

RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE  
2018 JUL 24 PM 3:10  
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

July 12, 2018

Barb Byrum  
Ingham County Clerk  
341 S. Jefferson, PO Box 179  
Mason MI 48854

Dear Clerk Byrum:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (PA 442 of 1976) I am requesting information regarding the email account of County Commissioner Dennis Louney. I would like access to emails received and sent from is county issued email regarding its use for campaigning purposes. Attached is an email received from his county email where he openly discusses political purposes. The county email also appears on his campaign literature.

The Michigan Supreme Court has held that teacher personnel files are subject to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Bradley v. Saranac Community Schools Board of Education & Lansing Association of School Administrators v. Lansing School District Board of Education, 216 Mich App 79 (1996), 455 Mich 285 (1997).

The Act provides that you have not more than five business days after this request is received to respond to this request. Your response pursuant to PA 442 of 1976 will be greatly appreciated. If this request will cost more than \$50 to complete please inform me of your estimated cost in your first correspondence prior to completing the work and I will decide whether to continue with this request.

Sincerely,

Alexis Ruble



RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE  
2018 JUL 24 PM 3:10  
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

**Campaign Finance Complaint Form**  
**Michigan Department of State**

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:

<b>Section 1. Complainant</b>		
Your Name <b>Alexis Ruble</b>		Daytime Telephone Number <b>(517) 755-0675</b>
Mailing Address <b>21700 Hollyway</b>		
City <b>Lansing</b>	State <b>MI</b>	Zip <b>48910</b>

<b>Section 2. Alleged Violator</b>		
Name <b>Dennis Louney</b>		
Mailing Address <b>406 N Clemens Ave</b>		
City <b>Lansing</b>	State <b>MI</b>	Zip <b>48912</b>

<b>Section 3. Alleged Violations</b> (Use additional sheet if more space is needed.)
--

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

Explain how those sections were violated:

**Dennis has been using county resources for campaign purposes. These are NOT educational and explicitly mention voting in the Democratic primary. It is unknown what other political purposes our government resources are being used for. (More information attached)**

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

**Attached.**

**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

Meriz Ruble  
Signature of Complainant

7/12/18  
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:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Complainant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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

## Section 2

Friends of Dennis Louney

408 N. Clemens Ave, Lansing MI 48912

## Section 3

Ingham County Commissioner has been using County resources for campaign purposes. On several pieces of literature distributed by his campaign list is county email [dlouney@ingham.org](mailto:dlouney@ingham.org). These are not informational pieces to distribute to constituents as the words "vote" and "retain" or used and the explicit mention to vote in the democratic primary. In addition to providing his email he is communicating campaign information about volunteer opportunities and sign locations. It is unknown what other political purposes government resources are being used for.

## Section 4

### Evidence

Louney.PDF -- Contains lit piece with county email listed on the front, and on the back has the message Vote August 7<sup>th</sup> in the Democratic Primary, along with his committee disclaimer.

LouneySignEmail.JPEG -- Communication between Commissioner Louney and a would be voter, where Louney shares volunteer information, and promises to deliver a yard sign.

LouneyFlyer1.JPEG, LouneyFlyer2 -- The Front on LouneyFlyer1 uses the word Retain Dennis Louney, along with the County Email. Flyer2 is just the backside of that Flyer



Sign

3 messages

Fri, Jun 15, 2018 at 11:07 AM

To: dlouney@ingham.org

I was hoping to get a yard sign, let me know if there is anything else I can do to help

address [REDACTED]

Thanks

Sun, Jun 17, 2018 at 12:51 PM

Louney, Dennis <DLouney@ingham.org>

[REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your support. I will stop by Monday and deliver your yard sign. We are canvassing doors on Saturdays and Sundays if you are interested. Let me know and I will give you more details.

I truly appreciate your support and willingness to help. It means a lot.

