

Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance Complaint Form BUREAU OF ELECTIONS • RICHARD H. AUSTIN BUILDING - 1** Floor 430 W. ALLEGAN STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918 RECEIVED/FILED MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

8. 2- 22 AM 8: 36

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the STAREAT SEAL 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 OF RUSS Daytime Telephone Number Your Name TNP. MC 269 73 4888 Supervisor Mailing Address 12086 M SP, OF FILES State City Zip 49083 ichland (1) Email (optional) supervisor @ rocktownshipmi . gov Section 2. Alleged Violator Name Alexander Harris Mailing Address abelle Terrace C68 State City Zip 49083 ichland MI Email (optional) RossTwpCamail.com tamis Section 3. Allegations (Use additional sheets if more space is needed.) ee 2020 Complain X 57 AGAIN Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: Explain how those sections were violated: has Used The Őĭ A Officia taken OU NGO ΰľ heima promot DPV SOMA CIADVE OWNGAL **USING** 1111 * See Attache

Evidence included with the submission of the complaint that supports the allegations: <u>Alexander Harris Campaign Maller Scht</u> to voting vesidents in poss Township. Approximately 2500 voting residential homes.

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

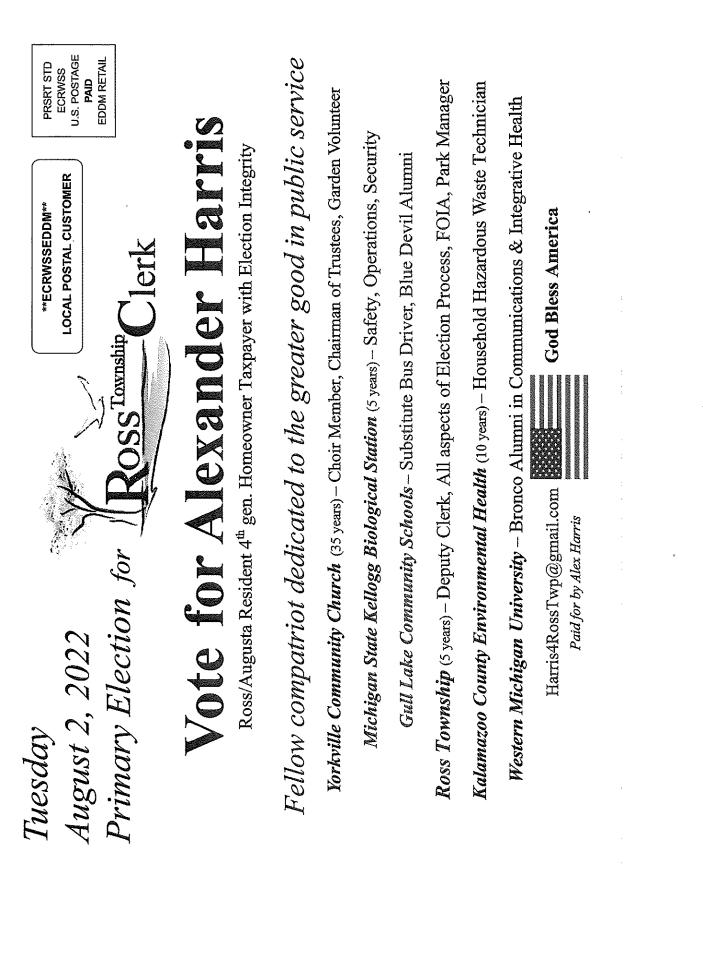
Section 15(8) of the MCFA provides that a person who files a complaint with a false certification is responsible for a civil violation of the MCFA. The person may be required to pay a civil fine of up to \$1,000.00 and some, or all, of the expenses incurred by the Michigan Department of State and the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

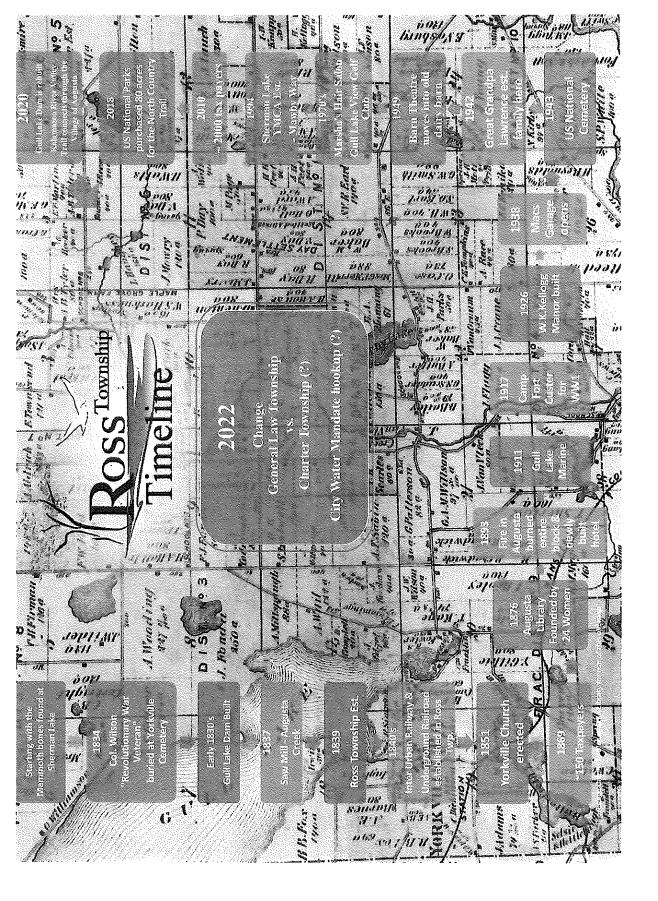
Section 6. Submission

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

Х





Search ...

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thur 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CONTACT: office@rosstownshipmi.gov Ph: 269-731-4888 Fax: 269-731-5551



Search ...

Terms and Conditions

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www.rosstownshipmi.gov is a local government Site Providing information on township boards and commissions, activities and meetings etc.

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Your use of www.rosstownshipmi.gov is subject to Ross Township's Privacy Policy. Please review our Privacy



20180711 BirdsAndCoffee 0082 scaled

Public Notices Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority

RIPPLE EFFECT Newsletter

EMAIL US: office@rosstownship mi.gov TEL: 269-731-4888 FAX: 269-731-5551 Policy, which also governs the Site and informs users of our data collection practices.

Electronic Communications

Visiting www.rosstownshipmi.gov or sending emails to Ross Township constitutes electronic communications. You consent to receive electronic communications and you agree that all agreements, notices, disclosures and other communications that we provide to you electronically, via email and on the Site, satisfy any legal requirement that such communications be in writing.

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• Mon-Thur 9-4:30

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Liability disclaimer

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You agree that no joint venture, partnership, employment, or agency relationship exists between you and Ross Township as a result of this agreement or use of the Site. Ross Township's performance of this agreement is subject to existing laws and legal process, and nothing contained in this agreement is in derogation of Ross Township's right to comply with governmental, court and law enforcement requests or requirements relating to your use of the Site or information provided to or gathered by Ross Township with respect to such use. If any part of this agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable pursuant to applicable law including, but not limited to, the warranty disclaimers and liability limitations set forth above, then the invalid or unenforceable provision will be deemed superseded by a valid, enforceable provision that most closely matches the intent of the original provision and the remainder of the agreement shall continue in effect.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the user and Ross Township with respect to the Site and it supersedes all prior or contemporaneous communications and proposals, whether electronic, oral or written, between the user and Ross Township with respect to the Site. A printed version of this agreement and of any notice given in electronic form shall be admissible in judicial or administrative proceedings based upon or relating to this agreement to the same extent an d subject to the same conditions as other business documents and records originally generated and maintained in printed form. It is the express wish to the parties that this agreement and all related documents be written in English.

Changes to Terms

Ross Township reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to change the Terms under which www.rosstownshipmi.gov is offered. The most current version of the Terms will supersede all previous versions. Ross Township encourages you to periodically review the Terms to stay informed of our updates.

