

Campaign Finance Complaint Form
Michigan Department of State

RECEIVED
MICHIGAN
2018 NOV 21 AM 9:33
FILED
GREAT SEAL

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (the MCFA, 1976 PA 388, as amended; MCL 169.201 *et seq.*). All information on the form must be provided along with an original signature and evidence. Please print or type all information.

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name	Robert E. Peterson	
Daytime Telephone Number	248-546-9728	
Mailing Address	141 West Harry Ave.	
City	State	Zip
Hazel Park	MI	48030

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name	Beverly Hinton Heidi Fortress	
Mailing Address	53 E. Annabelle 23441 Hughes	
City	State	Zip
Hazel Park	MI	48030

Section 3. Alleged Violations (Use additional sheet if more space is needed.)

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

Sec 47

Appendix Q

Explain how those sections were violated:

Sec 47 No identification on Signs, Banners, and many hand-outs.

Append Q These two set up a "Go Fund Me" page for "those who don't wish to be identified."

Evidence that supports those allegations (attach copies of pertinent documents and other information):

4 photos, 3 handouts

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.

X

Robert E. Peterson
Signature of Complainant

Nov. 16, 2018
Date

Section 5. Certification without Evidence (Supplemental to Section 4)

Section 15(6) of the MCFA (MCL 169.215) requires that the signed certification found in section 4 of this form be included in every complaint. However, if, after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, you are unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported by evidence, you may also 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 "Go Fund Me" page was seen by a
number of local residents.

X

Robert E. Peterson
Signature of Complainant

Nov. 16, 2018
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.

Mail or deliver the completed complaint form with an **original signature and evidence** to the following address:

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

Hazel Park **TEACHERS** are passionate about educating students. We are supporting **BEV HINTON** and **HEIDI FORTRESS** because they listen to all sides before making decisions. Teachers may not always be right, but we want to be heard.

RE-ELECT BEVERLY HINTON

For Hazel Park School Board

The Hinton way is to listen, evaluate and make a decision, not dictate.

Bev Hinton is the real deal; a true champion for children. She has served and advocated for the educational needs of our children and community for over 35 years.

Bev Hinton has served on several committees for the Hazel Park School District. She started the drug free, all night party for Hazel Park High School graduating seniors.

Bev Hinton has been honored with two Distinguished Service awards.

Bev Hinton is a graduate of Hazel Park High School and has four children who also graduated from Hazel Park High School

Bev will continue to fight for quality education for all students, responsible budgeting, authentic partnerships, and attracting and retaining quality teachers.

VOTE HINTON AND FORTRESS

ELECT HEIDI FORTRESS

For Hazel Park School Board

Heidi Fortress has been listening to the concerns of the students, teachers and community about our district and wants to be part of the team that brings Hazel Park Schools to the future with well-rounded education and a great, safe place for all student and teachers.

Heidi Fortress has been involved in the school for over 10 years; volunteering in the classroom, helping the band, PTSA, and athletic boosters.

Heidi Fortress graduated from Hazel Park High School and her two children will be graduating from Hazel Park High School.

Heidi Fortress wants to champion our students with better education and to champion our staff members with making this a place where teachers want to stay and work.

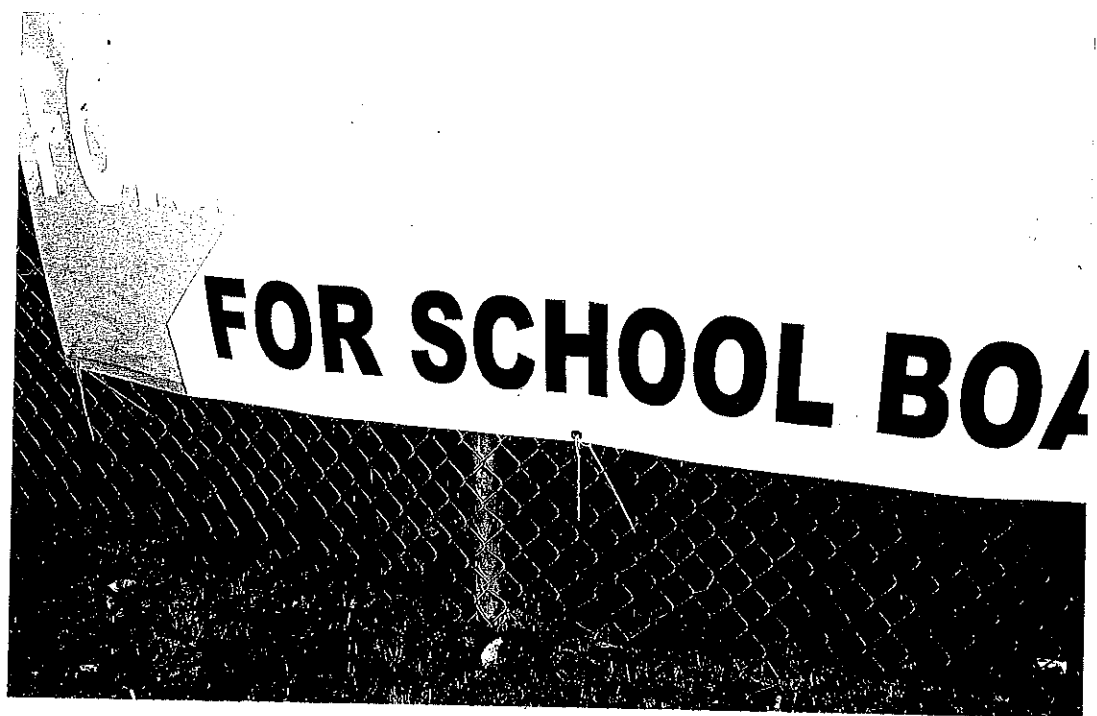
Heidi Fortress wants our schools to have an environment with respect, empathy and positive social behaviors.

Beverly Hinton Takes *Pride* in Our Heritage

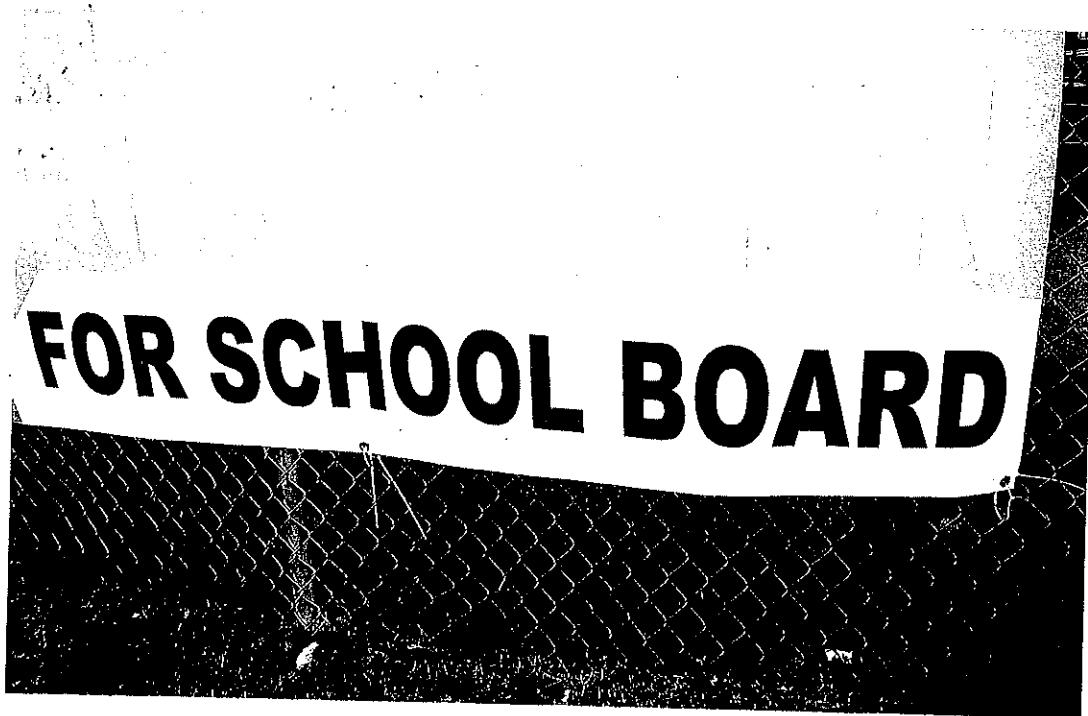
Heidi Fortress Has *Faith* in Our Future

