

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.

Your name		Daytime telephone number
Laurie DeShano/Charles Campbell		989-545-9953/989-450-456
Mailing address		122 232 2233,000 100 100
1795 S. Huron Rd./525 S. Linwood	d Rd.	
City	State	Zip
Kawkawlin/Linwood	MI	48631/48634
Email (recommended)		1,555,555
trusteedeshano@kawkawlintwp.or	ra / trustaccampholl@kawkaw	links
a sociosionario (grawnawiintwp.or	g / trusteecampbell@kawkaw	iintwp.org
Section 2 Alloged Viels	to (/ Do)	
Section 2. Alleged Viola	tor (kespondent)	
Name		
Melissa Klass		
Mailing address		
1371 E. Beaver Rd.		
TOT TEL BOUTOT TIG.		714
	State	Zip
City Kawkawlin	State MI	48631
City Kawkawlin Email (recommended)		
City Kawkawlin Email (recommended) treasurer@kawkawlintwp.org		
City Kawkawlin Email (recommended)		

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:

MCFA	388 of	1976	Section	160	257
101017	000 01	10/0,	OCCUON	103	201

Active campaign activity while working on the public's time in a public building. Specifically, offering and providing campaign signs to constituents when they arrive to pay property taxes, to public employees on public property, and other elected officials on public property. This appears to be coercion to obtain votes, or otherwise influence voting decisions of constituents.

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

Eyewitness testimony has been received that candidate was campaigning and offering/dispensing signs while working in her elected position, in a public building and on public property. Residents and others were visiting the office, presumably to pay property taxes or conduct other public business, and were given campaign signs for the candidate (eyewitness complainant will validate this occurred on or about August 29, 2024 and ballot box camera should support).

On September 12, 2024, another elected official and current candidate, Samuel Davidson, requested (audio proof - at about 1:44 of the submitted, unmodified recording) and was given candidate campaign signs on public property immediately following a public meeting and during the candidate's scheduled work hours. Candidate exited public office, retrieved signs from her personal vehicle, handed them to Davidson, and returned to the public office to complete her scheduled time in her elected position. Immediately after asking and receiving the candidate's signs, Davidson loaded the candidate's signs in his vehicle (photo proof), on public property, then proceeded to meet with members of the township fire department as an elected official. This act was witnessed by two other elected officials and a member of the public.

A camera is installed above the absentee ballot drop box that will verify these statements and validate the dates. The complainants do not have access to this camera footage.

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

49//7/24 Date 17 Sept 24

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:

The undersigned are both elected officials of the same municipality. Both serve as eyewitnesses to the above alleged assertions and will provide the necessary evidence available.

We both believe that these violations have necessarily influenced and interfered with the election for November 5, 2024 due to coercion of voters since candidate used the public office and her elected position to campaign for the pending election. We both believe that the evidenced and witnessed occurrences are likely just a sampling of what has been happening throughout the period of tax collection since the primary election. Further, this evidence indicates that elected officials are actively campaigning for other elected officials, using the pressure of their current positions to elevate one another.

Signature of Complainant

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







From: SOS, Elections
To: MDOS-BOERegulatory
Subject: FW: MCFA Complaint

Date: Monday, October 7, 2024 8:44:56 AM

From: Chris & Laurie DeShano <cljj1614@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 12:52 PM **To:** SOS, Elections < Elections@michigan.gov>

Subject: Fw: MCFA Complaint

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to

abuse@michigan.gov

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Chris & Laurie DeShano" < clij1614@yahoo.com>

To: "MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov" < MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov >

Cc:

Sent: Fri, Oct 4, 2024 at 9:31 AM **Subject:** RE: MCFA Complaint

Good morning,

I called last week asking about the status of this complaint but did not receive the return call I was told would occur.

I am attaching two links here with video evidence of the veracity of this complaint.

Sherrie carrying out Melissa signs Aug 29 2024

Sherrie carrying out Melissa signs Aug 29 2024

Shirley carrying out Melissa signs - Aug 29 2024

Shirley carrying out Melissa signs - Aug 29 2024

This documents that signs for the candidate in this complaint were located in the township office and distributed from the township office during working hours.