Contact Us

Ross Township welcomes your questions or comments regarding the Terms:

Ross Township 12086 M-89 Richland, MI 49083 269-731-4888

Effective as of July 1, 2022

🖉 Edit

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Ordinances Taxes Forms Resources

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Sitemap

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OFFICE CLOSINGS

- Memorial Day May 31st
- Independence Day July

4th

- Labor Day Sep. 6th
- Thanksglving Day Nov.
 25th

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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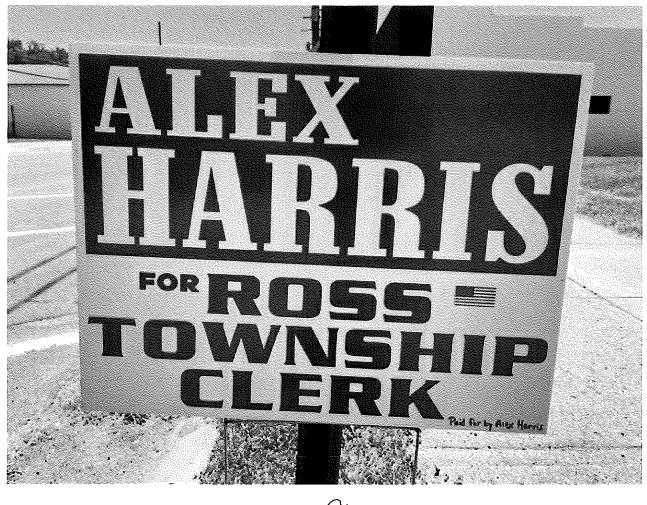
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Ross Township

From: Sent: To:

Monday, July 25, 2022 11:15 AM



Front Illegal Sign



Back Illegal Sign

monday,712512022



Sign Pocsted on Augusta Village Precinct #1 Property

Monday 712512002



Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance Complaint Form



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

2020 JUL -9 PM 1:57

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

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name Linda Walters		Daytime Telephone Number (920) 456-9091
Mailing Address 7229 Pin Oak C		
city Augusta	State MI	zip 49012
Email (optional) Walters _ 19872	MSN.C	om

Section 2. Alleged Violator Name arris Alexander Mailing Address Terrace 868 Labelle State Zip City 49083 land MI Rich Email (optional) Clark @ RossTown. comcustbiz. net Deput

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

5 1

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: _ Explain how those sections were violated:

Deputy Clerk For Ross Towns Marris rce amail township's pub is using tunde t aduas DUDIC Cam an torwith blic official contacting himselt. asa ロオ 2 Clark the nex-T alacit TO 68 can pang 101olitica

Evidence included, with the submission of the complaint that supports the allegations: Ross Town ship dirac itan li Enclosed ar sant by am Z: Campaign Mail Mr. Harris to all residents Ross Township, Note: A public office anail address next to his picture.

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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.

Х

6 July 2020

Signature of Complainant

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:

6 July 2020 Signature of Complainant

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Section 6. Submission

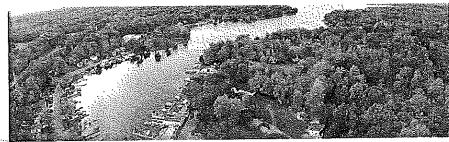
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Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections Richard H. Austin Building – 1st Floor 430 West Allegan Street Lansing, Michigan 48918

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General

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Master Plan

FOIA

Parks / Recreation

Local Events & Resources

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Law Enforcement Proposals

Office Staff and Board Members

General Township Email

Rosstownship@rosstown.comcastbiz.net Supervisor; Supervisor@rosstown.comcastbiz.net Clerk; Clerk@rosstown.comcastbiz.net Treasurer; Synclee@rosstown.comcastbiz.net

Office

Office Manager: Mary Carol Wilkins Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 - 4:30 Deputy Treasurer, Kent Williamson Deputy Clerk: Alex Harris

Ross Township Board (Elected)

Rob Baker, Supervisor Norm Kellogg, Clerk Cynthia Genung, Treasurer Mike Suika, Trustee Diana Langshaw, Trustee Lynn Harmon, Trustee David Senkewilz, Trustee

Ross Township Planning Commission

Jim Lauderdale, Chairman Sherri Snyder Michael Moore Pamela Sager Mark Markillle Michael Bekes Mike Sulka, Board Representative Rebecca Harvey, P.C. Planner

Ross Township Zoning Board of Appeals

David Carpenter, Chairman Jim Lauderdale James Dekruyter Biake Hawk (Alternate) Jim Gilbert (Alternate)

Ross Township Board of Review

Larry Greer, Chairman Joy Brown Zach Klipsch Mary Carol Wilkins (Alternate)

Assessor

Angela Story Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1-4:30 p.m.

Building/Zoning Administrator

Associated Government Services, Inc. (AGS) 269-629-0600









Fire Department

Ross Township

Doug Begema, Fire Chief David Shirley, Asst. Fire Chief

CONTACT US	OFFICE HOURS	JOIN OUR MAILING LIST	SEARCH OUR SITE
EMAIL US: rosstown.comcastbiz.net TEL: 269-731-4888 FAX: 269-731-5551 12086 M-89, Richland, Mi 49083	 Mon-Thur 9-4:30 OFFICE CLOSINGS New Year's Day - Jan, 1st Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Jan, 20th President's Day - Feb. 17th Memorial Day - May 25th Labor Day - Sep. 7th Election Day - Nov. 3rd Veterans Day - Nov. 11th Thanksgiving - Nov. 26th Christmas Eve - Dec. 24 New Year's Eve - Dec. 31 	E-mail address: Subscribe Unsubscribe O SUBMIT	Q ™



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Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance Complaint Form BUREAU OF ELECTIONS • RICHARD H. AUSTIN BUILDING - 1" Floor 430 W. ALLEGAN STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918

2020 OCT 26 PM 1:58

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

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name Linda, Walters		Daytime Telephone Number (920) 456 9091
Mailing Address 7229 Pin Dak Circl	2	
City Augusta	State MLL	^{Zip} 4401 2.
Email (optional)		
	YWVOV.L	
Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Hiexander U. Harris		
868 LaBelle Ter	State	Zip to a
City Rickland	MI	²⁰ 49 083
Email (optional) Harr 15302 msu.edu		
Section 3. Allegations (Use additional sheets if more	snace is needed.)	
Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated:	· · · · ·	ction 24
Explain how those sections were violated:	<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	<u>1997 - N. I. Y</u>
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	impaign.	un la se de se
fact that he had at least 100	2 52 "	n Signs and a 8 1/2 x 11
campation mailer. The mailer w	as sent t	o the entire township
The cost of postage alone wo	uld out h	im close or over the \$ 10
Evidence included with the submission of the complain	1	L.L.M.I
Attachment 1: Statement	of Organ	ization
2: Copy of mail	ler lactua	l size)
3: Copy of can	rpaign 🕏	HE Sign

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.

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Dct 1, 2020

Signature of Complainant

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X ______ Date

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

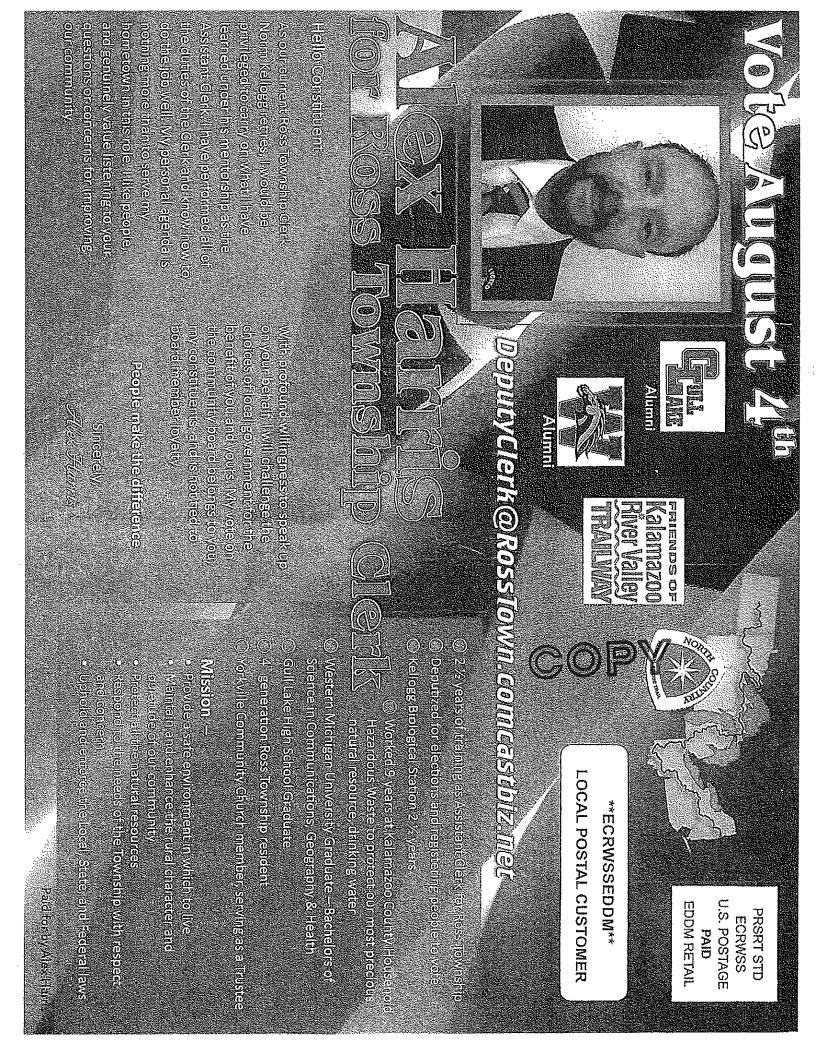
Section of the MCFA alleged to be violated: 169.224 Section 24