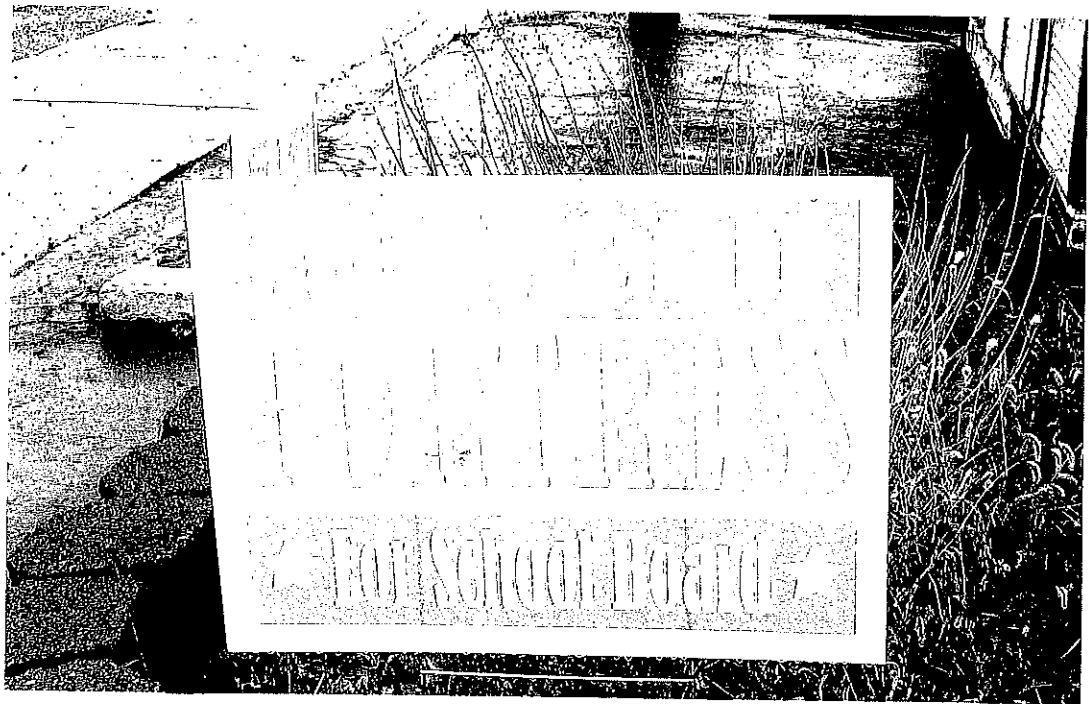
LET YOUR VOTE COUNT!

Thank you from your Hazel Park Teachers









RIDE IN OUR HERITAGE

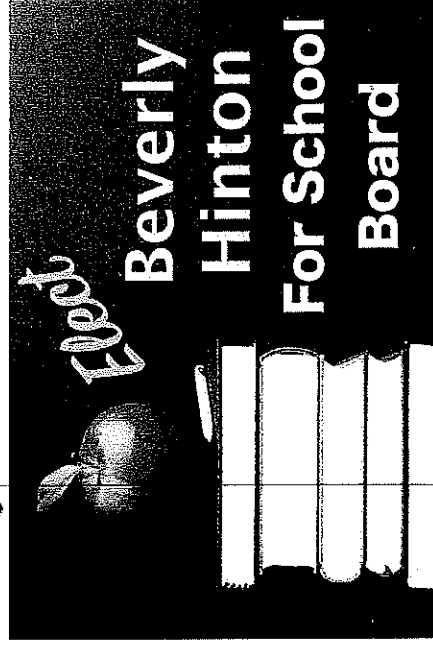
Camp Hazelwoods
Challenge Day
Generational Families
Hazel's Heroes
Holiday Baskets
Michigan PTA Award Recipients
Promise Zone
S.H.A.P.E. Week

Schools Have A Positive Effect
Youth Assistance - Since 1953
Youth Aid
Veteran Celebrations



WITH IN OUR FUTURE - GROWTH

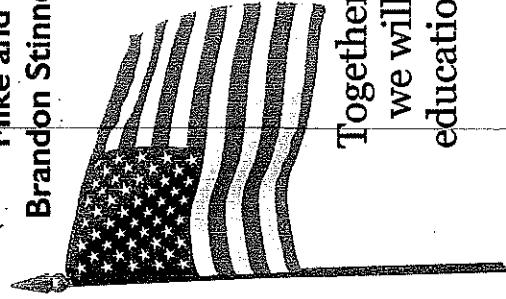
No More Bullies
Energizing Our Enrollment
Growing Partnerships
Home Economics
Morale
Auto Shop
New Families Moving In
Parent Involvement
Schools of Character
Vocational Programs



Endorsed by the

Hazel Park Educational Association (MEA)
City Manager - Edward Klobucher
City Councilman - Andrew LeCureaux
City Councilwoman - Amy Aubry
Councilwoman - Alissa Sullivan

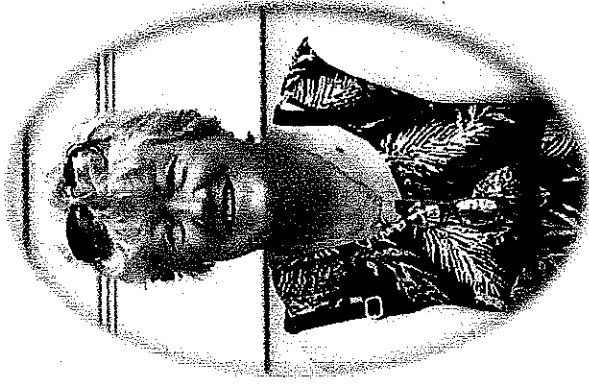
Ron and Sue Anderson,
Darrell and Sharon Barton,
Scott and Heidi Fortress, Dawn Gafa,
Chuck and Sue Hemple,
Jeff and Claudia Keeton,
Jamie and Diane Knapp,
Vincent and Debbie LaFramboise,
Mike and Lisa McCrystal,
Brandon Stinnett, Francie Walters



Together, as a Community,
we will provide the best
education for our students.

