



# 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](mailto: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 Ormand Hook		Daytime telephone number 231-349-9385
Mailing address 14622 190th Avenue		
City Big Rapids	State MI	Zip 49307
Email (recommended) ormandhook@charter.net		

## Section 2. Alleged Violator (Respondent)

Name Jeff Scarpelli, Big Rapids Digital		
Mailing address 18720 16 Mile Rd		
City Big Rapids	State MI	Zip 49307
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:

169.247

Explain how these sections were violated:

Big Rapids Digital developed the campaign website, [www.chapmangreentownship.com](http://www.chapmangreentownship.com), for James Chapman. There is no "Paid for By" disclaimer on this campaign website.

Also on this website, there is a link "For additional info, click here" that is directed to [www.greentownship.org](http://www.greentownship.org), the official website for Green Charter Township, Mecosta County, Michigan. James Chapman, the customer of Big Rapids Digital, is the Supervisor of Green Charter Township, and is currently under recall.

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

See photos of the website in question, attached to this email.

#### 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

10-21-23

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](mailto: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





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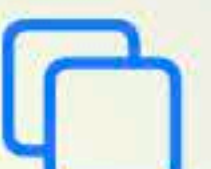
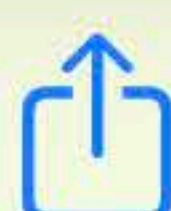
Contact Us



**Township Supervisor**

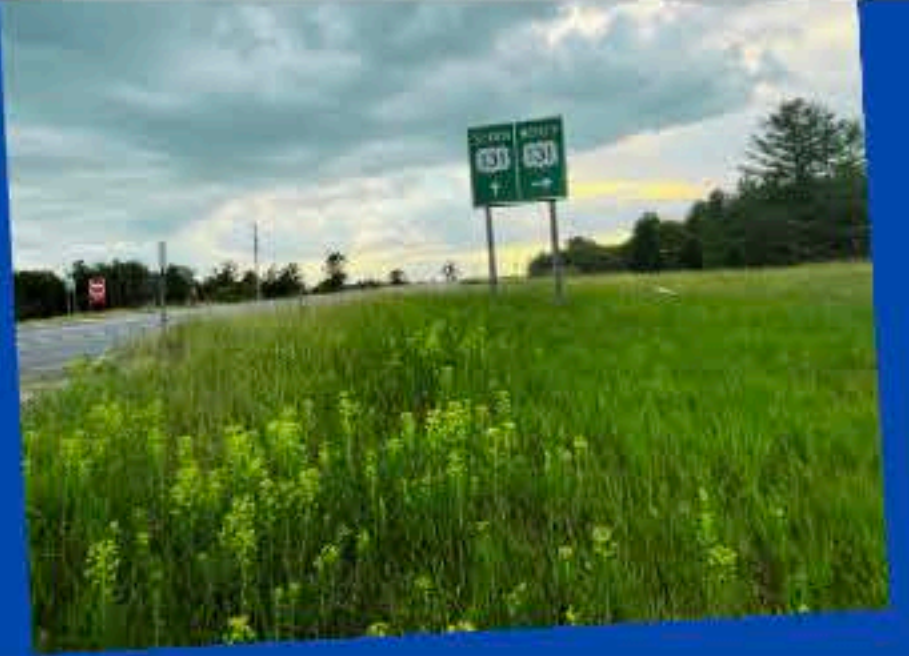
AA

greentownship.org





**FEDERAL BATTERY PLANT RESEARCH PAPER TO INFO YOU**  
 An area poised for eventual development, Jim keeps an eye to decision-making that will grow the economic well-being of Green Township, bring employment and conveniences and guard the way of life township residents expect to have.



**Added bathrooms at Stone Hatchery Park**  
 Much needed and with grant funds to save cost for township residents, bathrooms will be added to this facility this summer.

**Support for the Gotion Inc Battery Plant**

Jim believes the positive economic impact of the battery plant's development can change the course of the Big Rapids area for good! Jim did his homework on the project and has provided all the projects facts from day 1!



