recommended)		
Committee ID (optional)		

Please include email addresses to expedite processing time and mitigate mail delays.

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

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated:

MCL 169.203(4); MCL 169.205(2); MCL 169.211(2); MCL 169.224(1); MCL 169.233; MCL 169.247(1)

Explain how these sections were violated:

This complaint alleges both that there was a failure to form a committee for the raising and spending of funds in support of the recall against State Representative Sharon MacDonell, and that there was a failure to place an identification on the recall petitions. For details, see the attached.

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

See Attached

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.



Signature of complainant

8/30/23

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:

Signature of Complainant

Date

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 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, submit the complaint form with your evidence to BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov. Alternatively, you may 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

Section 2. Alleged Violators (Respondents)

This complaint alleges both that there was a failure to form a committee for the raising and spending of funds in support of the recall against State Representative Sharon MacDonell, and that there was a failure to place an identification on the recall petitions. These individuals and organizations are jointly and severally liable for those violations.

1. **Michael T. Ross:** Ross signed the circulator certificate on the petitions to recall State Representative Sharon MacDonell.

152 Randall Drive
Troy, MI 48085

2. **Lori Skibo:** Skibo narrated and posted a video on YouTube supporting the recall of State Representative Sharon MacDonell. In addition to explaining why Representative MacDonell should be recalled, the video circulated the details for a meeting to discuss the recall effort. A link to this video is embedded below, and screenshots are attached. Skibo works for Election Integrity Fund and Force (“EIF”). She is also the former Projects Manager for Michigan Citizens for Election Integrity, a sister organization of EIF.

12875 Elk Run Parkway
Holly, MI 48442

3. **Election Integrity Fund and Force (“EIF”):** A video supporting the recall of State Representative Sharon MacDonell was posted on behalf of EIF on YouTube by EIF worker Lori Skibo. EIF is a Michigan election denier organization. It has been filing election-related lawsuits since 2020 based on widely-debunked conspiracy theories, including a case filed in 2022 in the Wayne County Circuit Court that sought to halt the counting of absentee ballots in Detroit (Case No. 22-012759-AW). It was sanctioned by the Court in 2023 for being a plaintiff in that frivolous election litigation. In 2020 and 2022, EIF also recruited and trained polling place and absentee counting room challengers. EIF initiated and publicly took credit for the statewide recounts of Proposals 2022-2 and 2022-3. A campaign finance complaint is currently pending before the Bureau of Elections for the alleged failure to report the contributions to and expenditures made during these recounts.

2383 Loch Creek Way
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
support@electionintegrityforce.com

4. **Macomb County Republican Party (“MCRP”):** On August 31, 2023, the MCRP is hosting a meeting at its headquarters to support the recall of State Representative Sharon MacDonell.

39099 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038
Macombgop.communications@gmail.com

Section 3. Violations

Under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (“MCFA”), an “[e]lection includes a recall vote.” MCL 169.205(2). Thus, any “funds spent or received by groups supporting or opposing the recall of an elected official are regulated under the MCFA.” Department of State, Interpretive Statement (November 1, 2011), p 3 available at https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/03holland/Interpretive_Statement_nov_1_2011.pdf?rev=9fb49f117fd54dbd84343fb2217c4d98&hash=41F616AC736269E2FF5C4D0434998636. Such recall expenses include, but are not limited to, “costs incurred in the drafting of the language that appears in the heading of the recall petition, preparation of the petition form, attending or participating in the clarity hearing, engaging counsel for these purposes, and so on.” *Id.*

Under the MCFA, a “committee” includes “a person that receives contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of the voters for or against the nomination or election of a candidate . . . if contributions received total \$500.00 or more in a calendar year or expenditures made total \$500.00 or more in a calendar year.” MCL 169.203(4). The MCFA defines “person” as an “individual . . . or any other organization or group of persons acting jointly.” MCL 169.211(2).

Such a committee must “file a statement of organization within 10 days after” spending and/or receiving \$500.00. MCL 169.224(1). Committees are then required to file various campaign statements throughout the year. MCL 169.233.