Can these be added to the existing complaint or does another complaint need to be filed? Please advise.

I would also still appreciate an update on the status of this complaint.

Thank you,

Laurie DeShano Kawkawlin Township Trustee (989) 545-9953

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

On Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 11:11 AM, MDOS-BOERegulatory < MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov wrote:

Thank you for that information. I was able to open the audio file using a different format.

Bureau of Elections, Regulatory Section

Michigan Department of State

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

P.O. Box 20126

Lansing, Michigan 48901

From: Chris & Laurie DeShano clij1614@yahoo.com Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 10:38 AM

To: MDOS-BOERegulatory < MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov >

Subject: RE: MCFA Complaint

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

Good morning. That is an audio file. change the format to allow you to lis	What format would work for you? I can try to
Thank you,	
Laurie DeShano	
Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conq	<u>uer</u>
On Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 10:01 AM,	MDOS-BOERegulatory
< MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.	gov> wrote:
Good morning,	
We are unable to open your second resend in pdf. format.	l attachment named Kawkawlin.amr. Please
Thank you,	
Bureau of Elections, Regulatory Se	ection

Michigan Department of State

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

P.O. Box 20126

Lansing, Michigan 48901

From: Chris & Laurie DeShano < clij1614@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 4:46 PM

To: MDOS-BOERegulatory < MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov >

Subject: MCFA Complaint

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to

abuse@michigan.gov

Please see the attached complaint and related evidence.

Given the time until the election, we request that you expedite any inquiry to prevent further coercion and election interference.

Thank you,

Laurie DeShano



STATE OF MICHIGAN JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE Lansing

October 17, 2024

Melissa Klass 1371 E. Beaver Rd. Kawkawlin, MI 48631

Re: Deshano et al. v. Klass

Campaign Finance Complaint No. 24-242

Dear Melissa Klass:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Laurie DeShano and Charles Campbell alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that you used public resources for an election campaign. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice. Additionally, the complainant included an audio recording and video recording supporting their allegations. Please email the Department at BOERegulatory@michigan.gov so we can provide you with the audio and video evidence submitted by Ms. DeShano and Mr. Campbell.

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 the election of or made in assistance of a candidate. MCL 169.204(1), 169.206(1). An individual who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both. MCL 169.257(4).

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. <u>It is important to understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as 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 process is included in the Department's campaign finance complaint <u>guidebook</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. Materials may be emailed to BOERegulatory@michigan.gov or mailed to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections,

Deshano et al v. Klass Page 2

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 Laurie DeShano and Charles Campbell, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing the statements and materials provided by the parties, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred [.]" MCL 169.215(10). Note that the Department's enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the Regulatory Section of the Bureau of Elections at <u>BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Division Bureau of Elections Michigan Department of State

Enclosure

c: Laurie DeShano and Charles Campbell

Bureau of Elections Dept of State

Re: Deshano et al v Klass Campaign Finance Compaint No. 24-242

Nov. 4, 2024

In response to the complaint you received from Ms Deshano et al, I did not engage in any activity involving use of public resources to make any expenditures or contributions for the purpose of influencing an election, or in assistance of a candidate for office. I am the current Treasurer for Kawkawlin Township and am running for re-election based on specific requests to do so by many constituents. I agreed to run but have not been actively campaigning, receiving any outside funding, or engaging in other campaign activities. Reluctantly, I did have a few signs made to be available for those supporters that requested one from me. I have not been soliciting people for votes or to display my sign.

The three individuals that are shown in the attached screen shots and videos are all current employees at the township hall. All three of them asked me for a sign that they could display in their yards. I have kept my signs in my vehicle and when these three individuals asked for them, I went to my vehicle to provide them a sign. It should be noted that one of the three that is shown departing with my sign is not a township resident. She cannot participate in the election for Kawkawlin Township. None of the reported people in the support were coerced in any manner to campaign for me or vote for me. They all requested the signage on their own initiative and approached me.