Thank you,

Dennis

# RETAIN DENNIS LOUNNEY

## FOR INGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 10



I am committed to making sure we spend our money wisely and in an efficient manner.

**Regionalism and Collaboration**  
In an era of dwindling budgets for local governments, we need County leadership to build strong relationships and partnerships that leverage our resources into quality services with quality workers for prosperity in our region.

**Safe and stable neighborhoods**  
Safe neighborhoods don't happen by accident. Neighborhood watch and community policing are essential components. We also need to protect victims and ensure that we can properly house prisoners. This requires a strong judicial system with County support for prosecutors, judges and sheriff services.

**Budget stability and Economic Development**  
Because of state budget cuts to local units of governments, municipalities are forced to do more with less. We need a shared economic vision that will create good paying jobs and ensure smart, long term investments to eliminate our legacy costs.

**Roads and Infrastructure**  
Our state leaders have failed to provide us with a long-term solution to maintaining our roads and basic infrastructure. We need an asset management plan that will prioritize our assets and put necessary resources into maintaining them.

**Protection of a Sustainable Environment for Better Health**  
Ingham County has a long history of protecting our sustainable resources. We need to continue moving forward - this means working closely with our County Health Department to ensure resources and protections are in place for our residents.

cell: (517)388-5378  
email: dlounney@ingham.org

*Don't miss it*

*James*

# DENNIS LOUNEY

## YOUR INGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

As a longtime Eastside Lansing resident, I have deep roots here and love my neighborhood. As your District 10 County Commissioner, I am proud to serve you and every member of our community.

Paid for by Friends of Dennis Louney | 408 North Clemens Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912 | Printed in House | [www.dennisforlansing.com](http://www.dennisforlansing.com)

# DENNIS LOUNNEY

YOUR INGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Many of the approved projects that will begin construction this year are trails that run under, above or provide access to local bridges.

In Lansing, key improvements to note will include:

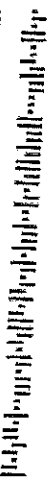
- Oakland Avenue
- Lansing Center
- Potter Park Zoo Creek Bridge
- Under the Railroad Tracks North of Crego Park
- East of Moores River Park

In addition, bank stabilization will be done on the Grand River North Section and construction of US 127 pathways.

In East Lansing, key improvements to note will include:

- Kalamazoo Street
- Hagadorn Road
- Harrison Meadows
- Whitehills Park

Paid for by Friends of Dennis Louney  
408 North Clements Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48912



1441

[www.DennisForLansing.com](http://www.DennisForLansing.com)





STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

July 19, 2018

Alexis Ruble  
1700 Holly Way  
Lansing, Michigan 48910

Dear Ms. Ruble:

The Department of State acknowledges receipt of your complaint against Dennis Louney you filed with the Ingham County Clerk's Office alleging a violation of Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.*

You allege that Mr. Louney authorized public resources to be used for campaign purposes by placing his county email on materials which expressly advocate for his reelection as Ingham County Commissioner.

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

The Department has received and is investigating a similar complaint alleging the same violation of the same section with the same evidence. Because that complaint is further along in its fact-finding phase, and the Department believes that the resolution to that complaint will adequately address the allegation in your complaint, the Department will place a copy of your complaint in the already pending file and notify you of any decision made.

Sincerely,

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

Adam Fracassi  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk



MAIN OFFICE  
P.O. Box 179  
341 South Jefferson  
Mason, MI 48854  
Phone: (517) 676-7201  
Fax: (517) 676-7254

**Barb Byrum**  
INGHAM COUNTY CLERK

BRANCH OFFICE  
Veterans Memorial Courthouse  
Lansing, MI 48933  
inghamclerk@ingham.org  
www.ingham.org

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

July 13, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

On July 13, 2018, I received notification that campaign literature encouraging voters to vote for Dennis Louney for County Commissioner was disseminated with his County email address, dlouney@ingham.org, printed on it. I have enclosed a copy of the campaign literature in question, as well as an email that illustrates that the email address was, in fact, used for campaign purposes.

