



# 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 Matthew Schonert		Daytime telephone number +1 (231) 250-9931
Mailing address 22050 Boulder Ave		
City Eastpointe	State MI	Zip 48021
Email (recommended) MRSCHONERT@GMAIL.COM		

## Section 2. Alleged Violator (Respondent)

Name Wanda Moody		
Mailing address 18460 Lister Ave		
City Eastpointe	State MI	Zip 48021
Email (recommended) wandamoodyforcitycouncil@gmail.com		
Committee ID (optional) Committee ID 140321 with the Macomb County Clerk		

*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 169.247(1)

Explain how these sections were violated:

Candidate's campaign materials lack committee address as required by MCL 169.247(1).

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

See attachments for the following photos:

1. Magnetic sign attached to a vehicle. The signs are roughly 8.5x11 inches in size (may be slightly larger). Photo taken on October 3, 2023, at Eastpointe City Hall.
2. Photo from candidate's social media post shows a similar sign on a wall. Posted on September 17 at 4:31 p.m.

Photo #2 is visible at this URL:

<https://www.facebook.com/wanda.moody1/posts/pfbid0294KbsBcT9FcgWrTB2MThPi5xC7SJygPfl4BCtwH35KvumsM2FEKxJxTD4z1cUt52l>

Profile URL: <https://www.facebook.com/wanda.moody1>

For both photos #1 and #2, the sign includes a "Paid for by" statement but is missing the required committee address.

#### **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

October 3, 2023

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:*

Not applicable

\_\_\_\_\_  
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



**WANDA MOODY**

**EASTPOINTE CITY COUNCIL**

Paid for by Friends to Elect Wanda Moody for City Council





**WANDA MOODY**

**EASTPOINTE CITY COUNCIL**

Paid for by Friends to Elect Wanda Moody for City Council



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

October 31, 2023

Wanda Moody  
18460 Lister Ave  
Eastpointe, MI 48021

Re: *Schonert v. Moody*  
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-082

Dear Ms. Moody:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint alleging you have violated MCL 169.247 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) by failing to include a complete identification statement on campaign-related signs. Photographs of the signs were included with the complaint; a copy of the complaint is enclosed.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), R 169.36(2). A knowing violation constitutes a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.00, imprisonment for up to 93 days, or both. MCL 169.247(6).

Upon review, the evidence submitted supports the conclusion that a potential violation of the Act has occurred. From the outset, the Department must consider whether the materials fall within the ambit of the MCFA. Because the materials explicitly advocate for the election or defeat of a candidate, 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.

Wanda Moody

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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 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: Matthew Schonert