In 1992, the Department of State issued an interpretive statement on the MCFA’s definition of “person,” finding joint activity when “there is communication within the group with a view toward making contributions on behalf of the group.” Department of State, Interpretive Statement (September 24, 1992), p 2, available at https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/20delrio/gromek_1992.pdf?rev=1f27d185c0c247e6af7cf24be73000ec&hash=76E8D5AB3F11A03D53A73A119D1B2570. A later interpretive statement emphasized that “[o]ne of the key facts was the continuous communications.” Department of State, Interpretive Statement (April 14, 1993), p 3, available at https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/04delrio/Ayers_1993.pdf?rev=ed6871ecdad749798fba8a16bcc7aeeb&hash=BEECF814EE213C937A3811FBCCC58B29.

Coordination exists between Michael Ross, Lori Skibo, Election Integrity Fund and Force (“EIF”), and the Macomb County Republican Party (“MCRP”). Ross signed the circulator certificate on the petitions and filed the petitions to recall State Representative MacDonell. On behalf of EIF, Skibo posted and narrated a video supporting the recall of State Representative MacDonell and giving details for a meeting to discuss the recall effort. MCRP is hosting that meeting at its headquarters to discuss the recall effort.

These individuals and organizations are coordinating to initiate and support the recall of State Representative MacDonell. In other words, they are “acting jointly.” Based on information and belief, “there is communication” between Ross, Skibo, EIF, and MCRP. A coordinated effort to initiate and support a recall effort requires constant and effective communication, *i.e.*, “continuous

communications.” The recall effort “relies on coordinated activity by the members of the group,” Interpretive Statement (September 24, 1992), p 2.

Because these individuals and organizations are “acting jointly,” they fall under the definitions of “person” and “committee,” and therefore the purview of the MCFA. Based on information and belief, the \$500.00 expenditure threshold required to form a committee has been met. Among other expenditures, the MCRP is hosting a meeting and there were expenses associated with the drafting and filing of the petitions. Ross, Skibo, EIF, and MCRP have failed to form and register a committee, thus violating the MCFA.

The MCFA also requires that a recall petition have an identification of the person paying for it, commonly called a disclaimer. *See* MCL 169.247(1); *see also* MERTS, Appendix J: Identification Requirements, available at <https://mertsplus.com/mertsuserguide/index.php?n=MANUALS.AppendixJ> (“Do ballot proposal petitions require an identifier? Yes. A ballot question petition and a recall petition must bear the identification statement.”).

Specifically, the MCFA reads, “a . . . printed matter having reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question, shall bear upon it an identification that contains the name and address of the person paying for the matter.” MCL 169.247(1).

These individuals and organizations fall under the definitions of “person” and “committee,” and therefore the purview of the MCFA. They are required to comply with MCL 169.247(1) by placing an identification statement by their committee on the recall petitions. They failed to include an identification on the recall petitions filed against State Representative MacDonell, thus violating the MCFA.

YouTube Video – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teP_oGsHSng

RECALL PETITION

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the ☐ City ☐ Township ☐ Village of Oakland in the County of Oakland and State of Michigan, petition for the calling of an election to recall Sharon MacDaneil from the office of State Representative 56 for the following reason(s):
On April 13, 2023, State Representative Sharon MacDaneil voted yes on Michigan House Bill 4145.

WARNING-A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS A RECALL PETITION MORE THAN ONCE OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.

✓	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING MONTH DAY YEAR
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RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
2023 JUL 14 PM 3:28
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence and was not obtained through fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township listed in the heading of the petition, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

☐ If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [M] in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

WARNING-A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A PERSON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN AS CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

CIRCULATOR - DO NOT SIGN OR DATE
CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.

Michael T. Ross
(Signature of Circulator)

(Printed Name of Circulator)

152 Randall Drive

(Complete Residence Address [Street and Number or Rural Route] - [Do not enter a post office box])

Troy, MI 48065

(City or Township, State, Zip Code)

Oakland

(County of Registration, If Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

7/14/2023
(Date)

TO BE COMPLETED BY CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERK

Check the registration of each person whose name appears on the reverse side of this petition sheet whose name is not coded in the left-hand column.