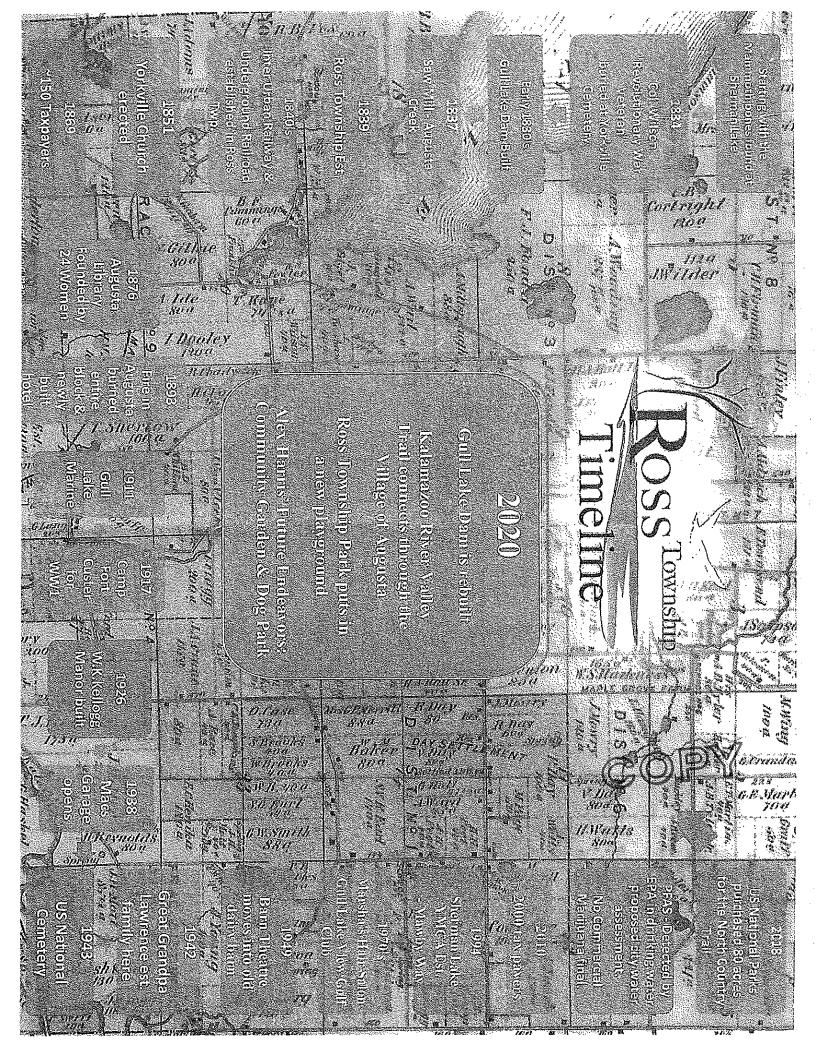
I, Linda Walters, allege that Alexander D. Harris did exceed the \$1000 limit during his campaign for the Township Clerk position. Mr. Harris had at least 100 campaign signs and had sent a campaign mailer. The campaign mailer was 8 ½ x 11 and was sent to the entire Ross Township population. The cost of the postage alone would put him over \$1000. The cost of the printing of the mailer would also put him over the \$1000 limit.

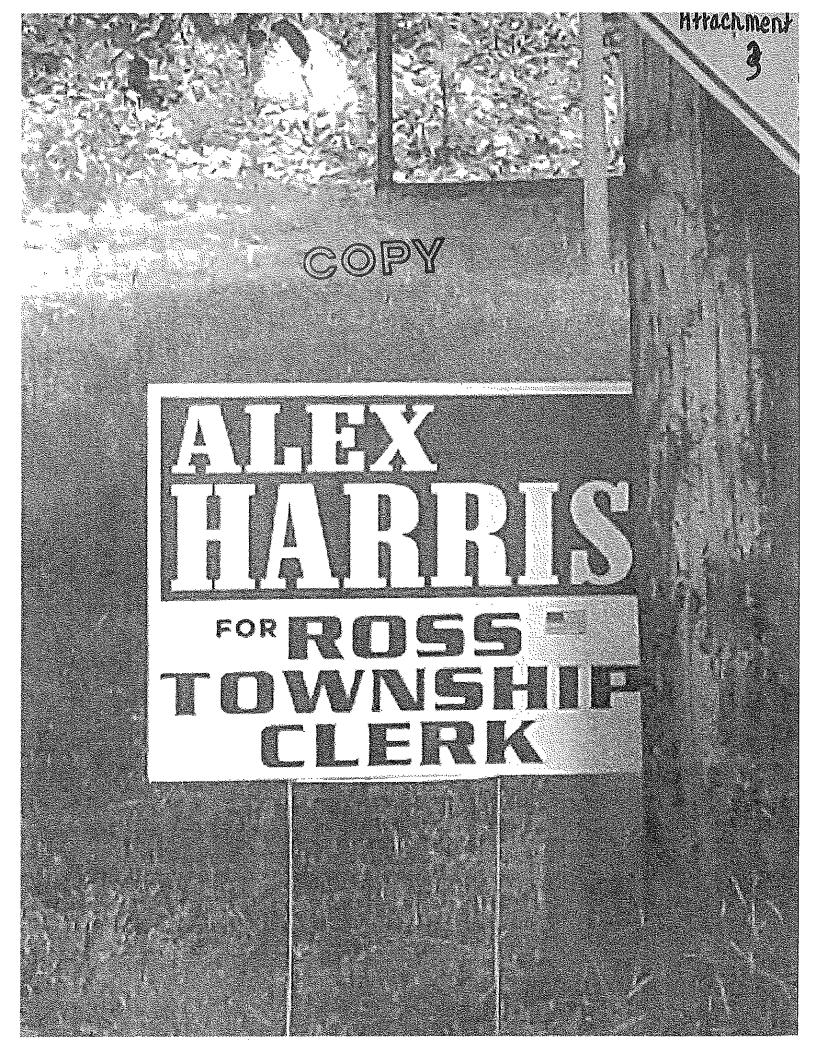
Mr. Harris, as of today, has not updated his Statement of Organization nor has he filed any financial documents to reflect that he did exceed \$1000, if proven to be accurate.



NEM	BUREAU OF ELECTION		ORIGINAL	OR AMENDED	Httachme	nt 1
(GI)	BOREAD OF ELECTION	STATEMENT OF ORGAN	ZATION FORM FOR LOCAL C	CANDIDATE COMMITTE	ES FILED WITH A COUNTY CLE	
				s form is made public.		RATE
1. Commit	: 501d	3 *2. Type of Filling	Amendment to items:			PY
*3. Full Nar	ne of Committee (must Alex Har	Include Candidate's first	and last name):	,		
*4a. Candic	ate Full Name: Last Na		First Name A	exander	MID	
*4b. Politic	al Party (if applicable): <		*4c. County of		nazoo	4
*4d. Office		ip Clerk	*4e. District or	iurisdiction: 🦳	ss Township	
*5. Date Co	mmittee was Formed:					
We land	Ittae Phone:	69)806,9918	6b. Committee	(* * *	,	
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: *3, }-1, K3	ma of 868 La	Address (May be PO Box Belle Ter RW	Mand, MI 99085	······		·) & 6 (7 * * 1 * * 1 f y 4 % 94 (2 * 44) a 4
*75. Compl	ete Committee Street A	a Relle Ter Bi	doland un flas	5		
*8. Treasur	er Name and Complete	Residential Address:	ris 8741 Merrim	ac Brichland, MI	49083	· ·
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12:Verification complete to the signatur	tign! If We certify that al the best of my/our kno es that verify the accura If he used in the prepara	I reasonable diligence was wiedge or bellef. If filing o acy and completeness of é ition of each statement el	ampaign statements electron ach statement filed electroni	ically, we further agree Ically by the committee	I that the contents are true, at that the signatures below sha . I/We certify that all reasonal tents of each statement will be	ble
*Candidate	alexander I) Harrispate: 1/	4/2020 *Current Tres	asurer	Date:	
*Designifie	Tracord Keeper (If App	Accurence the	Nir		Date: 4/	13/2020
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SOS, Disclosure

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: SOS, Elections Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:15 PM SOS, Disclosure FW: Sign Complaint Sign Complaint.pdf; HarrisSign.jpg; HarrisSign2.jpg



From: Walters Family <walters_1987@msn.com> Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:06 PM To: SOS, Elections <Elections@michigan.gov> Subject: Sign Complaint

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Dear Elections Office – Please see attached. A hard copy was placed in the mail today. This is an urgent matter as the primary election is on August 4, 2020.

Mr. Harris was notified by Sarah Joshi, Kalamazoo Election Specialist, regarding this matter. Mr. Harris failed to correct the signs but instead added "flag" stickers to the signs. There are roughly 125 signs throughout the community. Sarah's contact information is <u>sojosh@kalcounty.com</u>.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. I can be reached at phone number (920) 456-9091.