I believe that Dennis Louney is in violation of Michigan Campaign Finance Act, specifically MCL § 169.257, because the campaign literature included a taxpayer-funded office email for campaign purposes as prohibited by law. Per a decision by the Department of State on campaign finance complaint Porzondek v. Stevens, "In order for a violation of section 57 to occur, township funds must be spent or township equipment or resources must be used in furtherance of a candidate's nomination or election." The complainant has provided proof that county resources were used to further the candidate's nomination, therefore I respectfully request proper measures be taken to resolve the situation.

Mr. Louney's candidate committee is "Friends of Dennis Louney," and I have enclosed a copy of his most recent Statement of Organization for your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Barb Byrum  
Ingham County Clerk

Enclosures

cc: Dennis Louney

RECEIVED/FILED  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE  
2018 JUL 18 PM 3:56  
ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL



IL OR AMENDED

L CANDIDATE COMMITTEES FILED WITH A COUNTY CLERK

Information on this form is made public.

1. Committee ID #:		*2. Type of Filing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original: <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment to items:		Eff. Date:
*3. Full Name of Committee (must include Candidate's first and last name): <b>Friends of Dennis Louney</b>				
*4a. Candidate Full Name: Last Name <b>Louney</b>		First Name <b>Dennis</b>		M.I. <b>M</b>
*4b. Political Party (if applicable): <b>Democratic Party</b>		*4c. County of Residence: <b>INGHAM</b>		
*4d. Office Sought: <b>Ingham County Commissioner</b>		*4e. District or Jurisdiction: <b>10</b>		
*5. Date Committee was Formed: <b>01/12/2018</b>				
*6a. Committee Phone: <b>(517) 388-5378</b>		6b. Committee Fax #:		
*6c. Committee Email Address: <b>dmlouney@gmail.com</b>		6d. Committee Website Address:		
*7a. Complete Committee Mailing Address (May be PO Box): <b>408 North Clemens Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912</b>				
*7b. Complete Committee Street Address (May not be PO Box): <b>408 North Clemens Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912</b>				
*8. Treasurer Name and Complete Address: <b>Sarah Tressedder, 3212 Trappers Cove Trail #3D, Lansing, MI 48910</b>				
Phone #: <b>(906) 869-4167</b>		Email Address: <b>stressedder@gmail.com</b>		
9. Designated Record Keeper Name and Complete Address: <b>Sarah Tressedder, 3212 Trappers Cove Trail #3D, Lansing, MI 48910</b>				
Phone #: <b>(906) 869-4167</b>		Email Address: <b>stressedder@gmail.com</b>		
*10. REPORTING WAIVER REQUEST: <input type="checkbox"/> YES, I/We WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee does not expect to receive or expend in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I/We understand that if the committee does not spend or received in excess of \$1,000 in an election, the committee does not owe Pre, Post and Quarterly Campaign Statements. I/We further understand that the Reporting Waiver will be automatically lost if the committee exceeds the \$1,000 threshold and all required campaign statements must be filed. <u>A Reporting Waiver does not exempt a committee from filing Late Contribution Reports.</u>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO, I/We DO NOT WANT TO APPLY FOR THE REPORTING WAIVER. The committee expects to receive or expend in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I/We understand that the committee owes Pre, Post, Quarterly Statements even if the committee does not spend or receive in excess of \$1,000 in an election. I further understand that the Reporting Waiver cannot be requested retroactively to avoid filing requirements and to avoid paying late filing fees. Further information regarding Reporting Waivers can be found in <u>Appendix C</u> of the Committee Manual.				
*11. Name and Address of Depositories or Intended Depositories of committee funds. (Michigan Bank, Credit Union or Savings & Loan Association) While this item must be completed, an account does not have to be opened until the first contribution is received. *Official Depository (name and address): <b>MSUFCU; 4825 E Mount Hope Road, East Lansing, MI 48823</b>  Secondary Depository (name and address):				
12. Verification: I/We certify that all reasonable diligence was used in the preparation of the above statement and that the contents are true, accurate and complete to the best of my/our knowledge or belief. If filing campaign statements electronically, we further agree that the signatures below shall serve as the signatures that verify the accuracy and completeness of each statement filed electronically by the committee. I/We certify that all reasonable diligence will be used in the preparation of each statement electronically filed by this committee and that the contents of each statement will be true, accurate and complete to the best of my/our knowledge or belief. (Sign Name and Date)				
*Candidate: <i>Dennis M. Louney</i>		*Current Treasurer: <i>Sarah Tressedder</i>		Date: <i>01/11/2018</i>
*Designated Record Keeper (If Applicable): <i>Sarah Tressedder</i>		Date: <i>01/11/2018</i>		