I have never actively discussed the election with any party coming to my office or paying their taxes. The complainants have shown no evidence to contradict that. They make unsubstantiated and baseless claims and assumptions.

Furthermore, the audio file that was attached as "support" was a discussion between myself and another board member (one of the complainants), after a special board meeting. The discussion occurred in my office with the door closed so that there was privacy. No other individual was present or could hear the conversation. It should be noted that this conversation in my private office was recorded without my consent or knowledge. The subject of the conversation pertained to a situation that occurred during a public meeting and had zero relevance to the election or anyone's campaign. At the tail end of the recording after the complainant left my office — he continued recording his conversation with others. You can hear in the recording another individual ask for a couple signs. I did not initiate or coerce any such activity.

I will be e-mailing this response to <u>boeregulatory@michigan.gov</u> and mailing it to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

Melissa M Klass

1371 E. Beaver Rd

Kawkawlin, MI. 48631

Moleina Klass

989-860-2089

October 30, 2024

Dear Sirs or Madam,

My name is Shirley Stewart, I am the part time secretary at Kawkawlin Township. I have worked with the Kawkawlin Treasurer, Melissa Klass, for many years and have always found her to be very competent in what she does and a joy to work with. So, in an effort to support Mrs. Klass in her reelection campaign, I asked her if I could have one of her signs to put in my yard. A day or two later, on her way into work, she brought in her campaign sign for me and we put it in the supply room. Unfortunately, I forgot to take it home that evening, and so the next day, August 29^{th} , (on my day off) I picked up the sign and took it home. Also, please be aware, that I do not live in Kawkawlin Township, I cannot vote for her, and she never asked me to take her sign.

If you have any questions for me, please feel free to call me at 989-928-3195.

Sincerely,

Shirley Stewart

Shirley Stewart

Affidavit of Sherrie A. Kruse

State of Michigan County of Bay

Sherrie A. Kruse, being duly sworn, deposes and states the following under penalty of perjury:

My name is Sherrie A. Kruse, I am currently the Kawkawlin Township Clerk and reside at 2245 7 Mile Rd., Kawkawlin, Michigan.

On or about August 29, 2024, I asked the Kawkawlin Township Treasurer, Melissa Klass, if I could have a couple of her campaign signs to put in my yard. At no time did she ask me to take any of her signs and there absolutely was no intimidation or collusion involved.

I hereby affirm that the foregoing statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

BAY County, Mi.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie A. Kruse

Kawkawlin Township Clerk

November 4, 2024

Notary Public Signature, SAMUEL J. Davidson

EXPIRES: 06-06-2029

From: <u>Jeff and Melissa</u>
To: <u>MDOS-BOERegulatory</u>

Subject: Deshano et al. v. Klass No. 24-242 Response Letter

Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 8:46:05 AM

Attachments: MDOS Response Letter.pdf

Attach 1.pdf Attach 2.pdf

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

Regulatory Division,

Please find attached my response letter in reference to Deshano et al. v. Klass No. 24-242

I'd like to note that the there is no S. Linwood Rd in Kawkawlin Township as mentioned in Section 1 of the complaint. The current tax records for the Township of Kawkawlin indicate Charles Campbell's mailing address as 525 S. Huron Rd.

Sincerely,

Melissa Klass



STATE OF MICHIGAN JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LANSING

January 17, 2025

Laurie DeShano & Charles Campbell 1795 S. Huron Rd. Kawkawlin, MI 48631

Re: Deshano et al v. Klass

Campaign Finance Complaint No. 24-242

Dear Laurie DeShano & Charles Campbell:

The Department of State received a response from Melissa Klass to the complaint you filed against them alleging a violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the response is provided with this letter.