Respectfully,

Linda Walters



2

Michigan Department of State

Campaign Finance Complaint Form BUREAU OF ELECTIONS + RICHARD H. AUSTIN BUILDING - 1** 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	Linda Walters			Daytime Telephone T (930)	456 9041
Mailing Address	7229 Pin Da	K Circle			
City	Augusta		State ML	^{Zip} 49018	
Email (optional)		_ 1987 o msn			
Section 2.	Alleged Violator				
Name	Alex Harris	L			
Mailing Address	868 Labelle	Terrace			
City	Richland		State	^{zp} 49083	angarina surungan surungan (s.
Email (optional)		@Ross Town	ı.ComCas		
Section 3.	Allegations (Use addi	tional sheets if more	space is needed.)		
Section(s) of	the MCFA alleged to b	e violated: 47			
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<u> </u>	of identificatio		0_0		
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Section 4. Certification (Required)

1

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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.

ture of Complainant

21 July 2020

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:

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.

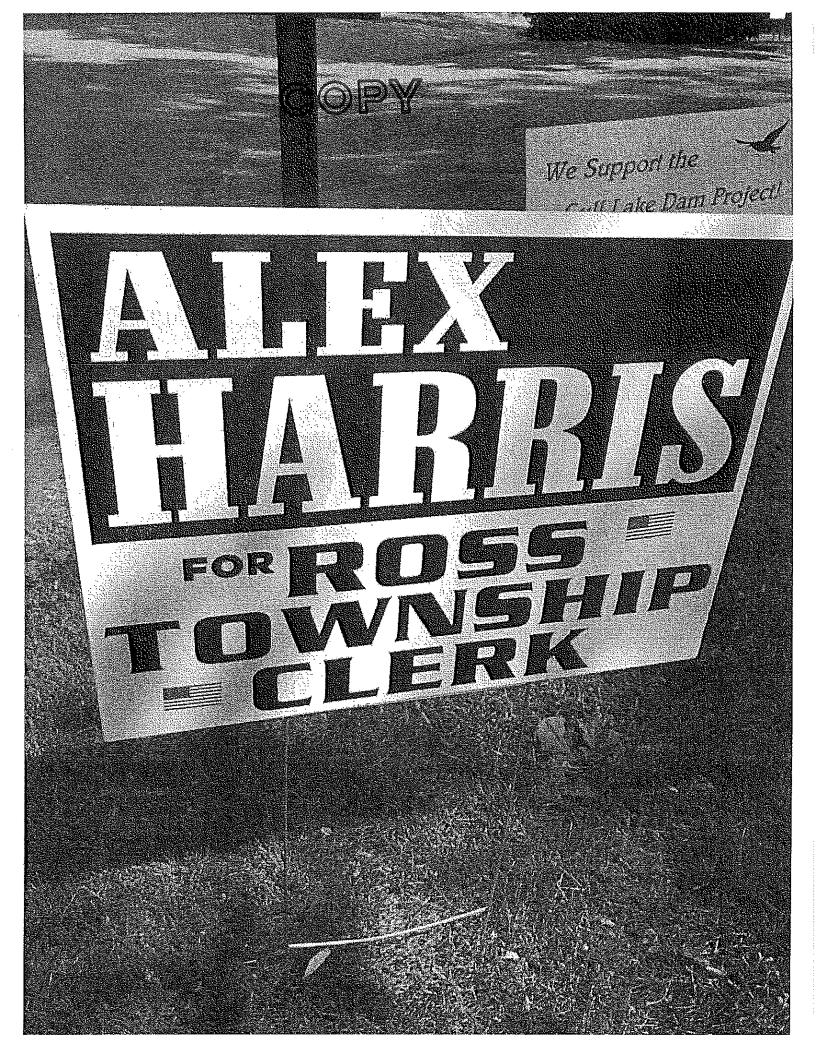
Section 6. Submission

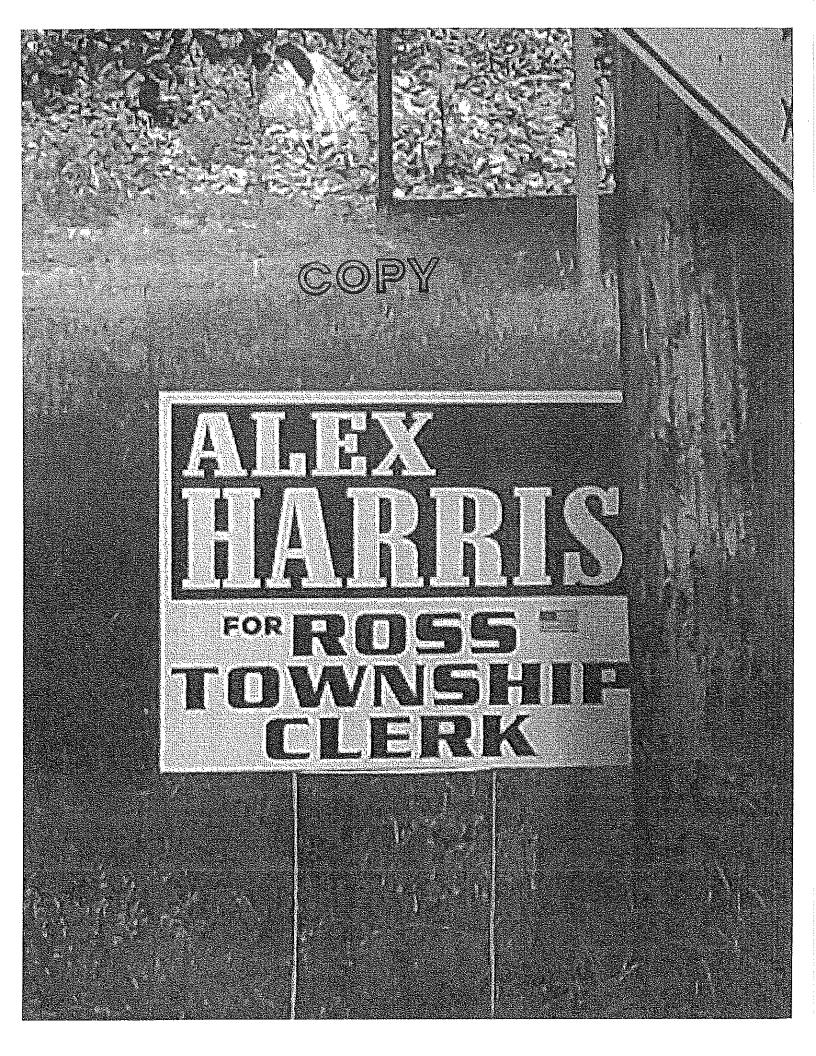
Revised: 06/19

Signature of Complainant

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





COP

August 13th 2020

Re: Walters v. Harris Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2020-07-52-57

Dear Adam:

In Michigan, it is unlawful for a public or an individual acting on its behalf to use or authorize the use of equipment, supplies, personnel, funds, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure.

Ms. Walters alleges that I have used my Ross Township email account improperly.

I appreciate this concern being brought to my attention, this was a problem that I am unaware of. The email was first used when the Township of Ross, notarized the "Affidavit of Identity and Receipt of Filing' on March 16, 2020, which was sent to the Kalamazoo County Clerk, none of which mentioned this being a use of public resources. Also two township trustees, David S. and Diana L. emailed this address in June 2020 with regard to supporting Walters and not me for the August 4th election.

As soon as the Township of Ross, and I, became aware of this mistake, July 2020 – my email was deactivated. This email account never sent any outgoing mail to any residents regarding my election. There was no equipment, supplies, personal time or other cost incurred by the Township of Ross.

The rough draft for my election post card was peer reviewed by many people in the community. None of which had any awareness, that using my email address, was a use of public resources. I thank Ms. Walters committee for informing the township and myself, to better serve one another. I will be vigilant in the future to only use my email for proper township business.

Sincerely:

Alex Harris



COPY

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

July 24, 2020

Alexander Harris 868 Labelle Terrace Richland, MI 49083

Re: Walters v. Harris Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2020-07-52-57

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Department of State (Department) received a formal complaint filed by Linda Walters against you alleging violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq*. A copy of the complaint and supporting documentation is enclosed with this letter.

In Michigan, it is unlawful for a public body or an individual acting on its behalf to use or authorize the use of equipment, supplies, personnel, funds, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure. MCL 169.257(1). The words "contribution" and "expenditure" are terms of art that are generally defined to include a payment or transfer of anything of ascertainable monetary value made for the purpose of influencing or made in assistance of the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question. MCL 169.204(1), 169.206(1). A knowing violation of this provision is a misdemeanor offense. MCL 169.257(4).

Ms. Walters alleges that you have used your Ross Township email account improperly to expressly advocate in support of your election as Township Clerk.

