



Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Complaint Form

CLEAR FORM

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the [Michigan Campaign Finance Act \(MCFA\)](#), the [Candidate for Office Financial Disclosure Act](#), or the [Public Officers Financial Disclosure Act](#) (financial disclosure acts). Electronic submission of the form to BOERegulatory@michigan.gov is strongly recommended. For instructions on how to complete this form, see the [Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Complaint Guidebook](#) document. All spaces are required unless otherwise indicated.

Section 1. Complainant

Your name		Daytime telephone number
Michael V. Radtke Jr.		(586) 873-8427
Mailing address		
34205 Barrett Dr.		
City	State	Zip
Sterling Heights	MI	48312
Email (recommended)		
citizensforradtke@gmail.com		

Section 2. Alleged Violator (Respondent)

Name		
Ken Nelson		
Mailing address		
40862 Firesteel Dr.		
City	State	Zip
Sterling Heights	MI	48313
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)

I allege a violation of the following:

- ☒ MCFA
- ☐ Public officer disclosure
- ☐ Candidate disclosure

Identify the section(s) of the MCFA or relevant financial disclosure act section(s) alleged to be violated and explain how the section(s) were violated:

Under MCL 169.247(1), except for certain exceptions not applicable here, "a billboard, placard, poster, pamphlet, or other printed matter having reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question, must display an identification that contains the name and address of the person paying for the matter." For the November 2024 general election, the City of Sterling Heights has a proposed charter amendment millage for trailways and walkways, open space preservation, reforestation, and recreational improvements to the Clinton River and public properties on the ballot (commonly referred to as "Pathway Play and Preservation"). On September 24, 2024, I observed Ken Nelson handing out printed materials that expressly advocated for individuals to "VOTE NO ON THE STERLING HEIGHTS CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT" and to "VOTE NO ON THE STERLING HEIGHTS PATHWAY TO PLAY AND PRESERVATION." The materials did not contain an identification of the name and address of who payed for the printed materials. I believe this is a violation of MCL 169.247(1).

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

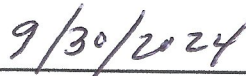
On September 24, 2024, Ken Nelson handed me the printed materials seen in the attached photograph. I took the attached photograph.

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



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. MCL 169.215(16).

The financial disclosure acts prohibit a person from filing a complaint with a false certification. MCL 169.313(7); MCL 15.713(7).

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

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
**VOTE NO ON THE STERLING HEIGHTS CITY
CHARTER AMENDMENT**

X PICKLEBALL COMPLEX

X CANOE LIVERY

X HIGHER TAXES

X MORE DEBT

**VOTE NO ON STERLING HEIGHTS CITY
COUNCIL'S RECKLESS SPENDING!**

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
VOTE NO ON THE STERLING HEIGHTS
PATHWAY TO PLAY AND PRESERVATION

\$\$\$ PICKLEBALL COMPLEX

\$\$\$ CANOE LIVERY

\$\$\$ HIGHER TAXES

\$\$\$ MORE DEBT

VOTE NO ON STERLING HEIGHTS CITY
COUNCIL'S RECKLESS SPENDING!

Vision 2040 Millage Proposal

Proposed Millage Rate	0.95
Years	15
Year 1 Estimated Collections	5,320,000
Average Annual Collections	6,133,399
Total Estimated Collections over 15 Years	92,000,978

Recommended Projects

Bonded

Nature Preserve Trail

Red Run Park

Satellite Library

Enhanced Clinton River Access (Canoe Livery)

Pickleball Complex

Total Bonds Issued	<u>23,800,000</u>
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Annual Expenditures

Reforestation

Sidewalk Repair/Gaps

Open Space Preservation

Annual Costs	<u>5,500,000</u>
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**Can Increase in later years as TV increases*
Includes bond debt service



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

October 16, 2024

Ken Nelson
40862 Firesteel Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Re: *Radtke Jr. v. Nelson*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 24-232

Dear Ken Nelson:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint alleging you have violated MCL 169.247 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) by failing to include an identification statement on campaign materials. Photos of the materials 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, 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 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 Division
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure

c: Michael V. Radtke Jr.