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2018

INGHAM COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE



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

January 24, 2019

Barb Byrum  
PO Box 179  
Mason, Michigan 48854

Dear Ms. Byrum:

The Department of State has concluded its investigation of the complaint that you filed against Dennis Louney, which concerned an alleged violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the final resolution is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

Sincerely,

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

Adam Fracassi  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Isobella Medina  
Alexis Ruble



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

In the Matter of:

Barb Byrum, et al  
PO Box 179  
Mason, Michigan 48854

v.

Dennis Louney  
408 North Clemens Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48918

---

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to MCL §169.215(10) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (the Act), MCL §169.201 *et seq.*, the Secretary of State and Dennis Louney (Respondent) hereby enter into a conciliation agreement with respect to certain acts, omissions, methods, or practices prohibited by the Act.

The Secretary of State alleges that there may be reason to believe that Respondent violated MCL §169.257 by improperly using his Ingham County email to expressly advocate for his election to county commissioner.

Therefore, Respondent, without admitting any issue of law or fact, except as stated herein, hereby voluntarily enter into this conciliation agreement and assure the Secretary of State that they will comply with the Act and the Rules promulgated to implement the Act.

By executing this conciliation agreement, Respondent certifies that a civil fine in the amount of \$100 has been paid to the State of Michigan.

The Secretary of State and Respondent further agrees that this agreement is in effect and enforceable for four years from the date it is signed by the Secretary of State or her duly authorized representative.

The Secretary of State and Respondent further agree that this agreement, unless violated, shall constitute a complete bar to any further action by the Secretary of State with respect to the alleged violation that resulted in the execution of this agreement.

The Secretary of State and Respondent further agree that the complaint and investigation that resulted in this agreement are disposed of and will not be the basis for further proceedings, except pursuant to this agreement.

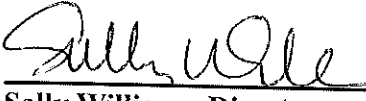
The Secretary of State and Respondent further agree that this agreement will not prevent the Secretary of State from taking action for violations of this agreement.

The Secretary of State and Respondent further agree that Respondent's performance under this agreement shall be given due consideration in any subsequent proceedings.

The Secretary of State and Respondent further agree that this agreement, when signed, shall become a part of the permanent public records of the Department of State.

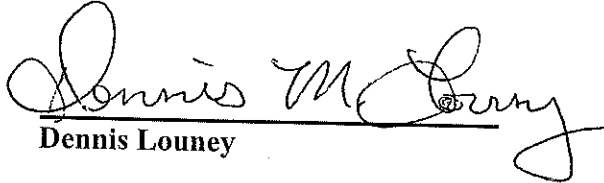
The Secretary of State and Respondent finally agree that the signatories below are authorized to enter into and bind the parties to this agreement, and have done so by signing this agreement on the date below.

**RUTH JOHNSON**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sally Williams, Director  
Bureau of Elections

Date: 1/24/19

**RESPONDENT**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Louney

Date: 1/18/19