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 <u>understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as</u> <u>true</u>. 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 investigation process is enclosed with this letter and a copy is available on the Department's <u>website</u>.

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. Due to the ongoing public health emergency, the Department asks that all materials be submitted via email to <u>Elections@Michigan.gov</u> to my attention. If you fail to submit a response, the Department will render a decision based on the evidence furnished by the complainant.

Alexander Harris July 24, 2020 Page 2

A copy of your answer will be provided to Ms. Walters, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of 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 criminal penalty provided in section 57(4) of the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me via email.

Sincerely,

Znecam

Adam Fracassi Bureau of Elections Michigan Department of State

c: Linda Walters

Copy



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

COPY

October 29, 2020

Alexander Harris 868 LaBell Ter Richland, MI 49083

Re: *Walters v. Harris* Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2020-8-147-33

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint submitted against you by Linda Walters alleging violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the complaint and supporting materials is enclosed.

The MCFA requires candidates and committees file contributions and expenditures with the appropriate filing official by specific dates. MCL 169.233(1) - (3). The MCFA 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 169.233(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. MCL 169.233(1).

Ms. Walters alleges that you have requested a reporting waiver on your statement of organization but have sent a mailer to all residents and posted signs that all exceeded \$1,000.

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 investigation process is enclosed with this letter and a copy 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. All materials must be sent 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.

Alex Harris October 29, 2020 Page 2



A copy of your answer will be provided to Mr. Breen, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of 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 criminal penalty provided in section 33(11) of the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at (517) 335-3234.

Sincerely,

fracam

Adam Fracassi Bureau of Elections

Enclosures c: Linda Walters August 31, 2020

COPF

Re: Walters v. Harris

Campaign Finance Complaint

No. 2020-07-96-57

Dear Mr. Fracassi,

In my response to Mr. Harris here is my rebuttal statement, please see below:

Mr. Harris does not dispute that he did violate Michigan Campaign Finance Law. However, in his statement he does not take responsibility for the alleged violation. He instead blames others that are not responsible for items the candidate publishes or sends regarding their campaign. In my opinion, Mr. Harris Intentionally used his work email to emphasis that he is the current Deputy Clerk of Ross Township; the email address was displayed prominently on the mailer. The mailer was sent to the entire Ross Township population which has roughly 5000 residential addresses.

It is not the responsibility of those that proofread the mailer to allow Mr. Harris to not be responsible; two trustees emailing him at this address does not mean it was permissible or that Mr. Harris was not responsible. I spoke to Diana L. and she stated that she does not have his personal email and always emailed him at his office email. She said she emailed him out of professional courtesy.

As for the email address being deactivated, it is my understanding that the email address was deactivated after his sister shared the mailer on Facebook August 1, 2020. The township was notified by me and it was then that the email account was deactivated. I do not fault Mr. Harris for the sharing of the mailer by others on Facebook.

Respectfully,

watal labor

Linda Walters

(920) 456-9091

Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: Fracassi, Adam (MDOS) Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:20 AM harr1530@msu.edu Walters v. Harris - Campaign Finance Complaint Answer Letter.pdf; August 13th 2020 Answer.pdf COBP

Please see attached a copy of correspondence sent. If you have questions, let me know.

Thank you,

Adam Fracassi, Election Law Specialist Michigan Bureau of Elections P.O. Box 20126 Lansing, Michigan 48901

Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: Fracassi, Adam (MDOS) Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:19 AM Walters Family Walters v. Harris - Campaign Finance Complaint Answer Letter.pdf; August 13th 2020 Answer.pdf

COPY

Please see attached correspondence regarding the abovementioned complaint.

Adam Fracassi, Election Law Specialist Michigan Bureau of Elections P.O. Box 20126 Lansing, Michigan 48901 Dear Mr. Fracassi:

COPY Thank you for the concern, it is a privilege to serve our fellow neighbor and most importantly try and see the best in who they are, as our freedom of speech is a right. To reiterate, committee #55123 did not receive or expend in excess of the \$1,000 threshold.

The fiscal responsibility and transparency regarding the campaign finance law for Alex Harris, is true and accurate. The statements made by my opponent regarding "false facts" are poorly overstated assumptions or rounding errors with a political ploy.

Example False fact "delivery alone for the entire township would put me over" - as of 11/6/20 the zip 49012 has the majority of our Ross township residents, there are 1,478 doors in that zip code, according to our USPS. That total postage costs ~\$283.

49012	Order Summary		
ROUTE	TOTAL AGE 25-14 SIZE COST	Individual Routes Selected 3	
Show Table 🗸	California	Post Office ** Drop-Offs ; 1	
	Bédiörd Two Masphern RV Sfdmionds Rd 48017 (Vhl	Total Delivery Addresses Clex 1478	
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		Continuo	
<u>UIDEZE</u>	Annual (17) - (2)Look - Kong 4903 7	Sava	

÷.)

(As you can see the light blue lines indicate the zip code 49012.) The Red is ~ Ross Township

The hard work of knocking on the other 49083 doors was sweat equity, it cost nothing, and this helps to build trust in your neighbor, try it. Again to reiterate, committee #55123 did not receive or expend in excess of the \$1,000 threshold.

Sincerely,

Alex Harris

Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: Harris, Alexander <harr1530@msu.edu> Friday, November 6, 2020 11:45 PM Fracassi, Adam (MDOS) Re: Walters v. Harris - Campaign Finance Complaint campaignfinance.docx COPF

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Dear Mr. Fracassi:

I received a letter in the mail from you regarding No.2020-8-147-33. Please see the attached statement.

there are a few discrepancies in the letter you sent, first it is noted that Ms. Walters is the complainant - then you referenced a copy of my answer will be provided to Mr. Breen? A few other problems with consistency are the changing email addresses from the complainant - walters4clerk@gmail.com, walters-1987@msn.com, waltersTIM@yahoo.com. I am questioning who is really behind all these complaints?

thank you for the help, should I send a hard copy to 430 west allegan, in lansing?

your neighbor in Michigan

Alex

From: Fracassi, Adam (MDOS) <FracassiA@michigan.gov> Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:19 AM To: Harris, Alexander <harr1530@msu.edu> Subject: Walters v. Harris - Campaign Finance Complaint

Please see attached a copy of correspondence sent. If you have questions, let me know.

Thank you,

Adam Fracassi, Election Law Specialist Michigan Bureau of Elections P.O. Box 20126 Lansing, Michigan 48901

Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: Fracassi, Adam (MDOS) Friday, January 22, 2021 1:23 PM Harris, Alexander Walters v. Harris Answer Letter.pdf; campaignfinance.pdf

Mr. Harris,

Please find attached correspondence related to the complaints that have been filed against you. If you have any questions, please let me know.

COPP

Adam Fracassi, Election Law Attorney Michigan Bureau of Elections P.O. Box 20126 Lansing, Michigan 48901

COPL



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

May 4, 2021

Alex Harris 868 LaBelle Terrace Richland, MI 49083

Via email

Re: *Walters v. Harris* Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2020-07-96-47; 2020-07-52-57; 2020-10-183-24

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Department of State (Department) has finished investigating the three complaints filed against you by Linda Walters alleging violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA). This letter concerns the disposition of the complaints.

There are three complaints filed against you, all of which have been merged for administrative efficiency. The first complaint alleges that you have improperly used township resources by placing your township email address on campaign materials. The second complaint alleges that you have exceeded the reporting waiver. The third complaint alleges that you have failed to place a proper identifier on your campaign yard signs.

You have responded to each complaint. Importantly, you have stated that you did not intentionally leave the paid for by statement off and that you did not exceed the reporting waiver threshold. You provided an estimated cost to mail something to each door and indicated that you spent the majority of your effort knocking on doors rather than mailing.

In Michigan, it is unlawful for a public body or an individual acting on its behalf to use or authorize the use of equipment, supplies, personnel, funds, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure. MCL 169.257(1). A public body is allowed produce or disseminate factual information concerning issues relevant to the function of the public body. MCL 169.257(1)(b). The words "contribution" and "expenditure" are terms of art that are generally defined to include a payment or transfer of anything of ascertainable monetary value made for the purpose of influencing or made in assistance of the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question. MCL 169.204(1), 169.206(1).

Alex Harris May 4, 2021 Page 2

COPH

The MCFA obligates candidates to file reports so long as they do not request a reporting waiver under section 24 of the Act. MCL 169.224. Candidates may request a reporting waiver so long as they do not spend or receive more than \$1,000 in contributions or expenditures. *Id.*

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).

The Department has reviewed the evidence submitted in the matter and dismisses the first two complaints as insufficient to conclude that a potential violation has occurred. First, in your response, you indicated that you did not send or receive campaign emails to that account, and that the account was deactivated after it was put onto the flyer. Given that it was never used for campaign purposes, the Department concludes that there was no improper expenditure made of ascertainable monetary value to support your election, and dismisses this complaint.