If the person was registered to vote in your City or Township on the date he or she signed the sheet, place a check mark before the person's name.

If the person was not registered to vote in your City or Township on the date he or she signed the sheet, enter "NR" (not registered) before the person's name.

If the address listed by the person does not fall within your City or Township, enter "NC" (not in community) before the person's name.

Complete the following certificate after making the registration checks:

I hereby certify that the total number of persons whose names appear on the reverse side of this petition sheet who I identified as being registered in my City or Township on the date of signing the petition sheet is: _____
(Enter Number)

(Signature of City or Township Clerk)

☐ City or

☐ Township of _____

(Name of City or Township)

READ BEFORE CIRCULATING PETITION

The validity of signatures placed on this petition may be affected if the following is not observed.

Complete the heading of the petition before circulating it.

- Enter the city, township or village and county where the petition will be circulated. Indicate whether the jurisdiction listed is a "city", "township", or a "village". Do not list more than one city, township or village.
- Enter the officer's complete name and the office he or she holds. Include the district number of the office if there is one.
- Enter the reason(s) why the recall election is being sought. The language entered must be exactly as approved by the County Election Commission or Board of State Canvassers.

Make sure that all signers properly complete the petition.

- Each signer must be registered to vote in the city, township or village listed in the heading.
- Each signer must sign and print his or her first and last name.¹
- Each signer must enter his or her full address. A rural route number is acceptable. A post office box is not acceptable.
- Each signer must enter his or her Zip Code.²
- Each signer must date his or her signature with the month, day, and year.

Complete the circulator's certificate after circulating the petition.

- Sign and print your full name and enter the month, day, and year.¹ Signatures on the petition which are dated after the date on the circulator's certificate are invalid.
- Enter your complete residence address (street and number or rural route - do not enter a P.O. Box), city or township, state and zip code.²
- If you do not reside in Michigan, enter your county of registration if you are registered to vote in your home state, and make a cross or check mark in the box that precedes the final paragraph of the circulator certificate statement on the left side of the form.

Circulate the petition properly.

- Do not fail to question signers on their city or township of registration.
- Do not complete the heading of the petition after signatures have been affixed on the petition.
- Do not fill in a signer's address or a signer's signature date. Both entries must be in the signer's own handwriting. Ditto marks are not acceptable in these two entries.
- Do not leave the petition unattended.

¹ The failure of the circulator or an elector who signs the petition to print his or her name or to print his or her name in the proper location does not affect the validity of the circulator's or signer's signature. However, a printed name located in the space designated for printed names does not constitute the signature of the circulator or elector.

² The failure of the circulator or an elector who signs the petition to enter a Zip Code or to enter his or her correct Zip Code does not affect the validity of the circulator's or signer's signature.

RECALL PETITION

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the State of Michigan, in the County of MacDonell, petition for the recall of an election to recall Sharon MacDonell from the office of State Representative for the following reason(s):
On April 13, 2023, State Representative Sharon MacDonell voted "yes" on Michigan House Bill 4115 creating the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, i.e. "Red Flag" Law.

FOR CLERKS USE ONLY

WARNING-A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS A RECALL PETITION MORE THAN ONCE OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.

	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
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RECEIVED/FILED
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE
2023 AUG -7 AM 10:26
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence and was not obtained through fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township listed in the heading of the petition, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

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CIRCULATOR - DO NOT SIGN OR DATE
CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.

(Signature of Circulator)

(Printed Name of Circulator)

(Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)) - (Do not enter a post office box)

(City or Township, State, Zip Code)

(Date)

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

TO BE COMPLETED BY CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERK

Check the registration of each person whose name appears on the reverse side of this petition sheet whose name is not coded in the left-hand column.

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Complete the following certificate after making the registration checks:

I hereby certify that the total number of persons whose names appear on the reverse side of this petition sheet who I identified as being registered in my City or Township on the date of signing the petition sheet is: _____

(Enter Number)

(Signature of City or Township Clerk)

☐ City or

☐ Township of _____

(Name of City or Township)

READ BEFORE CIRCULATING PETITION

The validity of signatures placed on this petition may be affected if the following is not observed.

