



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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January 12, 2018

Joanne Babin
Vote Yes for MHS
72 Cross Street
Middleborough, MA 02346

Re: CPF 17-144

Dear Ms. Babin:

This office has completed its review of a complaint that we received regarding the campaign activity of the Vote Yes for MHS Ballot Question Committee ("the Committee"). The Committee advocated a vote supporting the Proposition 2 ½ override in Middleborough held on November 4, 2017. The complainant alleged that the Committee did not organize with the Middleborough town clerk or file the required campaign finance reports. The Committee fully cooperated during this review.

Based on our review, we have determined that the Committee did organize with the Middleborough clerk on July 26, 2017, but did not submit their campaign finance reports in a timely manner. You have stated that you were not notified of the Committee's reporting requirements.

The campaign finance law specifies that municipal ballot question committees must file campaign finance reports (Form CPF M102) according to the following schedule: on or before the eighth day before the election complete through the eighteenth day prior to the election; and 30-days-after the election. See M.G.L. c. 55, § 18 and IB-90-02.

The Committee was required to file a pre-election report no later than October 27, 2017 (for the period through October 17, 2017), and a post-election report no later than December 4, 2017 (for the period October 18, 2017 through November 24, 2017). The reports were required to be signed by the Committee treasurer and include disclosure of all monetary and in-kind contributions received, expenditures made, and liabilities incurred during the relevant period.

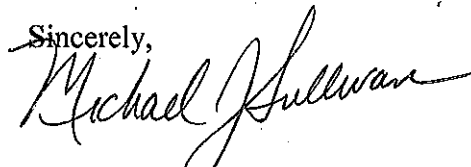
On December 7, 2017, after being notified by OCPF that a complaint had been filed, the Committee filed both the pre-election report and the 30-day-after (post-election) report. The reports showed that the Committee raised a total of \$1,710.41 and spent a total of \$1,700.47. The Committee's reports, although filed late, appear to disclose all Committee contributions, expenditures, in-kinds and liabilities.



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Based upon our review, we have concluded that the Committee's late filing of the required financial activity did not comply with M.G.L. Ch. 55, the campaign finance law. We fully expect that the guidance provided in the course of this review will result in future compliance should you be involved in ballot question activity again. Accordingly, this letter will serve as OCPF's final determination of the matter.

In accordance with the opinion of the Supervisor of Public Records this letter is a public record. If you have any questions regarding this letter or any other campaign finance matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Sullivan
Director

MJS/jt

cc: Allison J. Ferreira, Middleborough Town Clerk