Similarly, the Department dismisses the second complaint which alleges that you have exceeded the reporting waiver threshold. In your response, you indicated that the primary campaign activity conducted was door to door canvassing. You further provided evidence that even if a mailer was done to every door, it would cost approximately \$200 in postage. Therefore, without evidence to the contrary, the Department determines that the evidence is insufficient to conclude a violation has occurred and dismisses this complaint.

Regarding the third complaint alleging violations of section 47, the evidence submitted supports the conclusion that a potential violation of the Act has occurred. From the outset, the Department must consider whether it is an expenditure covered by the MCFA. The yard sign specifically states "Alex Harris for Ross Township Clerk" which uses words of express advocacy as defined by the Act. MCL 169.206(2)(j). Because it urges voters to vote for you using words of express advocacy and was published by your committee, the signs are covered by the ambit of the Act and must include the paid for by statement outlined under section 47. MCL 169.206(2)(j). However, the signs have completely omitted the required paid for by statement. Since this phrase is absent, the evidence supports the conclusion that a potential violation 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.

Alex Harris May 4, 2021 Page 3



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.

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,

Spean

Adam Fracassi Bureau of Elections Michigan Department of State

Enclosure c: Linda Walters, via email

Fracassi, Adam (MDOS)

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: Fracassi, Adam (MDOS) Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:12 PM Fracassi, Adam (MDOS) Walters v. Harris - Campaign Finance Complaints Determination.pdf CON

Good evening -

Please see the attached. The Department's file in this matter is now closed and will be posted on its website. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Adam Fracassi, Election Law Attorney Michigan Bureau of Elections P.O. Box 20126 Lansing, Michigan 48901



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

September 8, 2022

Alexander Harris 868 Labelle Terrace Richland, MI 49083

Re: *Hutchins v. Harris* Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 – 8 – 76 – 57

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Christina Hutchins alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you used the official Ross Township logo on your campaign materials, which she alleges is an impermissible use of public resources in furtherance of a candidate's candidacy. Additionally, the complaint alleges that you continue to use "illegal signage"—presumably referring to the requirement that the "paid for by" statement include the name <u>and address</u> of the person who paid for the item. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

The complaint refers to a 2020 complaint against you alleging MCFA violations. Ms. Hutchins' complaint implies that you were found to be in violation of section 57 of the MCFA at that time and that the violations have continued. However, the Department dismissed the allegations of violation of sections 57 and 24 of the Act, determining that the evidence the complainant submitted was insufficient to conclude that a potential violation occurred.

At that time, the complainant alleged a violation of section 57, stating that you used your Township email address for campaign purposes. In your response, you indicated that you did not send or receive campaign emails to that account, and that the account was deactivated after it was put onto the flyer. Because it was never used for campaign purposes, the Department concluded that there was no improper expenditure made of ascertainable monetary value to support your election, and dismissed the complaint.

Likewise, the Department dismissed the second complaint which alleged that you exceeded your reporting waiver threshold. You provided evidence that even if a mailer was done to every door, it would cost approximately \$200 in postage. Without evidence to the contrary, the Department determined that the evidence was insufficient to conclude that a violation occurred and dismissed the complaint.

Alexander Harris Page 2

However, the Department determined that there was sufficient evidence to support the conclusion that a potential violation of section 47 of the Act occurred. Because the sign contained words of express advocacy, it required a "paid for" statement. MCL 169.206(2)(j), 169.247(1). In accordance with its common practice, the Department issued you a warning for the potential violation of section 47 and cautioned you that a subsequent violation would be a knowing violation and may merit referral to the Attorney General.

In Michigan, it is unlawful for a public body or an individual acting on its behalf to use or authorize the use of equipment, supplies, personnel, funds, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure. MCL 169.257(1). The words "contribution" and "expenditure" are terms of are that are generally defined to include a payment or transfer of anything of ascertainable monetary value made for the purpose of influencing or made in assistance of [candidate, ballot question, etc.]. MCL 169.204(1), 169.206(1). A knowing violation of this provision is a misdemeanor offense. MCL 169.257(4).

Additionally, Section 47 of 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 <u>and address</u> of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), R 169.36(2) (emphasis added). 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).

Your previous Section 47 warning in 2020 would make any subsequent violation a knowing violation.

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.

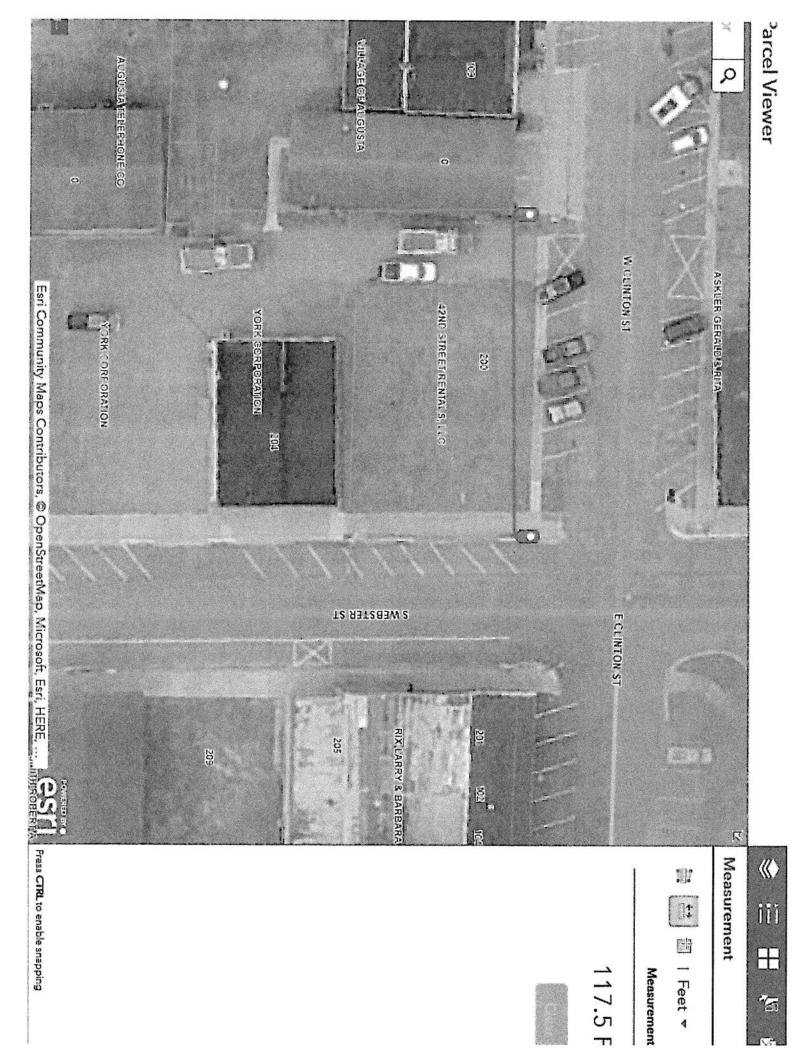
A copy of your answer will be provided to Ms. Hutchins, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing the statements and materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred [.]" MCL 169.215(10). Note that the Department's enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an Alexander Harris Page 3

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



Campaign Materials

Rob Thall <thall@michigantownshiplaw.com> Fri 7/29/2022 2:00 PM

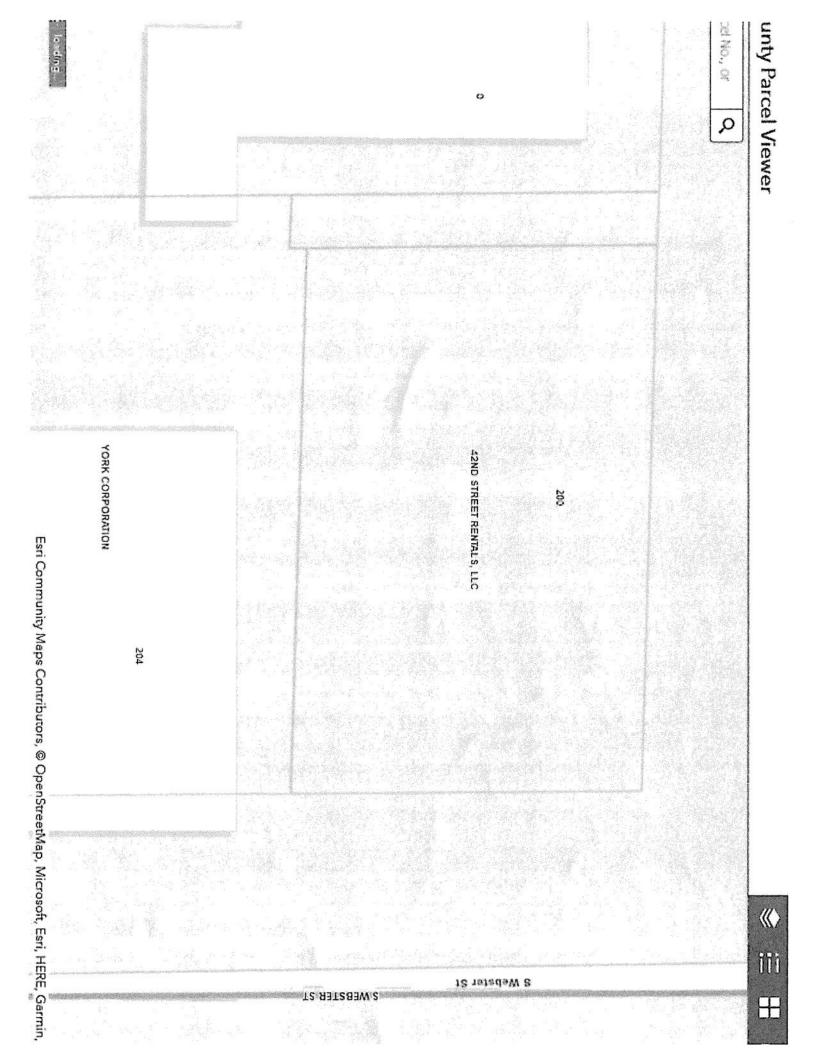
To: Harris, Alexander <harr1530@msu.edu>