Complete the heading of the petition before circulating it.

- Enter the city, township or village and county where the petition will be circulated. Indicate whether the jurisdiction listed is a "city", "township", or a "village". Do not list more than one city, township or village.
- Enter the officer's complete name and the office he or she holds. Include the district number of the office if there is one.
- Enter the reason(s) why the recall election is being sought. The language entered must be exactly as approved by the County Election Commission or Board of State Canvassers.

Make sure that all signers properly complete the petition.

- Each signer must be registered to vote in the city, township or village listed in the heading.
- Each signer must sign and print his or her first and last name.¹
- Each signer must enter his or her full address. A rural route number is acceptable. A post office box is not acceptable.
- Each signer must enter his or her Zip Code.²
- Each signer must date his or her signature with the month, day, and year.

Complete the circulator's certificate after circulating the petition.

- Sign and print your full name and enter the month, day, and year.¹ Signatures on the petition which are dated after the date on the circulator's certificate are invalid.
- Enter your complete residence address (street and number or rural route - do not enter a P.O. Box), city or township, state and zip code.²
- If you do not reside in Michigan, enter your county of registration if you are registered to vote in your home state, and make a cross or check mark in the box that precedes the final paragraph of the circulator certificate statement on the left side of the form.

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² The failure of the circulator or an elector who signs the petition to enter a Zip Code or to enter his or her correct Zip Code does not affect the validity of the circulator's or signer's signature.

Legislative Analysis



EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER ACT ("RED FLAG" LAW)

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4145 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Ranjeev Puri**

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**House Bill 4146 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Kelly Breen**

**House Bill 4147 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Julie Brixie**

**House Bill 4148 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Stephanie A. Young**

**Committee: Judiciary
Complete to 3-8-23**

BRIEF SUMMARY:

House Bill 4145 would, among other things, do all of the following:

- Create the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

House Bill No. 4145, entitled

A bill to provide for the issuance of restraining orders prohibiting certain individuals from possessing or purchasing firearms and ordering the surrender and seizure of a restrained individual's firearms; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and entities; to prescribe penalties; and to provide remedies.

Was read a third time and passed, a majority of the members serving voting therefor, by yeas and nays, as follows:

Roll Call No. 51

Yeas—56

Aiyash
Andrews
Arbit
Brabec

Edwards
Farhat
Fitzgerald
Glanville

McFall
McKinney
Mentzer
Miller

Scott
Shannon
Skaggs
Snyder

No. 32]

[April 13, 2023] JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

431

Breen
Brixie
Byrnes
Carter, B.
Carter, T.
Churches
Coffia
Coleman
Conlin
Dievendorf