**Elect
Beverly
Hinton**

**For Hazel Park
School Board**



A Lifetime of Service to Children and the Community

The Hinton way is to listen, evaluate
and make a decision, not dictate.

Many of you know that education is
near and dear to my heart. I believe
education is the pathway to reaching
your fullest potential. Students deserve
a proper school board who never forget
it is about them, the students.

As a passionate advocate for children
and public education, this is my vision
for an improved, stronger, Hazel Park
School District

Bev Hinton is the real deal; a true champion for children. She has served and advocated for the educational needs of our children and community for over 35 years.

Bev has served on the Hazel Park School District homework, nutrition, sport card and dress code committees. She started the drug free, all-night party at Hazel Park High School graduates.

Bev has served on every level of the Hazel Park School District PTA, including the Michigan PTA Board of Directors. Bev currently chairs the Hazel Park Youth Assistance Committee.



Bev Hinton has been honored with two Distinguished Service Awards: the Lee O. Clark Humanitarian Award and a Lifetime National PTA Membership Award.

Bev graduated from Hazel Park High School, as well as her four children. She was a Head Start teacher for Hazel Park Schools and Community School Representative at the High School.

As your Board Member, Bev Hinton will continue to fight for...

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

- ★ Effective Leadership
- ★ Discipline Reform with Proven Programs
- ★ Balanced Class Size
- ★ Improved Outreach for our Most At-Risk

RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING

- ★ Maintain Financial Stability
- ★ Focus Resources on Classrooms
- ★ Balance Administrative Costs

AUTHENTIC PARTNERSHIPS

- ★ Effective School Boards Work and Collaborate with **ALL** Stakeholders
 - ★ Teachers
 - ★ Students
 - ★ Parents
 - ★ Taxpayers
- ★ Give Back the Community's Voice to be an Advocate for our Amazing Schools

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING QUALITY TEACHERS

- ★ Competitive Salaries and Benefits
- ★ Ensure Fair Employment Practices
- ★ Reduce Administrative Demands
- ★ Empowering Teachers to Provide Input
- ★ Recognition for Outstanding Teachers

I am grateful to have had the privilege of serving on the Hazel Park Board of Education for the last four years.



I would be deeply honored to have your support and the opportunity to serve you, the community stakeholders, for another four years.

The Hazel Park School District needs an experienced leader! **Please vote Bev Hinton on November 6, 2018!**



Hinton/Fortress HP School Board

Hazel Park School Board Candidates Bev Hinton and Heidi Fortress Fundraiser.

Working to bring the voices of the community back to the Hazel Park Schools.



Leave a comment



Share photos with your comment (Public)

Post



Heidi

3 months ago

Thank you for all the love and support!! It is beyond appreciated!!

[Share](#)

\$520 of \$2,000 goal

Raised by 9 people in 3 months

Recent Donations ▼



\$50

Tabitha
Laframboise
2 months ago



\$50

Liz Pappas
3 months ago



\$50

Rebecca Nix
3 months ago



\$20

Carmen Nitsche
3 months ago



\$100

Ryan Stefanski
3 months ago



\$75

Bev Blair
3 months ago



\$50

Anonymous
3 months ago



\$50

Susan Henckel

3 months ago

[View Susan Henckel's donation history](#)



\$75

Nancy Sly

3 months ago

[View Nancy Sly's donation history](#)

Viewing 9 of 9 Donations



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

January 4, 2019

Beverly Hinton
53 East Annabelle
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

Heidi Fortress
23441 Hughs
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

Re: *Peterson v. Hinton, et al*
Campaign Finance Complaint
No. 2018-11-106-47

Dear Ms. Hinton and Ms. Fortress:

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

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).

Additionally, section 41 bars a person or a committee from accepting and/or expending an anonymous contribution. MCL 169.241(2). Anonymous contributions are required to be given to a tax-exempt charity with a receipt given, and the receipt is to be maintained. *Id.* A knowing violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. MCL 169.241(4).

Mr. Peterson alleges that certain campaign materials produced by your campaign failed to contain a paid for by statement. He also alleges that you have accepted anonymous contributions, while not specifically stated, in violation of section 41.

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 the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as true.

Beverly Hinton
Heidi Fortress
January 4, 2019
Page 2

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. **In your response, please specifically address the following points:**

- 1. Please identify whether the three contributions provided were anonymous or if you knew the donor's information.**
- 2. If the contributions were anonymous, did you accept or expend the anonymous contributions?**
- 3. Were the anonymous contributions given to a tax-exempt organization, and do you have proper documentation required under section 41 demonstrating the donation?**
- 4. Describe how the money received from the Go Fund Me page was received and distributed between each of you, and specifically identify how each of you received the money from Go Fund Me and whether any money was transferred between you two as candidates.**

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 Mr. Peterson, 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 penalty provided in the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at (517) 373-2540.

Sincerely,



Adam Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Robert Peterson

January 14, 2019

Adam Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State
Richard H. Austin Building
1st Floor
430 W. Allegan St
Lansing MI 48918

2019 JAN 23 3:19:53

Dear Sir:

What follows is our response to the formal complaint filed with your department by Robert Peterson against Beverly Hinton and Heidi Fortress, candidates for the Hazel Park School Board (Peterson v. Hinton, et al Campaign Finance Complaint No. 2018-11-106-47)

We will first address the allegation that some of our campaign materials failed to contain a "paid for by" statement. We will then focus on the allegations regarding anonymous contributions.

Attached to our letter are a variety of campaign literature and other documentation to support our defense of these charges.

It was our intention to follow all campaign rules and regulations; any actions taken or literature distributed that might not have done so was inadvertent and unintentional. The driving force behind our campaign and our fervent wish was to work to improve the work of the Hazel Park School Board which would then benefit Hazel Park teachers and students.

Campaign literature and brochures that were distributed on our behalf did indeed contain "paid for by" statements (evidence attached). When the campaign signs, banner and literature were received, we noted those statements were omitted. Steps were taken immediately to rectify that situation by purchasing stamps (receipts attached) containing that information. It may very well be that we missed stamping some of those items or it is possible the stamping may have worn off in the outdoor environment, but it was inadvertent and unintended with absolutely no plan whatsoever to evade the law. There was also some literature that was produced by some teachers associated with Hazel Park Educational Association (MEA) that endorsed us in our campaign, we had no knowledge of the literature and did not contribute to the production of the literature.

In response to the matter of anonymous donors:

1. We see one anonymous contribution on the Go Fund Me initiative; that donor feared retribution for her support and requested anonymity on the Go Fund Me site; we did indeed know the name (see attached).
2. Since we knew the identity of the donor, we accepted the contribution.
3. Similarly, since we were aware of the identity of the donor, we accepted the contribution.
4. The donations from the Go Fund Me account were deposited into Heidi Fortress for HP Schools bank account. The funds were split 50/50 and used for expenses (postcards & banners) we split 50/50 (see attached).

Please review the attached documents in support of our response.

In conclusion, there was no intent whatsoever in our campaign to avoid, violate or ignore any law or regulation. Our focus was to run an informative and honest campaign with the goal of improving the Hazel Park school district and helping the administration, teachers and, most importantly, students.