You may file a rebuttal statement after reviewing the response. <u>If you elect to file a rebuttal statement</u>, you are required to do so within 10 business days of the date of this letter. The rebuttal statement may be emailed to <u>BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov</u> 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 Division Bureau of Elections Michigan Department of State

Attachment c: Melissa Klass

From: Chris & Laurie DeShano
To: MDOS-BOERegulatory

Cc:Rev. Dr.Charles Campbell; clij1614Subject:Campaign Finance Complaint 24-242Date:Saturday, February 1, 2025 9:17:55 PM

Attachments: Adobe Scan Jan 22, 2025.pdf

Adobe Scan Jan 26, 2025.pdf Adobe Scan Jan 27, 2025.pdf

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

February 1, 2025

Michigan Department of State

Bureau of Elections

RE: DeShano et. al v. Klass, No. 24-242

First, thank you for pursuing this complaint.

The supporting evidence previously submitted with this complaint makes a strong case about the use of a public building, public grounds, public resources, and public employees/elected officials to enhance Ms. Klass' chances of reelection. As such, Ms. Klass had no choice but to admit that she did utilize these public areas, resources, and even staff during working hours to put her finger on the scale for the pending election. Further footage has been obtained showing Ms. Klass following residents out of the building to the parking lot, where witnesses observed signs being distributed from her personal vehicle, and then returning alone. This was not an isolated incident as she alleges.

In support of her response, Ms. Klass includes statements of support from the very people who abetted her violation of campaign finance law. This includes the previous Supervisor (who obtained signs from the parking lot out of Ms. Klass' vehicle – see photo in original complaint) acting as a notary for the previous and current Clerk (also with a pending violation complaint), who took a sign from the public building (see video evidence). Importantly, I am aware of two current complaints against this former Supervisor, who also failed to file his Campaign Finance Reports for either Pre-Election or Post-Election while also spending more than his waiver amount, as evidenced by his township-wide mailer, the subject of one of his violation complaints.

Further, the second statement of support is from Ms. Stewart, who admits to signs being inside the public building and that she did take the sign from the public building to personally display (see video evidence). She was also witnessed, in her role as a public employee, campaigning for the previous officials with voters who visited the public office during the absentee voter window – and a witness statement of such is easily obtainable. In fact, Ms. Stewart resigned the day before the successful candidates were to take office and witnesses have reported that she spearheaded the effort to shred numerous documents "from the day after the election through her last day" – and evidence of these actions is available. Ms. Stewart also worked on the County Board of Canvassers during which time she railed against the successful candidates in the commission of her duties and blamed the successful candidates for "forcing" her to resign from her position.

Given that the complaint cannot be disputed, the respondent chose to focus upon intimidation and coercion rather than the easily demonstrated misuse of public spaces, resources, time, and employees. However, the very support in her defense by two additional elected officials and a public employee does indicate collusion that likely took place within the public office, and these individuals were implicated in various Campaign Finance violations throughout the election season (See Campaign Finance Complaints 24-202, 24-228, and 24-258). Given the provable use of public resources to respond to these complaints (see log from township copy machine and previous Supervisor's official Township email to the then Township Attorney regarding his violation complaint), it is an easy assumption that these responses were, in whole or in part, completed during public work hours in a public building where all these individuals were routinely present at the same time.

Of note, the respondent in this complaint was not successful in her election, nor was the previous Supervisor. However, both violated law in that they did not assist in the transfer of power, despite requests to do so. 1) Official emails were deleted; 2) Numerous documents were shredded without a disposal list required for proper retention of records; 3) Personal email accounts were used that could not be accessed by their successors, but did contain official business; 4) Accounts and passwords were not provided; and 5) Approved resolutions were not properly finalized before leaving office (a dereliction of statutory duty).

Finally, the people of Kawkawlin Township spoke on November 5, 2024 and indicated that they wanted new leadership at the helm as a result of many questionable acts that had been revealed over the course of a few years. Sadly, many violations have yet to result in a penalty to those who flagrantly disregarded the law, including two cases in the Bay County Prosecutor's Office (from both County and State Law Enforcement officials) and a clear violation of law, assisted and covered up by the previous Supervisor, filed with MDARD. Please weigh this case as the violation of law that it is.