Grant
Haadsma
Hill
Hood
Hope
Hoskins
Koleszar
Liberati
MacDonell
Martus

Morgan
Morse
Neeley
O'Neal
Paiz
Pohutsky
Price
Puri
Rheingans
Rogers

Steckloff
Stone
Tate
Tsernoglou
Wegela
Weiss
Whitsett
Wilson
Witwer
Young



Search



Democrat State House Rep. Sharon MacDonell - Troy

RECALL

0:38 / 2:02



Recall - Democrat State House Rep. Sharon MacDonell

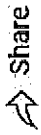


Lori Skibo
72 subscribers

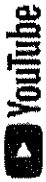
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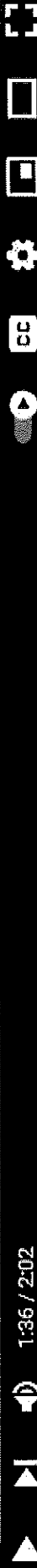
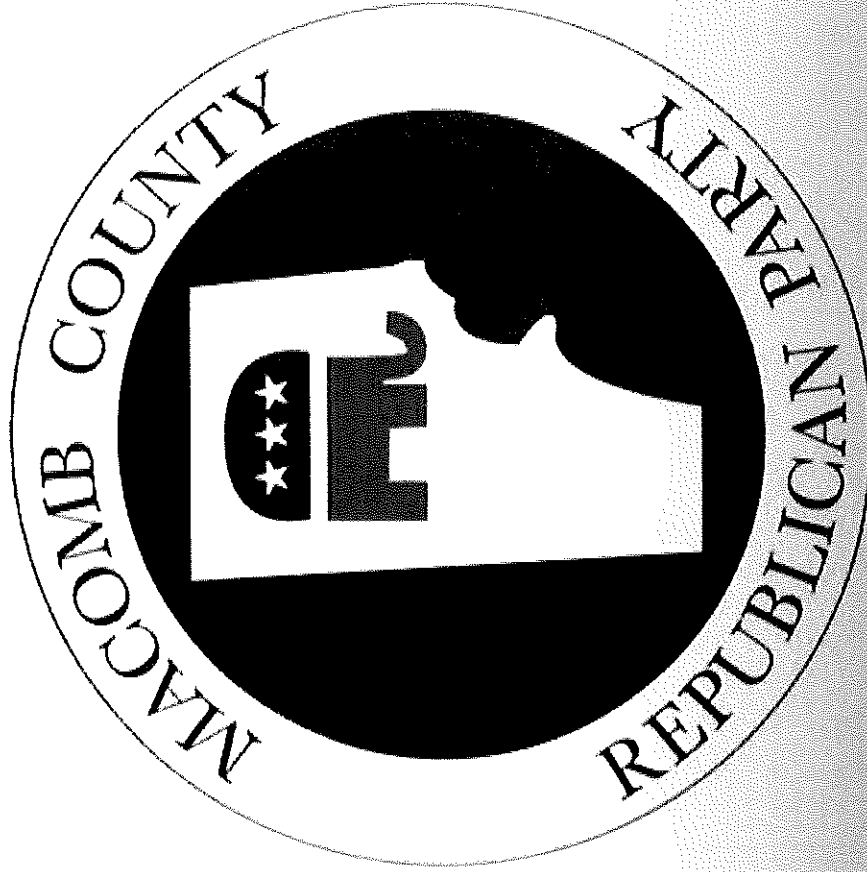


156 views Aug 29, 2023



Search

HOW WILL THE RECALL WORK?
THURSDAY, AUGUST 31
7:30- 9:00 PM
Macomb County GOP HQ
39099 Garfield Road
Clinton Township

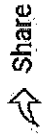


Recall - Democrat State House Rep. Sharon MacDonell



Lori Skibo
72 subscribers

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Download



156 views Aug 29, 2023



Search

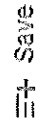
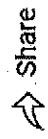
Recall - Democrat State House Rep. Sharon MacDonell



Lori Skibo
72 subscribers



8



156 views Aug 29, 2023



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

September 8, 2023

Michael T. Ross
152 Randall Drive
Troy, MI 48085

Lori Skibo
12875 Elk Run Parkway
Holly, MI 48442

Re: *Brewer v. Ross et al*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-069

Dear Mr. Ross & Ms. Skibo:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Mr. Brewer alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you are engaging in a coordinated effort to recall State Representative MacDonell and that this coordinated effort has incurred expenditures of \$500 or more requiring the formation of a committee. Additionally, these actions would require the "Paid for by" disclosure in Section 47 on printed materials. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

Mr. Brewer also filed the complaint against Election Integrity Fund and Force ("EIF") and Macomb County Republican Party ("MCRP"). He indicated in the complaint that they were a party to the coordinated effort to recall Representative MacDonell too. However, he did not submit sufficient evidence that indicates that "EIF" is involved in the alleged coordinated effort to recall Representative MacDonell. Additionally, if MCRP supported this effort by providing a meeting location for this recall effort that expenditure would need to be reported on their October 27, 2023 reports. Until MCRP files their next report with the Department we are unable to determine if the alleged violation occurred. Accordingly, the allegations against "EIF" and "MCRP" are dismissed, without prejudice.

By statutory definition, a committee is formed when "a person receives contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of the voters for or against [candidate, ballot question, etc.] if contributions received total \$500.00 or more in a calendar year or expenditures made total \$500.00 or more in a calendar year." MCL 169.203(4).