Regards,



Beverly Hinton
53 E. Annabelle
Hazel Park MI 48030



Heidi Fortress
23441 Hughes
Hazel Park MI 48030

STAMP ORDER FORM

Complete this form and fax or bring to your Service Center

Your Service Center

Paid for by CTE
Heidi Fortress
23441 Hughes, Hazel Park MI 48030

Customer Information

Date: 10/15/18

Name Heidi

Company name _____

Address _____

TEL 23441 Hughes FAX _____

E-mail _____

Customer Stamp Data

Style No. Size 1 Ink color Black

Customer Stamp Data by line

1. Paid for by CTE

2. Heidi fortress

3. 23441 Hughes, HP MI 48030

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Remarks

Size 1438

Stampcreator
Express

CAT SCQS OF 06 2014

Actual
size of
the stamp

The ATS Store
24330 John R Road

Hazel Park, MI 48030
248-629-6262

SRV10

Invoice#: 4096 Clerk: STACI

10/16/2018 15:07

Cash, Check, Charge

Description	Price	Qty	ExtPrice
Black Stamp			
STAMP1_BLACK	15.99	1	15.99 t

Sub-Total: \$15.99
Sales Tax: \$0.96

Total: \$16.95

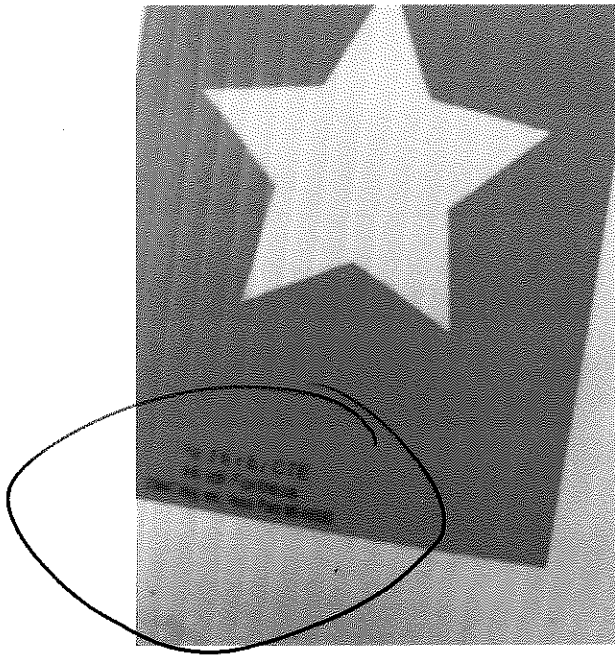
Cash Tendered: \$20.00

Change Due: \$3.05

Thanks For Choosing The ATS Store for all of
your Printing, Packing, & Shipping Needs!
Check out our website & Track your packages
www.TheATSStore.com
No Refunds without management approval.



The Stamp Is Very Light unless you
are ~~right next to it~~ close up to it.
This may be the Reason you could not
see it in Mr. Petersons Pictures.



The ATS Store
24330 John R Road

Hazel Park, MI 48030
248-629-6262

SRV10

Invoice#: 4091 Clerk: STACI

10/16/2018 15:07

Cash, Check, Charge

Description

SKU#	Price	Qty	ExtPrice
Black Stamp			
STAMP1_BLACK	15.99	1	15.99

Sub-Total: \$15.99
Sales Tax: \$0.96

Total: \$16.95

Cash Tendered: \$16.95

STAMP ORDER FORM

Your Service Center

Complete this
form and fax or
bring to your
Service Center

Paid for by CTE
Beverly Hinton
53 E Annabelle, Hazel Park MI 48030

Customer Information

Date: 10/15/18

Name Bev

Company name

Address

TEL

FAX

E-mail

Customer Stamp Data

Style No. 51221 Ink color Black

Customer Stamp Data by line

1. PAID For by CTE
2. Beverly Hinton
3. 53 E Annabelle
4. Hazel Park MI 48030
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Remarks

*Stampcreator
Express*

CAT SCQS OF 06 2014

PRIDE IN OUR HERITAGE

- ★ Camp Hazelwoods
- ★ Challenge Day
- ★ Generational Families
- ★ Hazel's Heroes
- ★ Holiday Baskets
- ★ Michigan PTA Award Recipients
- ★ Promise Zone
- ★ S.H.A.P.E. Week

Schools Have A Positive Effect

- ★ Youth Assistance - Since 1953

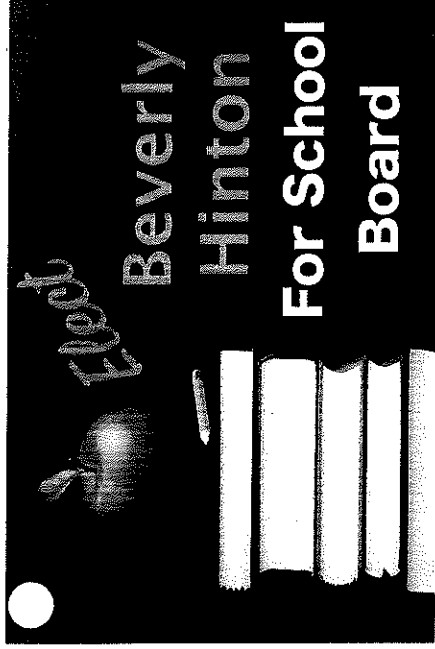
- ★ Youth Aid

- ★ Veteran Celebrations



FAITH IN OUR FUTURE - GROWTH

- ★ No More Bullies
- ★ Energizing Our Enrollment
- ★ Growing Partnerships
- ★ Home Economics
- ★ Morale
- ★ Auto Shop
- ★ New Families Moving In
- ★ Parent Involvement
- ★ Schools of Character
- ★ Vocational Programs



Endorsed by the

Hazel Park Educational Association (MEA)

City Manager - Edward Klobucher

City Councilman - Andrew LeCureaux

City Councilwoman - Amy Aubry

Councilwoman - Alissa Sullivan

Ron and Sue Anderson,

Darrell and Sharon Barton,

Scott and Heidi Fortress, Dawn Gafa,

Chuck and Sue Hemple,

Jeff and Claudia Keeton,

Jamie and Diane Knapp,

Vincent and Debbie LaFramboise,

Mike and Lisa McCrystal,

Brandon Stinnett, Francie Walters



Together, as a community,
we will provide the best
education for our students.

Elect Beverly Hinton

For Hazel Park School Board



A Lifetime of Service to Children and the Community

The Hinton way is to listen, evaluate and make a decision, not dictate.

Many of you know that education is near and dear to my heart. I believe education is the pathway to reaching your fullest potential. Students deserve a proper school board who never forget it is about them, the students.

As a passionate advocate for children and public education, this is my vision for an improved, stronger, Hazel Park School District.

ELECT
BEVERLY HINTON
HEIDI FORTRESS
FOR
HAZEL PARK SCHOOL BOARD

**Addressing Teacher & Staff retention, making it a priority
for a safe & secure environment, expanding learning
opportunities & becoming diligent in financial responsibilities.**

Endorsed by:

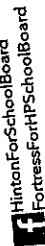
Hazel Park Education Association (HPEA)
Hazel Park City Council Officials:

Amy Aubry
Andy LeCureaux
Alissa Sullivan
James & Diane Knapp

Hazel Park School Board Members:

Chuck Hemple
Sue Hemple
LaFramboise Family
Stefanski Family

BeverlyHinton5@yahoo.com
HeidiFortress@yahoo.com



Paid for by: CTE Beverly Hinton
53 E. Annabelle
Hazel Park, MI 48030

Designed/Printed by:
atsigns
SMITH & CREATIVE



3rd generation Hazel Park resident raised in a single parent home.