Hi Alex, it is my understanding that the Township has received complaints regarding your campaign materials. In particular, your use of the Township logo and photos from Township webpages. Please understand that these are the intellectual property of Ross Township and cannot be used without Township permission. You do not have permission to use these items. Please cease and desist from any further use. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. We look forward to your compliance. Thanks-----Rob

Robert E. Thall Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC 470 W. Centre Ave., Suite A Portage MI 49024 Phone (269) 382-4500 Fax (269) 382-2040



Confidentiality Notice: This email and any attachment to it are intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender by "reply" and permanently delete this message from your computer system. Reliance: Any legal opinion expressed in this email, including any attachment, may only be relied upon by those persons or entitites that are clients of Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC. If the intended recipient(s) is a client, this email and any attachment are subject to the attorney/client privilege. Non-binding Electronic Transmission: This email, including statements, symbols or any attachment, is not meant to constitute an electronic signature or an offer, acceptance or intent to contract eletronically. IRS Required Notice: To ensure compliance with IRS regulations, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication, including any attachment, in not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax penalties or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.





Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance Complaint Form BUREAU OF ELECTIONS • RICHARD H. AUSTIN BUILDING - 1" Floor 430 W. ALLEGAN STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the S/GREAT SEAL 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.

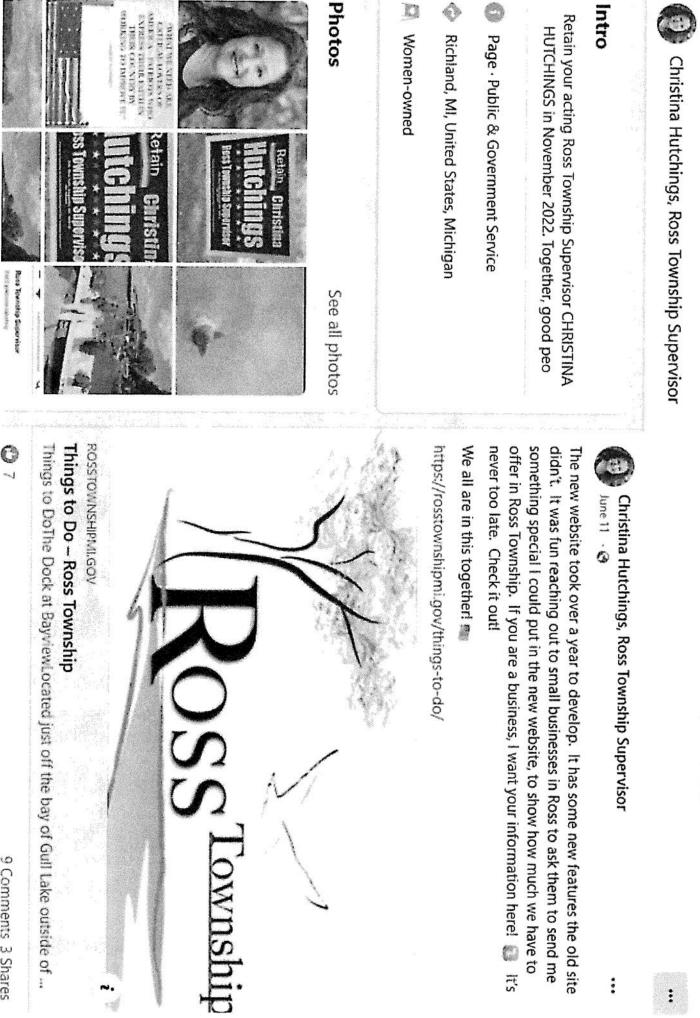
RECEIVED/FILED MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

36

Section 1. Complainant OF RUSS Daytime Telephone Number TUP, M 269 731 4888 istina Mailing Address SP. OFF 20 BD State Zip 49083 MI Email (optional) supervisor Crosstownshipmi . gov Section 2. Alleged Violator Name 1tarris exander Mailing Address Terrace 068 10 State Zip City 49083 mi Richlar Email (optional) LOGSTWOCAMAIL.COM Section 3. Allegations (Use additional sheets if more space is needed.) Le 2020 Complair * 57 Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated: Explain how those sections were violated: The ULER Officia ta DU 10 neina p.P.V. Sonal SINC 1110 OWNGA * See Attach Evidence included with the submission of the complaint that supports the allegations: exander

<u>Alexander Harris Campaign Mailer sent</u> to voting residents in poss Township. Approximately 2500 voting residential homes.

		Retain Christing	Photos See all photos	Women-owned	🗇 Richland, MI, United States, Michigan	Page · Public & Government Service	Retain your acting Ross Township Supervisor CHRISTINA HUTCHINGS in November 2022. Together, good peo	Christina Hutchings, Ross Township Supervisor	
•	 Eric Grimm Are you endorsing Mary Stage? Like Reply 5d Eric Grimm Thank you for the reply! Like Reply 5d Christina Marie Eric Grimm Yes! I am absolutely endors Clerk! Thank you for asking! position I considered at on level of the duties the Clerk Like Reply 5d Edited 	Write a comment.	ළු Like	© 4	Mary Stage for Ross Township Clerk	Republican MARY STAGE	Partish Term Ending 1120/2021 Vote for not note 1 Part 1		Tanota Supervisor Partial Term Ending (17202014
, , ,	rimm ou endorsing Mary Stage? Reply 5d 2 Eric Grimm Thank you for the reply! Like Reply 5d Christina Marie Eric Grimm Yes! I am absolutely endorsing Mary Stage for our Township Clerk! Thank you for asking! The role of Township Clerk was a position I considered at one point. I recall being shocked at the level of the duties the Clerk is responsible for See more Like Reply 5d Edited		Comment		wnship Clerk	Mary Stages a	This is where you will		
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9 Comments 3 Shares

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject: Attachments: Harris, Alexander <harr1530@msu.edu> Monday, October 3, 2022 11:03 AM MDOS-BOERegulatory Harris, Alexander Ross Township v. Harris maplogo9.26.22.pdf; paid for by.png; signs10.3.22.png

Categories:

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Dear Bureau Of Elections,

Upon these complaints I have taken down all campaign signs & mailers to cease and desist, as Ross Township Lawyers have requested of me, and to update campaign materials to be in compliance. (See attachment)

State of Michigan Regulatory Section please make a correction for the complainant as Ross Township. This is between Harris v. Ross Township not (Harris v. Hutchings). The complainant was filed on behalf of Ross Township Government appointed Township Supervisor with their Attorney's (See Attachment). The address on the complainant uses Ross Townships office address at 12086 M-89. Not Christina Hutchings address at 11904 Yorkshire. BOE please update this title and any responses should come through Ross Township not Hutchings.

The location of my campaign sign was on private property. (See Attachment) Sadly this sign has been stolen. Following the Bureau Of Elections 2020 warning to include a 'Paid By', I did update my signs as requested of me. I wrote the statement with a permanent marker 'Paid By Alex Harris' on all of my signs, as I intended to be in full compliance. In 2020 the notices I received from the BOE, formally referred to a "Paid by" correction to be made, that was the primary warning that I received, not a warning about an address. I did not give an additional detail any thought, as my address is on the sign with the jurisdiction 'Ross Township' that descriptive place is clearly where I reside. Anyone can look my name and this address up on 'google' and it will lead to me.

