



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

September 16, 2024

Wes Nakagiri
3093 N Tipsico Lake Rd
Hartland, MI 48353

Re: *Nikitin v. Nakagiri*
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 24-168

Dear Mr. Nakagiri:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint filed against you by Ella Nikitin alleging that you violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act). Specifically, the complaint alleges that the postcard indicating that you were running for re-election and additional campaign materials should have been reported as an in-kind contribution to your campaign committee. A copy of the complaint is included with this notice.

The MCFA requires that candidates and committees record the full name, street address, amount contributed, and date of contribution for each individual from whom contributions are received. MCL 169.226(1)(e). Further, if the individual's cumulative contributions are more than \$100.00, the candidate or committee must also report the individual's occupation, employer, and principal place of business. *Id.* For each person other than an individual, candidates and committees need not include the additional employment information but must provide all other contributor information previously listed. MCL 169.226(1)(g).

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

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, 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.

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A copy of your answer will be provided to Ella Nikitin, 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 BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure
c: Ella Nikitin