Longfellow, Webb Junior High and Hazel Park High School class of 1990

BBA in Accounting / Finance from Davenport University

In 1997, my husband Scott and I started our lives on Hughes and now our children, Olivia and Gabe are Hazel Park High School Students.

20 years in corporate accounting, now freelance in accounting

Primary caregiver to my grandmother who is still a Hazel Park resident

"I have thoroughly enjoyed life in Hazel Park and look forward to helping this city continue to be a vibrant community by focusing on making our schools the best they can be: where staff and students can take pride in what they accomplish."

PTA offices at Hoover Elementary (Treasurer) and Hazel Park Junior High (President)

Volunteered for Hazel Park Dance Team and Band Programs

Currently volunteer for the Hazel Park Athletic Boosters



Pride in our Heritage Faith in our Future

ENDORSED BY:

Hazel Park Education Association
(HPEA)

Hazel Park City Council Officials:

Amy Aubry

Andy LeCureaux

Alissa Sullivan

Hazel Park School Board Members:

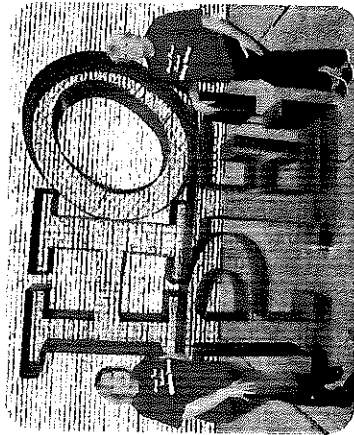
Chuck Hemple

Sue Hemple

James & Diane Knapp

LaFramboise Family

Stefanski Family



ELECT NOV 6TH

HEIDI FORTRESS (Henckel)

FOR HAZEL PARK SCHOOL BOARD

Facebook:
FortressForHPSchoolBoard

HeidiFortress@yahoo.com

PAID FOR BY:

CTE Heidi Fortress

23441 Hughes

Hazel Park, MI 48030

Photo Credit: Jeff Harris Designed/Printed by: ATS Signs

Hazel Park **TEACHERS** are passionate about educating students. We are supporting **BEV HINTON** and **HEIDI FORTRESS** because they listen to all sides before making decisions. Teachers may not always be right, but we want to be heard.

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Bev Hinton has been honored with two Distinguished Service awards.

Bev Hinton is a graduate of Hazel Park High School and has four children who also graduated from Hazel Park High School

Bev will continue to fight for quality education for all students, responsible budgeting, authentic partnerships, and attracting and retaining quality teachers.

VOTE HINTON AND FORTRESS

Hazel Park Education Association (HPEA)

Ms. Heidi Fortress

23441 Hughes

Hazel Park, MI 48030

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Dear Ms. Fortress:

The Hazel Park Education Association Screening and Recommendation Committee would like to extend a special "Thank You" for meeting with us and for your continued support of the teachers of the Hazel Park School District.

We are very pleased to offer you our endorsement in your run for School Board. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our students, our teachers, our school district.

Respectfully,

Rob Roberts

HPEA Elections Chair

Summary of Hinton/Fortress Go Fund Me Account

Donations Received from the Go Fund Me Account

Tabitha Laframboise	\$ 50.00
Liz Pappas	\$ 50.00
Rebecca Nix	\$ 50.00
Carman Nitsche	\$ 20.00
Ryan Stefanski	\$ 100.00
Bev Blair	\$ 75.00
Stacie Martin	\$ 50.00
Susan Henckel	\$ 50.00
Nancy Sly	\$ 75.00
Total donations	\$520.00

Amount Received from Go Fund Me Account (after fees from Go Fund Me)

10/3 Deposit	\$ 338.34
10/4 Deposit	\$ 115.62
10/24 Deposit	\$ 48.25
Total Deposits	\$502.21

The \$502.21 was split 50/50 between Bev Hinton and Heidi Fortress
Each received \$251.10

The Funds were used to pay for a portions of our shared expenses

Post Cards	\$ 486.00
Banners	\$296.24



Hinton/Fortress HP School Board

[Edit](#) • [View \(/hintonfortress-hp-school-board\)](#)

Total raised: \$520 | You've raised: **\$345**

[Share](#)
[Update](#)
[Withdraw](#)

[Team](#)
[Donors](#)
[Comments](#)
[Updates](#)

0
of 20

Your goal: Send 20 invites
 You have invited 0 of 20 people to donate.

[Email](#)

[Text](#)

[Donations](#)
[Invited contacts](#)

My referrals only

TL Tabitha Laframboise donated \$50 • 2 mo
 Referred by Heidi Henckel Fortress
[Say thanks](#)

LP Liz Pappas donated \$50 • 3 mo
[Say thanks](#)

RN Rebecca Nix donated \$50 • 3 mo
 Referred by Heidi Henckel Fortress
[Say thanks](#)

CN **Carmen Nitsche** donated \$20 • 3 mo
Q Search
Referred by Heidi Henckel Fortress
[Say thanks](#)

Dashboard (<https://funds.gofundme.com/dashboard>)

RS **Ryan Stefanski** donated \$100 • 3 mo
Referred by Heidi Henckel Fortress
[Say thanks](#)

BB **Bev Blair** donated \$75 • 3 mo
[Say thanks](#)

SM **Stacie Martin** donated \$50 • 3 mo
Referred by Heidi Henckel Fortress
Private: Donor's name and comment do not show on your campaign.
[Say thanks](#)

SH **Susan Henckel** donated \$50 • 3 mo
[Say thanks](#)

NS **Nancy Sly** donated \$75 • 3 mo
Referred by Heidi Henckel Fortress
[Say thanks](#)



Total shares
24



Total views
705



Total invites
0

English (US)

Get Started

[How It Works \(/how-it-works\)](#)

[Why GoFundMe \(/why-gofundme\)](#)

[Common Questions \(/questions\)](#)

[Success Stories \(/success\)](#)

Top Categories

[Medical Fundraising \(/start/medical-fundraising\)](#)

[Memorial Fundraising \(/start/memorial-fundraising\)](#)

Learn More

[About Us \(/about-us\)](#)

[GoFundMe Stories \(/https://www.medium.com/gofundme-stories\)](#)

[Press \(/press\)](#)

[Campaign Tips \(/https://support.gofundme.com/hc/en-Blog/c/blog-us/categories/115001761567-](#)

Get Support

[Help Center \(/https://support.gofundm-](#)

[Supported Countries & Currencies \(/https://support.gofundm-](#)

[us/articles/36000197274](#)

 Search

Withdrawals

Dashboard (<https://funds.gofundme.com/dashboard>)


Hinton/Fortress HP School Board

[Overview \(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/overview\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/overview)

[History \(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history)

Total raised (after fees)

\$502.21

Next withdrawal: N/A 

\$0.00

Last withdrawal: Oct 31

\$48.25


[See withdrawal history](#)

[\(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history)

Bank information



Account ending in [REDACTED]

Automatic withdrawal 



 Daily

🔍 Search

Withdrawals

Dashboard (<https://funds.gofundme.com/dashboard>)

Hinton/Fortress HP School Board

[Overview \(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/overview\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/overview)

[History \(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history)

Amount

Arriving by ⓘ

\$48.25

Oct 31

\$115.62

Oct 11

\$338.34

Oct 10

ELECT HEIDI FORTRESS

For Hazel Park School Board

Heidi Fortress has been listening to the concerns of the students, teachers and community about our district and wants to be part of the team that brings Hazel Park Schools to the future with well-rounded education and a great, safe place for all student and teachers.