It sounds as though I have misunderstood the need for a home Street with Numbers, State and Zip Code. In recent investigation, it appears many candidates (the complainant) use a PO BOX for an address, and this is considered acceptable to divert any possible trouble with putting your home number out in public? I will add my Street with Numbers, State and zip code or a PO BOX, since it appears this was my misinterpretation, I have now done so. (see attachment)

Regarding the public image/logo of our American flag and Township, I used no public funds. There are no discernable trademarks, nor other markings/claims of artistic license. I did however, re-create the image/logo in my campaign, as I noted that Christina Hutchins(the complainant) clearly incorporates that logo in her own Facebook page. (see attachment) I assumed (wrongly???) that said image/logo was a PUBLIC SYMBOL - representing the Nation and Township of the office I am seeking election.

However, IF the use of said logo IS somehow considered a 'monetary asset', as alleged by Christina Hutchins, and thus, some kind of FEC (Federal Election Commission) "campaign donation" - may I again point out that Ms Hutchins' own Facebook website incorporates the very **same** logo! Is Ross Township "allowing" the use of their logo for the endorsement of their 'chosen', and select, candidates - but NOT others? It appears so! Perhaps the BOE needs to be looking at the one(s) making the accusations - rather than at me?!!

According to the Official **Public & Government Service** webpage Christina Hutchings, Ross Township Supervisor/Personal campaign social media platform. The official/unofficial Ross Township body is actively endorsing my competitor Mary Stage. (Please see attachment) A relevant detail in my recent primary election, held by Ross Township, they illegally issued two ballots to one person, this was a newly registered voter on election day, resulting in my tied election. This is not very professional for a Government Body to pick and choose, rather it should be to serve.

I will be in full compliance going forward with the correction of 'Paid By'. Unfortunately, this is big Government bullying a small republican nominee for the Clerks office.

God Bless America

Alex Harris

From:	MDOS-BOERegulatory		
Sent:	Tuesday, October 4, 2022 1:03 PM		
То:	Harris, Alexander		
Subject:	RE: Ross Township v. Harris		

Dear Mr. Harris,

The Department is in receipt of your October 3, 2022 response. As Ms. Hutchins' is the name and signature on the complaint, the Department will consider the complaint as being made by her absent a request by her to name the Township as the complainant.

If you would like to include any evidence as part of your response, please send it in a format that is accessible to the Department and Ms. Hutchins. The two attachments in this email and in your two other emails sent yesterday appear to be on the MSU SharePoint and are not able to be opened. Please submit any evidence to this email address by this Friday, October 7, or the Department will forward its existing file to Ms. Hutchins for her rebuttal.

Thank you,

Regulatory Section Bureau of Elections Michigan Secretary of State

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God Bless America

Alex Harris



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

October 7, 2022

Christina Hutchings Township of Ross Supervisor 12086 M-89 Richland, MI 49083

Via email

Re: *Hutchings v. Harris* Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2022 – 08 – 76 – 57

Dear Ms. Hutchings:

The Department of State received a response from Alex Harris to the complaint you filed against him 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. <u>If you elect to file a</u> <u>rebuttal statement, you are required to do so within 10 business days of the date of this letter</u>. 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 From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: Christina Hutchings <cmhutchings1@live.com> Friday, October 7, 2022 8:27 AM MDOS-BOERegulatory Alex Harris for Ross Twp Clerk — 3rd complaint Image.jpeg

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Greetings:

This email is in reference to my original complaint: HUTCHINGS vs. HARRIS

I am in receipt of your correspondence to my complaints, thank you. I am now waiting to receive Alex Harris response to my complaints. I understand he had until September 28, 2022 to respond. If he has responded, I would like to request you email it to this address to expedite my response, if required. For the record, Mr. Harris attended the Ross Township Board of Directors meeting on September 28, 2022. Mr. Harris accused the entire township board of harassment. As the Board Chairman, I corrected Alex by stating I was the one who reported him to BOE, for his continued failure to follow the law. After consulting with an attorney, not only has he stolen the Ross Township logo to promote his endorsements, the website holds a lengthy legal statement on prohibited use of Township logo, media and photographs for personal use. All of which he used in 2020 and again in 2022.

IN ADDITION TO MY ORIGINAL COMPLAINT: I am reaching out today to let you know I am seeing - and Ross Township residents have complained about - Alex Harris again placing signs WITHOUT "Paid for by CTE" language. Here is a picture of 1 sign. If needed, I will submit more photos.

These signs remain illegal, these appear to be the same signs used in 2020, and again signs used in July 2022 prompting my complaint before the August primary.

It is apparent Mr. Harris refuses to comply with Campaign Finance Act rules, refuses to comply with the same rules I, and all elected officials are required to abide by.

For an individual running for Ross Township Clerk, I question Mr. Harris' ability to follow established rules, policies and procedures for an elected position for Ross Township Clerk. How can he be expected to follow the rules, policies and procedures as a township Clerk if he refuses to follow campaign rules to become an elected official? As an elected official, I must follow all laws, rules, and further understand it is my duty to seek to understand campaign laws; especially local, state and federal laws, without question.

As I am required to study and understand the obligations of running for office, so should Alex Harris. I am asking you to please hold Alex Harris to this same standard. This continued refusal to follow campaign rules and repeated actions to use illegal signs to promote his campaign should not be tolerated. I spent hundreds of dollars on legally compliant campaign signage; as have others running for public office. Alex Harris continually appears to cheat campaign signage rules. I urge the Bureau of Elections to recognize these unethical actions and act according to your established penalties.

Respectfully, Christina M. Hutchings Committee to Retain Christina Hutchings for Ross Township Supervisor Cmte #55306





5:04 1





Updates from Ross Township for 06/17/2022





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Calendar

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Weekly updates from the Ross Township website.

Excerpts: Board Meeting Agenda, 6-21-



2022-06-21 Board AgendaDownload

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ABOUT Christina

My degree in Pre Law, together with 25+ years in a highly regulated compliance environment, led me to consulting for 2 county governments, and 1 large city government. Together, these 3 clients represented 1,000 employees made up of unions, commissions, and public officials. Understanding municipalities is not overnight. I learned by being immersed in the business of government.

The Constitution is reflected in Federal Laws and laws under the State of Michigan—all apply in Ross Township. Ross Township's local laws, called "ordinances", are legally binding on Ross Township citizens. The ordinances promote safety, security, tranquility, prosperity, and freedom to pursue your best life possible here. When I took my Oath of Office last February 2021, my oath was and still is to defend these laws, not seek to defeat, ignore or dismiss them to be popular.

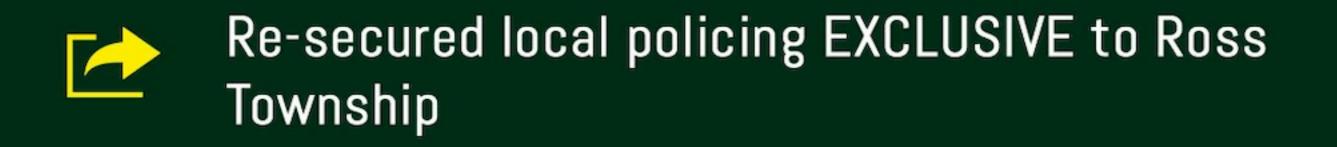
I remain invested in being a student of our State Laws, Federal Laws, and the Ross Township Ordinances. Experience, knowledge, and doing the work to understand the big picture absolutely matters. Thank you for your continued trust in me to work for you as Ross Township Supervisor.

★ TRANSPARENCY! It's all right here. ★

Paid for by Committee to Retain Christina Hutchings for Ross Township Supervisor. CMTE ID 55306



Since I was sworn in on February 1, 2021 so much has been accomplished!





Created a dedicated Ross-Augusta Fire Department training space



Launched new technology enhancements in the Township website & Ross Newsletter for improved communication



Improved email professionalism



Upgraded IT provider, local service & added security

Enhanced parking layout and visibility at the Ross Township Park to maximize children's safety



TUESDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 2022

For Progress & Integrity

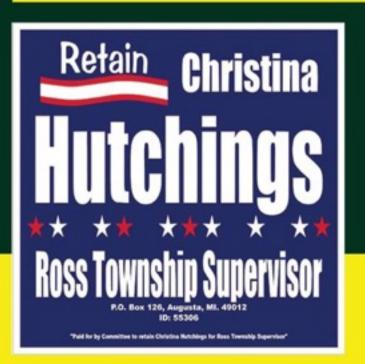
Keep Ross Township Safe

Paid for by Committee to Retain Christina Hutchings for Ross Township Supervisor. CMTE ID 55306

Christina Hutchings For Ross Township Supervisor

Since I was sworn in on February 1, 2021 so much has been accomplished!

- **Re-secured local policing EXCLUSIVE to Ross Township**
- Created a dedicated Ross-Augusta Fire Department training space
- Launched new technology enhancements in the Township website & Ross $\mathbf{\mathbb{Z}}$ Newsletter for improved communication
- Improved email professionalism \frown
- Upgraded IT provider, local service & added security
- Enhanced parking layout and visibility at the Ross Township Park to maximize children's safety





to Retain Christina Hutchings for Ross Township Supervisor on Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022





TRIED • TRUE • TRUSTED