Thank you for your time investigating this matter and upholding the election integrity that is so important to the people of the State of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Laurie DeShano, Complainant

mailer

9/11/24 11:52 AM

From: supervisor@kawkawiintwp.org To: <shannon@reimoldprinting.com>

Cc: <frmrsam98@aol.com>

Shannon, Sorry, I forgot yesterday.

Sincerely,
Samuel J Davidson
Kawkawlin Twp. Supervisor
1836 E. Parish Rd.
Kawkawlin, Mi. 48631
Office 989-686-8710
Cell 989-460-7076
supervisor@kawkawlintwp.org

Attachments:

- post card side 2.docx
- · Post card side one 2024.docx
- AllAttachments.zip

I've enjoyed being your Supervisor for the past 5 years, but I need your vote to continue on the path where everyone has a voice. My role is to do my best to enable those items that have the majority support of the people, in Kawkawlin Township, to come to the forefront, whether I personally agree with them, or not.

As a life long resident of Kawkawlin Township, my wife Vicky (LaPan) living in Kawkawlin 45 years and myself living in Kawkawlin 62 years are proud to call this area home where we raised our family in the 28 years we have been married, and are now the proud grandparents of 5 granddaughters. My strong business background from farming to real estate sales, and as credit manager for 20+ years over four states has provided me a wide range of experience to deal with some of the local issues we now face in the township. It would be my honor and privilege to represent the people of Kawkawlin Twp, for the next 4 years, as their supervisor.

KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS UPDATE

Master Plan - Approved by Tw Board in final stage by Planning Commission.

Road Repair – As of August end, 3.5 miles of chip/seal road received a final coat of chip/seal and a coat of Fog seal. Along with 1 mile of grinding and shaping and 4 inches of aggregate.

Drainage – Worked with Bay County Road Commission to clean several miles of ditches to improve drainage that impacts the condition of roads, farm fields, and residential yards.

Water Line Extensions – Working with Spicer Group and Bay County Water and Sewer Department, extending and looping water lines to improve water quality and availability to residents. Worked with Linwood Metro Water to service the Village of Linwood with a water source. Work with Michigan Dept of Transportation to give Kawkawlin Twp control and ownership by turning over the sewer line that runs from the rest area of I-75 to Fraser Rd to Linwood Rd to M-13. And installing a sewer line from Fraser and Linwood Rd to I-75.

Beaver RD Water Assoc. – Working with Bay County Water to keep the system up and running to ensure quality water for the customers.

Blight – Has been somewhat of a struggle since covid, we have changed deputy sheriffs several times, changed zoning admin, building inspector, and the forums that is excepted by the court system. I assure you we are headed in the right direction to get back on track with blight control.

Sheriff Patrol – I have continually worked with the Sheriff Department to secure additional patrols in the Twp. to keep the community safe.

Contact information: E-Mail: supervisor@kawkawlintwp.org Call or tex 989-460-7076.

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et. 7		Destination	Servder Name	Status
et. 7	10:21AM	Sam		Completed
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et. n	2:02PM	frmrsam98@aol.com		Completed
ot. B	2:34PM	boeregulary@michigan.gov		Completed
Det . 10	1:39PM	GARYMODWWINDOWS.COM Sam		Completed
Oct . 10	1:39PM	Sam		Completed Completed
Oct . 10	1:41PM	Sherrie		Completed
Oct . 10	1:44PM	Melissa		Completed
Oct . 10	3:11PM	Melissa		Completed
Oct . 10	3:19PM	Melissa		Completed
Oct . 10	4:05PM	Melissa		Completed
Oct . 15	2:32PM	Melissa		Completed
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Nov. 4	10:28A			Complete
Nov. 4	8:25P	planningcom@kawkawlintwp.org		Complete

(133) supervisor@kawkawlintwp.org

Select →

Q 7 = :

Reply -

Mark -

^ _

0 unread / 315 items



Delete



10/7/24 11:00 AM

1 Attachment is included with this email.

Mr. Shepard,

Several things, first Mr. Campbell is confused on his location he lives at 525 S Huron Rd not S. Linwood Rd, next he has filed the complaint but in the e-mail address he added Mrs. DeShano's e-mail. also he speaks of the