Heidi Fortress has been involved in the school for over 10 years; volunteering in the classroom, helping the band, PTSA, and athletic boosters.

Heidi Fortress graduated from Hazel Park High School and her two children will be graduating from Hazel Park High School.

Heidi Fortress wants to champion our students with better education and to champion our staff members with making this a place where teachers want to stay and work.

Heidi Fortress wants our schools to have an environment with respect, empathy and positive social behaviors.

Beverly Hinton Takes *Pride* in Our Heritage

Heidi Fortress Has *Faith* in Our Future

LET YOUR VOTE COUNT!

Thank you from your Hazel Park Teachers



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

January 25, 2019

Robert E. Peterson
141 West Harry Avenue
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Beverly Hinton and Heidi Fortress, which concerns an alleged violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to send it within 10 business days of the date of this letter to the Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Fracassi".

Adam Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Beverly Hinton
Heidi Fortress



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

January 25, 2019

Robert E. Peterson
141 West Harry Avenue
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

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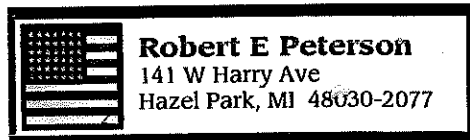
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Sincerely,

Adam Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Beverly Hinton
Heidi Fortress

*I have marked up some copies, and added
some info.
Thank you.*



A proud Vet!



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE COMMITTEE COVER PAGE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Report must be legible, typed or printed in ink and signed by the treasurer (or designated record keeper) and candidate.

1. Committee I.D. Number 96101		3. This Statement covers From: 09/01/18 to 11/06/18	
2. Committee Name Committee to elect Beverly Hinton		4. Candidate Last Name: Hinton First Name: Beverly M.I.: A 4a. Office Sought Including District # or Community Served (If applicable) School District of Hazel Park School Board Trustee	
5. Committee's Mailing Address 53 E. Annabelle Hazel Park, MI 48030 Area Code and Phone (248) 399-7807 If the address in this box is different from the committee mailing address on the Statement of Organization, mail may be sent to this address by the filing official.		6. Treasurer's Name & Residential Address Beverly Hinton 53. E. Annabelle Hazel Park, MI 48030 Area Code & Phone (248) 388-7907	
7. Treasurer's Business Address Area Code and Phone _____		8. Designated Record Keeper's Name and Address (If the committee has a Designated Record Keeper) Area Code and Phone _____	
9. TYPE OF STATEMENT 9a. <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Election OR 9b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-Election Pre-Election or Post-Election Statement relates to: <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Convention <input type="checkbox"/> Special <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Caucus Date of Election, Convention or Caucus <u>11/6/18</u>		Required ONLY if candidate is not on the ballot for the current year: <input type="checkbox"/> July Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> October Quarterly 9c. <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Statement (_____) Coverage Year 9d. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment to Campaign Statement (Complete Item 9a, 9b, 9c or 9e to indicate which Statement is being amended.)	
		9e. Dissolution of Candidate Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By checking this item I/We certify any outstanding debt by the committee to the candidate or his or her spouse is here by discharged and forgiven, and no longer collectible from the committee. The committee has no outstanding assets, owes no late fees or has any outstanding debt. Further, if the dissolution cannot be granted, that this be considered a request for the Reporting Waiver. Effective date of dissolution <u>12/03/18</u> Note: The disposition of residual funds must be reported on Schedule 1B and the Summary Page.	
10. Verification: I/We certify that all reasonable diligence was used in the preparation of this statement and attached schedules (if any) and to the best of my/our knowledge and belief the contents are true, accurate and complete.			
Current Treasurer or Designated Record keeper Beverly Hinton Type or Print Name		Signature <i>Beverly Hinton</i> Date December 3, 2018	
Candidate Beverly Hinton Type or Print Name		Signature <i>Beverly Hinton</i> Date December 3, 2018	



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

1. Committee I.D. Number 96101

2. Committee Name Committee to elect Beverly Hinton

**SUMMARY PAGE
CANDIDATE COMMITTEE**

RECEIPTS	Column I This Period	Column II Cumulative this election cycle
3. Contributions		
a. Itemized (Schedule 1A - Column 6)	(3a.) \$ <u>1,215.00</u>	
b. Unitemized (less than \$20.01 each - no Schedule)	(3b.) \$ <u>NOT APPLICABLE</u>	
c. Subtotal of "Contributions"	(3c.) \$ <u>\$1,215.00</u>	(18.) \$ _____
4. Other Receipts (Schedule 1A -1, Column 6)	(4.) \$ _____	(19.) \$ _____
5. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER RECEIPTS (Add Line 3c + Line 4)	(5.) \$ <u>\$1,215.00</u>	(20.) \$ _____
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS & EXPENDITURES		
6. In-Kind Contributions (Schedule 1-IK, Column 7)	(6.) \$ _____	(21.) \$ _____
7. In-Kind Expenditures (Schedule 1B-IK, Column 6)	(7.) \$ _____	(22.) \$ _____
EXPENDITURES		
8. Expenditures		
a. Itemized (Schedule 1B, Column 6)	(8a.) \$ <u>\$1,214.79</u>	
b. Itemized Get-Out-the-Vote (Schedule 1B-G)	(8b.) \$ _____	
c. Unitemized (less than \$50.01 each - no Schedule)	(8c.) \$ _____	
9. TOTAL EXPENDITURES (Add Line 8a + Line 8b + Line 8c)	(9.) \$ <u>\$1,214.79</u>	(23.) \$ _____
INCIDENTAL EXPENSE DISBURSEMENTS (Officeholders Only)		
10. Disbursements		
a. Itemized (Schedule 1C, Column 6)	(10a.) \$ _____	
b. Unitemized (less than \$50.01 each - no Schedule)	(10b.) \$ _____	
11. TOTAL INCIDENTAL EXPENSE DISBURSEMENTS (Add Line 10a + Line 10b)	(11.) \$ _____	(24.) \$ _____
DEBTS AND OBLIGATIONS		
12. Debts and Obligations		
a. Owed by the Committee (Schedule 1E)	(12a.) \$ _____	
b. Owed to the Committee (Schedule 1E)	(12b.) \$ _____	
BALANCE STATEMENT		
13. Ending Balance of last report filed (Enter zero if no previous reports have been filed.)	(13.) \$ <u>\$0.00</u>	
14. Amount received during reporting period (Line 5, Total Contributions & Other Receipts)	(14.) + \$ <u>\$1,215.00</u>	
15. SUBTOTAL Add lines 13 and 14	(15.) = \$ <u>\$1,215.00</u>	
16. Amount expended during reporting period (Add lines 9 and 11)	(16.) - \$ <u>\$1,214.79</u>	
17. ENDING BALANCE (Subtract line 16 from line 15)	(17.) \$ <u>\$0.21</u>	*

Where is the money from the "Go Fund Me" account?