For purposes of determining whether a committee exists, the word “person” includes “a group of persons acting jointly.” 169.211(2).

Section 24 of the MCFA requires committees to file a statement of organization with the proper filing official within 10 days after the committee is formed. MCL 169.224(1). Section 24 details specific requirements for all statements of organization that must be filed. See MCL 169.224(2)-(3). A person who fails to file a timely statement is subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000. MCL 169.221(13). A person who fails to file a statement of organization shall pay a late filing fee of \$10.00 per business day the report is not filed, not to exceed \$300. MCL 169.224(1). A person failing to file a statement of organization after 30 days is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000. *Id.*

The MCFA requires committees to file contributions and expenditures with the appropriate filing official by specific dates. MCL 169.233(1) – (3). The Act requires a committee that receives or expends more than \$1,000 during any election to file campaign finance reports in compliance with the act. MCL 16.233(6). A person who knowingly omits or underreports expenditures required to be disclosed by the Act is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$1,000 or the amount of the expenditures omitted or underreported, whichever is greater.

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].” This includes recall petitions when the expenditure is covered by MCFA. 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).

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 Department’s campaign finance complaint [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 Mr. Brewer, 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: Mark Brewer

September 13, 2023

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

RE: Campaign Finance Complaint Supplemental Evidence

Dear Bureau of Elections,

On August 30, 2023, I filed a campaign finance complaint against Michael T. Ross, Lori Skibo, Election Integrity Fund and Force, and the Macomb County Republican Party on two bases: (1) there was a failure to form a committee for the raising and spending of funds in support of the recall against State Representative Sharon MacDonell; and (2) there was a failure to place an identification on the recall petitions filed against State Representative MacDonell.

Since the filing of the campaign finance complaint, we have discovered new evidence in support of our contentions that there are violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act ("MCFA"). Attached is a flyer labeled "Sharon MacDonell's Greatest Hits," detailing what is alleged to be a list of reasons for recall.

The flyer includes an email address—redflaglawrecallD56@outlook.com—further evidencing that coordination to initiate and support the recall of State Representative MacDonell exists. An individual working alone is unlikely to create a new email address for such an effort. When contacting this email address, responses come from the moniker "Concerned Citizens," providing even more evidence that this is a group effort. The organizations and individuals involved in this recall effort are required to form a committee under the MCFA because of the coordination demonstrated by the evidence previously submitted as well as this email address.

Please contact us with any further questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Brewer

Goodman Acker, P.C.

**BARRY J. GOODMAN
****GERALD H. ACKER
TIM SULOLLI
JORDAN B. ACKER
***BRADLEY M. PERI
MARK BREWER
AMANDA B. WARNER

RONITA BAHRI
MICHELLE T. AARON
J. SCOTT FANZINI
NICOLE M. MCCARTHY
JOSHUA C. MAYOWSKI
ROWAN E. CONYBEARE

**ALSO ADMITTED IN FL
***ALSO ADMITTED IN NY
****RETIRED

WWW.GOODMANACKER.COM

SHARON MACDONELL'S GREATEST HITS!

1. YES on HB 4138. Universal gun registration on purchase of any firearm.
2. YES on HB 4139. Mandatory storage of firearm in your home.
3. YES on HB 4145. **Red Flag law** leads to gun confiscation without due process. An "anonymous" tip from a disgruntled ex could result in loss of personal firearms.
4. YES on SB 147. Forces employers to pay for elective abortions for their employees.
5. YES on SB 07. Provides funds for CCP Battery plants. Communist China business investment.
6. YES on 4474. Could lead to felony charges for "mis-gendering" someone. Creates hate crime for questioning "trans" lifestyle.
7. YES on 4617. **Co-sponsored**. Bans conversion therapy.
8. **Co-sponsored HB 4567**. Absentee ballots issued without ID are to no longer be considered challenged.
9. **Co-sponsored HJR-F**. Remove gender limitations from marriage. Make marriage gender neutral.
10. **Co-sponsored HB 4431**. Legalize Sodomy and remove it from the Michigan penal code.