**FIND THE GOTION DEVELOPMENT FACTS BELOW:**

**FEDERAL BATTERY PLANT RESEARCH PAPER**  
**MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND APPLICATION**  
**GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP TIMELINE**  
**GOTION HIGH TECH OWNERSHIP ANALYSIS**  
**RENAISSANCE ZONE APP W/GOALS FOR GROWTH**  
**MICHIGAN GUIDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFO, CLICK HERE**

**NOVEMBER 7TH**  
**REELECT JIM CHAPMAN**  
**GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

**GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

★ ★ ★  
**JIM CHAPMAN**



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★ ★ ★  
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**JIM CHAPMAN HAS BEEN GETTING THINGS DONE FOR GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP! HIS LEADERSHIP HAS LED TO NUMEROUS IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP!**

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**With the Board, Jim Chapman has:**

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to underserved areas with 2 large towers with a third tower under consideration for the west side of the township



**Improved roads and kept paved roads as paved roads**



**The washouts on 190th - fixed. 220th and other roads designated by the County to return to gravel - remain paved. 205th north of Hoover - for repair this Summer. Jim and the board advocate with the County to repair our roads.**

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chapmangreentownship.com







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Mailing address		
14622 190th Avenue		
City	State	Zip
Big Rapids	MI	49307
Email (recommended)		
ormandhook@charter.net		

## Section 2. Alleged Violator (Respondent)

Name		
James Chapman		
Mailing address		
18134 Meadow Lane		
City	State	Zip
Big Rapids	MI	49307
Email (recommended)		
jjsport.jc@gmail.com		
Committee ID (optional)		
Citizens for Jim Chapman		

*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:

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Explain how these sections were violated:

On the campaign website, [www.chapmangreentownship.com](http://www.chapmangreentownship.com), there is no "Paid for By" disclaimer.

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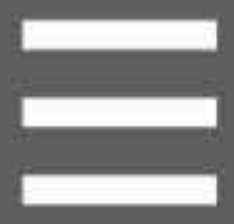
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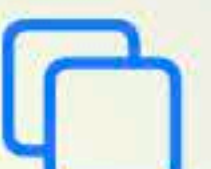
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Township Supervisor

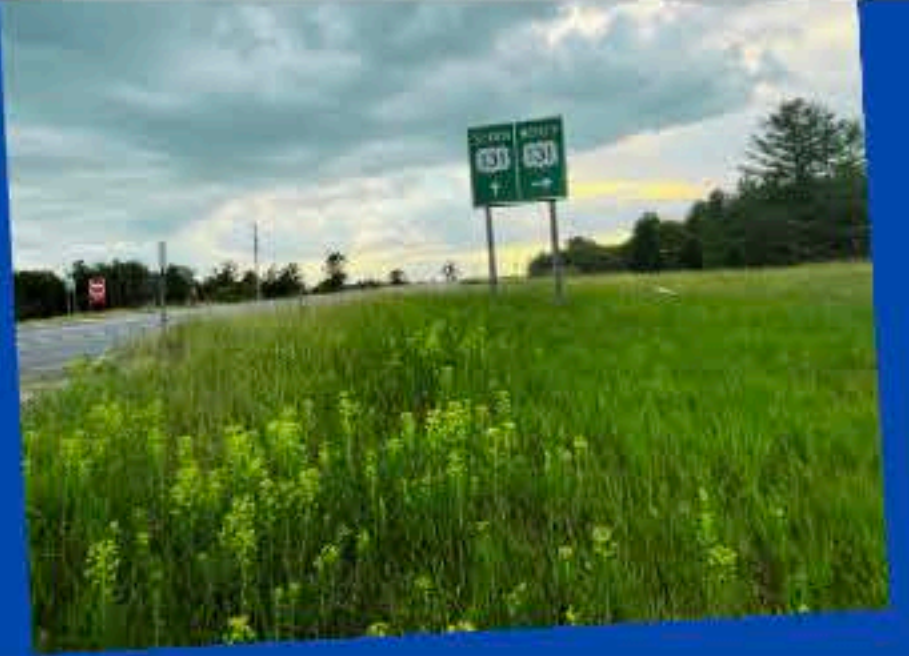
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greentownship.org





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chapmangreentownship.com







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

October 31, 2023

James Chapman  
18134 Meadow Lane  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Big Rapids Digital  
Jeff Scarpelli  
18720 16 Mile Rd  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Re: *Hook v. Chapman*  
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-086  
*Hook v. Scarpelli*  
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-087

Dear Mr. Chapman & Big Rapids Digital:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint alleging a violation of MCL 169.247 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) by failing to include an identification statement on the website advocating for the reelection of Green Charter Township Supervisor Jim Chapman. The complaint included reference to the website [www.chapmangreentownship.com](http://www.chapmangreentownship.com) with the Big Rapids Digital logo at the bottom of the page.

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 to [BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov](mailto: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: Ormand Hook