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

**ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS
SCHEDULE 1A
CANDIDATE COMMITTEE**

1. Committee I.D. Number 96101
2. Committee Name Committee to elect Beverly Hinton

Enter contributor's name and address. If contribution is from an individual, enter last name, first name, middle initial. Check box to indicate if contribution is from a Political Committee or an Independent Committee (PAC) Report <u>all</u> contributions regardless of amount.	6. Amount	7. Cumulative for Election Cycle for Each Contributor (Through date of receipt)
3. Contribution #1 PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES 4. Date of Receipt <u>09/15/18</u> Name & Address: Tabitha LaFromboise 117 Andresen Ct. Hazel Park, MI 48030	\$ 50.00	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/>		
Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		
3. Contribution #2 PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES 4. Date of Receipt <u>09/15/18</u> Name & Address: Sue Henckel 595 E. Mapledale Hazel Park, MI 48030	\$ 50.00	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/>		
Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		
3. Contribution #3 PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES 4. Date of Receipt <u>09/15/18</u> Name & Address: Nancy Sly 2454 E. Lincoln Royal Oak, MI 48067	\$ 50.00	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/>		
Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		
3. Contribution #4 PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES 4. Date of Receipt <u>09/15/18</u> Name & Address: Ryan Stefanski 535 W. Annabelle Hazel Park, MI 48030	\$ 100.00	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/>		
Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		

Page Subtotal **\$250.00**

Grand Total of All Schedules 1A
(Complete on last page of Schedule)

Enter this total on
line 3a of Summary
Page.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

**ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS
SCHEDULE 1A
CANDIDATE COMMITTEE**

1. Committee I.D. Number 96101
2. Committee Name Committee to elect Beverly Hinton

Enter contributor's name and address. If contribution is from an individual, enter last name, first name, middle initial. Check box to indicate if contribution is from a Political Committee or an Independent Committee (PAC) Report <u>all</u> contributions regardless of amount.	6. Amount	7. Cumulative for Election Cycle for Each Contributor (Through date of receipt)
3. Contribution # 1 PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES 4. Date of Receipt <u>09/15/18</u> Name & Address: Deborah LaFromboise 117 Andresen Ct. Hazel Park, MI 48030	\$ 50.00	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/> Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		
3. Contribution #2 PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES 4. Date of Receipt <u>09/15/18</u> Name & Address: Steve Morton 6645 Mellow Wood Lane w. Bloomfield, MI 48322	\$ 15.00	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/> Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		
3. Contribution # 3 PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES 4. Date of Receipt <u>09/12/18</u> Name & Address: Jeff and Claudia Keeton 577 W. Annabelle Hazel Park, MI 48030	\$ 50.00	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/> Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		
3. Contribution # 4 PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES 4. Date of Receipt <u>09/15/18</u> Name & Address: Dawn Gafa 27701 Dowland St. Warren, MI 48092	\$ 50.00	
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/> Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		

Page Subtotal **\$165.00**

Grand Total of All Schedules 1A
(Complete on last page of Schedule)

Enter this total on
line 3a of Summary
Page.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

**ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS
SCHEDULE 1A
CANDIDATE COMMITTEE**

1. Committee I.D. Number 96101
2. Committee Name Committee to elect Beverly Hinton

Enter contributor's name and address. If contribution is from an individual, enter last name, first name, middle initial. Check box to indicate if contribution is from a Political Committee or an Independent Committee (PAC) Report all contributions regardless of amount.		6. Amount	7. Cumulative for Election Cycle for Each Contributor (Through date of receipt)
3. Contribution # 1	PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES	4. Date of Receipt <u>10/17/18</u>	
Name & Address: Brandon Stinnett 1702 Sycamore Royal Oak, MI 48073		\$ <u>50.00</u>	\$ _____
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/>	
3. Contribution #2	PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES	4. Date of Receipt <u>10/17/18</u>	
Name & Address: Dr. Easton Brodsky 6117 Northfield Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48322		\$ <u>50.00</u>	\$ _____
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/>	
3. Contribution # 3	PAC Receipt? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	4. Date of Receipt <u>10/23/18</u>	
Name & Address: MEA - PAC 1216 Kendale Blvd. P.O. Box 2573 East Lansing, MI 48826		\$ <u>600.00</u>	\$ _____
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/>	
3. Contribution # 4	PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES	4. Date of Receipt <u>09/15/18</u>	
Name & Address: Darell and Sharon Barton 151 W. Brickley Hazel Park, MI 48030		\$ <u>100.00</u>	\$ _____
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Occupation _____ Employer _____ Business Address _____ Type of Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> Loan from a person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser		Click Here for Memo Itemization <input type="button" value="v"/>	

Page Subtotal \$800.00

Grand Total of All Schedules 1A
(Complete on last page of Schedule)

\$1,215.00

Enter this total on
line 3a of Summary
Page.

In response to the matter of anonymous donors:

1. We see one anonymous contribution on the Go Fund Me initiative; that donor feared retribution for her support and requested anonymity on the Go Fund Me site; we did indeed know the name (see attached).
2. Since we knew the identity of the donor, we accepted the contribution.
3. Similarly, since we were aware of the identity of the donor, we accepted the contribution.
4. The donations from the Go Fund Me account were deposited into Heidi Fortress for HP Schools bank account. The funds were split 50/50 and used for expenses (postcards & banners) we split 50/50 (see attached).

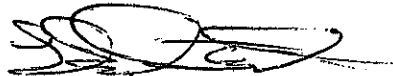
Please review the attached documents in support of our response.

In conclusion, there was no intent whatsoever in our campaign to avoid, violate or ignore any law or regulation. Our focus was to run an informative and honest campaign with the goal of improving the Hazel Park school district and helping the administration, teachers and, most importantly, students.

Regards,



Beverly Hinton
53 E. Annabelle
Hazel Park MI 48030



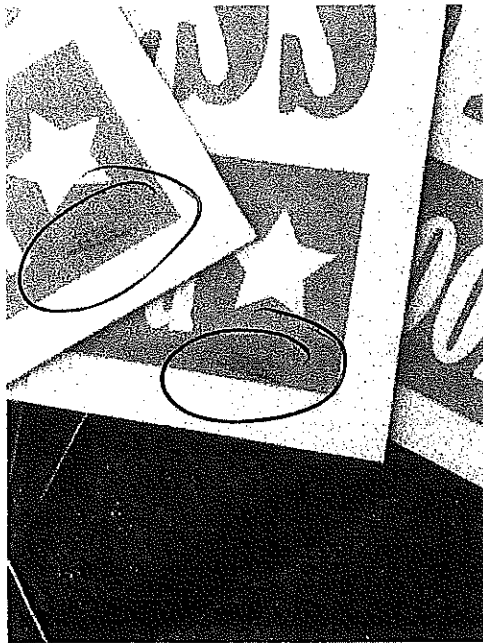
Heidi Fortress
23441 Hughes
Hazel Park MI 48030

The "Web Page" of the "Hazel Park Youth Assistance Committee", a 501C3 organization, has 2 political ads on it! Mrs. Hinton is the chair.



There was NO stamp on any of my photos. There were many others that had NO stamp. I did not photograph all of them. My guess is that signs and banners that were already up, were not stamped.

If "water proof ink" was not used, it would most likely wash off with the first rain, therefore not solving the problem.