Helpful Links

<https://housedems.com/sharon-macdonell/> Link to MacDonell's government page.

<https://rescuemichigan.com/scorecards.php> Link to **Representative Scorecards**

PLEASE CONTACT US AT: redflaglawrecallD56@outlook.com



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

SECOND NOTICE

October 31, 2023

Michael T. Ross
152 Randall Drive
Troy, MI 48085

Lori Skibo
12875 Elk Run Parkway
Holly, MI 48442

Re: Brewer v. Ross et al
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-069
Dear Mr. Ross & Ms. Skibo:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Mr. Brewer alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you are engaging in a coordinated effort to recall State Representative MacDonell and that this coordinated effort has incurred expenditures of \$500 or more requiring the formation of a committee. Additionally, these actions would require the "Paid for by" disclosure in Section 47 on printed materials. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

The Department sent you notice of this complaint on September 8, 2023. 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.

Mr. Brewer also filed the complaint against Election Integrity Fund and Force ("EIF") and Macomb County Republican Party ("MCRP"). He indicated in the complaint that they were a party to the coordinated effort to recall Representative MacDonell too. However, he did not submit sufficient evidence that indicates that "EIF" is involved in the alleged coordinated effort to recall Representative MacDonell. Additionally, if MCRP supported this effort by providing a meeting location for this recall effort that expenditure would need to be reported on their October 27, 2023 reports. Until MCRP files their next report with the Department we are unable to

determine if the alleged violation occurred. Accordingly, the allegations against “EIF” and “MCRP” are dismissed, without prejudice.

By statutory definition, a committee is formed when “a person receives contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of the voters for or against [candidate, ballot question, etc.] if contributions received total \$500.00 or more in a calendar year or expenditures made total \$500.00 or more in a calendar year.” MCL 169.203(4). For purposes of determining whether a committee exists, the word “person” includes “a group of persons acting jointly.” 169.211(2).

Section 24 of the MCFA requires committees to file a statement of organization with the proper filing official within 10 days after the committee is formed. MCL 169.224(1). Section 24 details specific requirements for all statements of organization that must be filed. See MCL 169.224(2)-(3). A person who fails to file a timely statement is subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000. MCL 169.221(13). A person who fails to file a statement of organization shall pay a late filing fee of \$10.00 per business day the report is not filed, not to exceed \$300. MCL 169.224(1). A person failing to file a statement of organization after 30 days is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000. *Id.*

The MCFA requires committees to file contributions and expenditures with the appropriate filing official by specific dates. MCL 169.233(1) – (3). The Act requires a committee that receives or expends more than \$1,000 during any election to file campaign finance reports in compliance with the act. MCL 16.233(6). A person who knowingly omits or underreports expenditures required to be disclosed by the Act is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$1,000 or the amount of the expenditures omitted or underreported, whichever is greater.

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].” This includes recall petitions when the expenditure is covered by MCFA. 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).

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 Department’s campaign finance complaint [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 Mr. Brewer, 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: Mark Brewer

September 28, 2023

Department of State - Bureau of Elections, Regulatory Section
Richard H. Austin Building
1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street Lansing, Michigan 48918
BOERegulatory@michigan.gov

Re: Brewer v Ross et al, Campaign Finance Complaint No 23-069.

Dear Bureau of Elections, Regulatory Section:

I am responding to the formal complaint filed against me by Mr. Brewer alleging that I violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or ACT).

Specifically, the complaint alleges that I engaged “*in a coordinated effort*” to recall State Representative MacDonell and that this “*coordinated effort*” has incurred expenditures of \$500 or more requiring the formation of a committee, and the “Paid for by” disclosure in Section 47 on ***printed materials***.

I understand that by statutory definition, a committee is formed when a person ***receives contributions*** or ***makes expenditures*** for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of the voters for or against (candidate, ballot question) **if contributions received total \$500.00** or more in a calendar year or **expenditures made total \$500.00** or more in a calendar year. *MCL 169.203(4)*. I also understand that

for purposes of determining whether a committee exists, the word person includes a group or person acting jointly. *MCL 169.211(2)*.