FW: Message from "RNP583879A8C7B5"

8/26/24 10:32 AM

From: supervisor@kawkawlintwp.org

To: "'Richard Sheppard'" <RCS@smithbrooker.com>, "'Charles Hewitt'" <CTH@smithbrooker.com>

Rich/Chuck,

If one of you get a minute to confirm my beliefs on election signs I would appreciate it. I have attached the zoning, for signs in Kawkawlin Twp. under section 705 (exemptions) it speaks of "Political sign", it is my opinion/interpretation that political signs can go up more than 30 day from date of election. The absentee ballots are going out Oct. 1st. so my plan is mid Sept. to put out signs. Thank you, Sam

-----Original Message-----

From: scan@kawkawlintwp.org <scan@kawkawlintwp.org>

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 1:56 PM To: Sam <Supervisor@kawkawlintwp.org> Subject: Message from "RNP583879A8C7B5"

This E-mail was sent from "RNP583879A8C7B5" (IM C3010).

Scan Date: 08.21.2024 13:55:52 (-0400) Queries to: scan@kawkawlintwp.org

Attachments:

20240821135553178.pdf



STATE OF MICHIGAN JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LANSING

March 26, 2025

Melissa Klass 1371 E. Beaver Rd. Kawkawlin, MI 48631

Re: Deshano et al. v. Klass

Campaign Finance Complaint No. 24-242

Dear Ms. Klass:

The Department of State has received a rebuttal to your response regarding your alleged violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the rebuttal is provided with this letter.

At this point, the Department will commence the determination phase of the campaign finance complaint process, during which time all submitted materials will be reviewed. Within 45 business days of its receipt of the enclosed rebuttal, the Department will make a determination as to whether there may be reason to believe that a violation of the MCFA occurred. If you have any questions about this process, you may contact BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Division Bureau of Elections Michigan Department of State

Attachment

c: Laurie DeShano & Charles Campbell



STATE OF MICHIGAN JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE Lansing

April 24, 2025

Melissa Klass 1371 E. Beaver Rd. Kawkawlin, MI 48631

Re: Deshano et al. v. Klass

Campaign Finance Complaint No. 24-242

Dear Melissa Klass:

The Department of State (Department) has finished investigating the campaign finance complaint filed against you by Laurie DeShano and Charles Campbell alleging a violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). This letter concerns the disposition of that complaint.

The complaint alleged that you were distributing campaign signs from the Kawkawlin Township offices. Additionally, the complaint included an audio recording alleging that you were campaigning on public property.

You responded to the complaint. In your response, you asserted that the signs were brought in temporarily for other township members that specifically requested them. Additionally, you provided affidavits from the individuals attesting to the fact that they requested the signs and were not coerced into taking them.

Laurie DeShano provided a rebuttal statement reiterating the facts in her complaint.

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 [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).

The Department has reviewed the evidence submitted in this matter and finds that sufficient evidence has been presented to support a finding of a potential violation of the MCFA. The use of public resources, including space, for campaign activities is a violation of MCFA. The

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complainant provided sufficient evidence to support that campaign signs were distributed at the Kawkawlin Township office. The response provided by Melissa Klass and the affidavits support a conclusion that the value of these resources was minimal.

There is no evidence in the audio recording that suggests that Melissa Klass was engaging in campaign activities in a public building.

Given this, The Department concludes that a formal warning is sufficient resolution to the complaint and will consider this matter concluded.

Please be advised that this notice has served to remind you of your obligation under the Act that public resources are prohibited from being used for campaign purposes. A knowing violation is a misdemeanor offense and may merit referral to the Attorney General for enforcement action. MCL 169.215(10).

Sincerely,

Jimmy Biehl, Regulatory Attorney Regulatory Section Bureau of Elections

Michigan Department of State

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c: Laurie DeShano and Charles Campbell