The Stamp Is Very Light unless you are ~~right next to it~~ close up to it. This may be the Reason you could not see it in Mr. Petersons Pictures.

Hazel Park Education Association (HPEA)

Ms. Heidi Fortress

23441 Hughes

Hazel Park, MI 48030

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Dear Ms. Fortress:

The Hazel Park Education Association Screening and Recommendation Committee would like to extend a special "Thank You" for meeting with us and for your continued support of the teachers of the Hazel Park School District.

We are very pleased to offer you our endorsement in your run for School Board. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our students, our teachers, our school district.

Respectfully,

Rob Roberts

HPEA Elections Chair

Mrs. Hinton received \$600⁰⁰ from this group.
It was reported by her.

Did Ms. Fortress also receive a contribution from this group?

Summary of Hinton/Fortress Go Fund Me Account

Donations Received from the Go Fund Me Account

Tabitha Laframboise	\$ 50.00
Liz Pappas	\$ 50.00
Rebecca Nix	\$ 50.00
Carman Nitsche	\$ 20.00
Ryan Stefanski	\$ 100.00
Bev Blair	\$ 75.00
Stacie Martin	\$ 50.00
Susan Henckel	\$ 50.00
Nancy Sly	\$ 75.00
Total donations	\$520.00

Amount Received from Go Fund Me Account (after fees from Go Fund Me)

10/3 Deposit	\$ 338.34
10/4 Deposit	\$ 115.62
10/24 Deposit	\$ 48.25
Total Deposits	\$502.21

The \$502.21 was split 50/50 between Bev Hinton and Heidi Fortress
Each received \$251.10

The Funds were used to pay for a portions of our shared expenses

Post Cards	\$ 486.00
Banners	\$296.24

Summary of Hinton/Fortress Go Fund Me Account

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Carman Nitsche	\$ 20.00
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Banners	\$296.24

🔍 Search

Withdrawals

Dashboard (<https://funds.gofundme.com/dashboard>)

Hinton/Fortress HP School Board

[Overview \(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/overview\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/overview)

[History \(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history)

Total raised (after fees)

\$502.21

Next withdrawal: N/A ⓘ

\$0.00

Last withdrawal: Oct 31

\$48.25

[See withdrawal history](#)

[\(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history)

Bank information



Account ending in



Automatic withdrawal ⓘ



⌚ Daily

🔍 Search

Withdrawals

Dashboard (<https://funds.gofundme.com/dashboard>)

Hinton/Fortress HP School Board

[Overview \(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/overview\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/overview)

[History \(/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history\)](/withdraw/hintonfortress-hp-school-board/dashboard/history)

Amount

Arriving by ⓘ

\$48.25

Oct 31

\$115.62

Oct 11

\$338.34

Oct 10



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

February 11, 2019

Beverly Hinton
53 East Annabelle
Hazel Park, MI 48030

Heidi Fortress
23441 Hughs
Hazel Park, MI 48030

Re: *Peterson v. Hinton, Fortress*
Campaign Finance Complaint
No. 2018-11-106-47

Dear Ms. Hinton and Ms. Fortress:

This letter concerns the complaint that was recently filed against you, which relates to a purported violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* The Department of State has received a rebuttal statement from the complainant, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Section 15(10) of the MCFA, MCL 169.215(10), requires the Department to determine within 45 business days from the receipt of the rebuttal statement whether there is a reason to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. The complaint remains under investigation at this time.

If the Department needs more information, you may be contacted. The complaint will remain under investigation until a final determination has been made. At the conclusion of the review, all parties will receive written notice of the outcome of the complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Fracassi".

Adam Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Robert Peterson



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

April 12, 2019

Beverly Hinton
53 East Annabelle
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

Heidi Fortress
23441 Hughs
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

Re: *Peterson v. Hinton, et al*
Campaign Finance Complaint
No. 2018-11-106-47

Dear Ms. Hinton and Ms. Fortress:

The Department of State (Department) has concluded its investigation into the formal complaint filed by Robert Peterson against you alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* This letter concerns the resolution of the complaint.

Mr. Peterson filed his complaint against you on November 21, 2018 and alleged that certain signs and banners failed to contain a proper paid for by statement as required by section 47 of the Act. Mr. Peterson also alleged that you had improperly accepted anonymous contributions through GoFundMe. As evidence to his complaint, Mr. Peterson submitted campaign brochures and flyers.¹

In its notice of the complaint, the Department informed you of its intent to investigate the complaint and requested specific answers to certain questions. You jointly answered the complaint via letter dated January 14, 2019. You indicated that campaign materials were ordered, and you noticed that they did not contain a paid for by statement. You stated that you purchased a stamp containing the paid for by statement and attempted to correct the error. In terms of the anonymous contribution on GoFundMe, you stated that you knew the name of the contributor and accepted the contribution, and the "anonymous" label is only for purposes of GoFundMe. Finally, you indicated that all contributions were reported by the individual donors and split 50/50 between each candidate.

¹ Available at <https://www.gofundme.com/hintonfortress-hp-school-board>.

Beverly Hinton
Heidi Fortress
April 12, 2019
Page 2

Mr. Peterson submitted a rebuttal which marked up copies documents produced during the investigation, and he provided copies of the itemized contributions schedule filed by Ms. Hinton.

The Department has reviewed the evidence submitted with the complaint and takes each allegation in turn.

Section 41 of the Act bars a person or a committee from accepting and/or expending an anonymous contribution. MCL 169.241(2). Anonymous contributions are required to be given to a tax-exempt charity with a receipt given, and the receipt is to be maintained. *Id.* A knowing violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. MCL 169.241(4).

Upon review of the evidence, the Department concludes that there is insufficient evidence to support a conclusion that a potential violation of the Act has occurred. At the Department's request, you indicated in your answer that you knew the contributor's information, and no anonymous contributions were accepted. Moreover, upon reviewing the reports submitted by the complainant, the contributions were reported fully from each individual (compared to a lumpsum from GoFundMe) as required by the Act.² Finally, you indicated that all the contributions and expenditures were shared 50/50 which is required under the Act. MCL 169.244(4).

Therefore, the Department determines that there is insufficient evidence to support the conclusion that you improperly accepted anonymous contributions from the GoFundMe. Accordingly, this claim is dismissed.

The next allegation is that certain campaign materials failed to contain proper paid for by statements as required. 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 with the complaint shows that certain campaign materials submitted fail to contain a proper paid for by statement as required as the statement is omitted entirely from certain signs, brochures, and flyers. Therefore, the evidence supports the conclusion that a potential violation of the Act has occurred.

After reaching this determination, 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.*

² The campaign finance reports are available through the Oakland County Clerk's office at <https://courts.oakgov.com/CFDocs/836311.pdf>

Beverly Hinton
Heidi Fortress
April 12, 2019
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The Department recognizes that certain materials may not have been printed by you or your campaign, however, to the extent your campaign materials failed to contain the paid for by statement, the Department determines that this warning letter is an appropriate resolution to the complaint. Accordingly, the Department 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 that refer to an election or your candidacy produced in the future must include this identification statement. For all materials currently in circulation that refer to your candidacy, if any, the paid for by statement must be corrected/included.

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).

The Department now considers the instant action closed and resolved and will take no further enforcement action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Fracassi", written in a cursive style.

Adam Fracassi
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Robert Peterson