1. Mr. Brewer provided the name of Michael T. Ross of 152 Randall Drive Troy, MI 48085 as the circulator of the petitions. I do not know Mr. Ross. To the best of my knowledge I have never met, spoken to, communicated with, or ever had any interactions with Mr. Ross.
2. Mr. Brewer alleges that I work for Election Integrity Fund and Force (“EIF”). This is categorically false. I do not work for EIF.
3. Mr. Brewer alleges that EIF and Michigan Citizens for Election Integrity are sister organizations. I believe that to be a false statement.
4. Mr. Brewer alleges that I posted a YouTube video on behalf of EIF. That is a categorically false statement. Additionally, I have no knowledge to any of his other references regarding his allegations of de-bunked conspiracy theories or lawsuits relating to EIF.
5. Mr. Brewer alleges Macomb County Republican Party hosted a meeting at its headquarters. I was not in attendance.
6. Mr. Brewer alleges that coordination exists between me, Michael Ross, EIF and MCRP.
 1. Again, I have no idea who Mr. Ross is.
 2. I have never been in communication with anyone from the organization EIF regarding a recall effort.
 3. I have never attended any meetings at MCGOP headquarters, regarding a recall effort.
 4. I have never attended any meetings, anywhere at any time regarding a recall effort.
 5. I have never circulated any petitions relating to a recall effort, ever.
 6. In other words, “*I have not acted jointly*” with any of the named persons or organizations Mr. Brewer alleges.
7. I have never accepted funds nor paid any expenditures in relation to a recall effort, ever.

8. I have not circulated any printed material, nor has Mr. Brewer provided any evidence that I have.

Finally, the screenshots Mr. Brewer provided were not printed material. It was a video invitation sent to individuals to see if they wanted to exercise their rights of assembly. I never accepted or expended any money creating the invitation.

Based on the above information I have provided above, I would appreciate this matter being brought to a close.

Sincerely,

Lori L Skibo

Lori L. Skibo
12875 Elk Run Parkway
Holly, Michigan 48442



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

November 29, 2023

Mark Brewer
17000 W. 10 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48075

Re: *Brewer v. Ross et al.*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-069

Dear Mr. Brewer:

The Department of State received a response from Lori Skibo to the complaint you filed against her 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 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

Attachment
c: Lori Skibo



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

February 2, 2024

Michael T. Ross
152 Randall Drive
Troy, MI 48085

Lori Skibo
12875 Elk Run Parkway
Holly, MI 48442

Re: *Brewer v. Ross et al*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-069

Dear Mr. Ross & Ms. Skibo:

The Department of State (Department) has finished investigating the campaign finance complaint filed against you by Mr. Brewer alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). This letter concerns the disposition of that complaint.

The complaint alleged that you should have formed a committee for your coordinated effort to recall State Representative MacDonell.

Ms. Skibo responded to the complaint notice by denying that there was a coordinated effort to recall Representative MacDonell. Ms. Skibo denied working with Mr. Ross in any capacity.

Mr. Ross didn't provide a response to Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-069.

Mr. Brewer didn't submit a response to the rebuttal.

Section 24 of the MCFA requires committees to file a statement of organization with the proper filing official within 10 days after the committee is formed. MCL 169.224(1). Section 24 details specific requirements for all statements of organization that must be filed. See MCL 169.224(2)-(3). A person who fails to file a timely statement is subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000. MCL 169.221(13). A person who fails to file a statement of organization shall pay a late filing fee of \$10.00 per business day the report is not filed, not to exceed \$300. MCL 169.224(1). A person failing to file a statement of organization after 30 days is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000. *Id.*

The Department has reviewed the evidence submitted in this matter and finds that insufficient evidence has been presented to support a finding of a potential violation of the MCFA.

Because the violation of the MCFA alleged in the complaint has not been substantiated by

sufficient evidence, the Department dismisses the complaint and will take no further enforcement action. If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Biehl".

Jimmy Biehl, Regulatory Attorney
Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Mark Brewer