

Clark County Campaign Finance Complaint Public Summary

Expenditure complaint presented July 15, 2024

The Clark County Election Board reviewed questions about expenditures reported by Hoosiers for Jeffersonville PAC, Jeff Republicans PAC, and the I'm for Mike Moore Committee for 2023. After receiving explanations and additional information over the following 19 months, the Board voted unanimously on February 19, 2026 to find no wrongdoing and take no further action. This summary concerns the expenditure complaint submitted by John Croucher, Teresa Ballew, and Christina Kelty.

Questions raised and information provided

Hoosiers for Jeffersonville PAC

The complainants questioned a \$540 payment to The UPS Store for a mailbox when the PAC also reported a street address. They questioned a \$7,500 consulting payment to MDL Strategies and two \$13,500 entries for Scott McVoy. They also asked why the PAC transferred \$24,500 and \$2,195 to Jeff Republicans PAC instead of paying that PAC's vendors directly. Counsel responded that the mailbox was used for campaign mail, MDL Strategies and McVoy provided consulting and fundraising services under written agreements, and the transfers supported Jeff Republicans PAC's voter outreach and mailers. Counsel said the McVoy entries represented one \$13,500 payment recorded twice; an April 2025 email reported amended campaign finance filings.

Jeff Republicans PAC

The complaint identified payments to Galaxy for media services totaling \$24,160.98 and a \$2,394.84 payment to Engagement Strategies for voter outreach. Counsel said the PAC's stated purpose was to support Republican candidates in Jeffersonville and that the funds transferred from Hoosiers for Jeffersonville PAC paid for get-out-the-vote work and campaign mailers. The Clerk later requested invoices for specified Galaxy and Engagement Strategies payments; counsel's February 2025 reply listed those invoices as attachments.

I'm for Mike Moore Committee

The complainants questioned a \$16,326.75 vehicle purchase from John Jones Auto; payments totaling \$22,500 to Amy Huffman and \$7,500 to Christy O'Neil for consulting or campaign staffing; and four \$8,750 payments totaling \$35,000 to MDL Strategies. They asked about the vehicle's use, the staff members' work and tax treatment, and the identity of MDL Strategies. Counsel stated that the vehicle was used for political and campaign activity, that Huffman and O'Neil worked under independent contractor agreements requiring services outside other compensated employment, and that MDL Strategies provided campaign management, media strategy, and voter outreach under a written agreement. Those explanations are counsel's account of the transactions.

Identification of MDL Strategies

The identity of MDL Strategies remained a recurring question in public meetings. Counsel had described it as a sole proprietorship. A Clark County Recorder certificate of assumed business name recorded July 1, 2019, as instrument 201911638 identifies MDL Strategies as a consulting business and lists Leslie D. Merkley as owner. The Board discussed this information at its final meeting. The certificate identifies who operated under the name.

Additional records received during the review

The materials include an MDL Strategies invoice dated July 25, 2023 for \$7,500 in general consulting to Hoosiers for Jeffersonville PAC. A McVoy invoice dated October 3, 2023 describes \$13,500 in consulting and fundraising. A Galaxy invoice for \$8,946 describes design of get-out-the-vote direct mail and digital advertisements, including postage. An Engagement Strategies invoice for \$2,394.84 itemizes three text or multimedia message campaigns. These documents give more detail than the short descriptions on the finance reports.

In April 2025, counsel advised that amended campaign finance reports had been filed.

How the Board proceeded

Period	Recorded activity
July 15, 2024	The expenditure complaint was presented during the Board meeting. The Board said it would review the questions.
July –August 2024	The Board notified the three committees. Counsel gave notice of representation and then submitted a written response for each questioned category.
November 2024–March 2025	The Board and members of the public discussed the responses and asked for more detail about several payments, including MDL Strategies and McVoy. The Clerk requested selected invoices and agreements in February.
April–May 2025	Counsel reported amended filings in April. At the May meeting, the Board said review was ongoing and agreed to send additional MDL Strategies questions to counsel.
May–September 2025	The Board requested 2023 bank statements for the three committees. Counsel sought a fuller explanation of the request and discussed the burden and disclosure of financial records.
October–December 2025	Counsel sought assurance about confidentiality. The November minutes report that the Board had sought guidance from the Indiana Public Access Counselor and Indiana Election Division about treatment of the records.
February 19, 2026	The Board discussed identification of MDL Strategies, voted to find no wrongdoing and take no further action, and directed a public summary.

Board action and limits of the decision

- At its February 19, 2026 meeting, the Clark County Election Board considered the information obtained during its review of the complaint, including the record identifying the owner of MDL Strategies. Following discussion, Tony Singleton moved to find no wrongdoing and take no further action on the complaint. Andrew Steele seconded the motion, and the Board approved it unanimously. The complaint was closed, and the Board directed that a summary of the matter and its decision be prepared for the public.

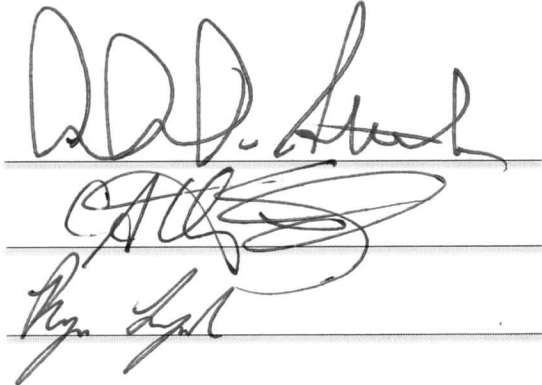
The Board’s decision addressed the campaign finance complaint before it. It did not determine whether any person complied with tax, employment, or other conflict of interest requirements administered under separate laws.

Election Board Members of Clark County:

Andrew Steele – Chairman, Democrat Appointee

Charles (Tony) Singleton – Member, Republican Appointee

Ryan Lynch – Secretary & Clark County Circuit Court Clerk





2024-09-25
Pub Test
A. Steele

Agenda

Clark County Election Board
Monday, September 28, 2026

4:45 P.M

Clark County Judicial Center
501 E Court Ave Room 139
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Steele

2) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

3-0 approved

1. 6/15/2026
2. 8/27/2026
3. 8/31/2026

3) NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Test 2026 General Election
 - a. Published 9/18/2026

4) OLD BUSINESS

1. Clark County Campaign Finance Complaint filed 7-15-2024 Summary

3-0 Adopted

5) PUBLIC COMMENT

6) ADJOURNMENT

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ROOM 139
501 E COURT AVENUE
JEFFERSONVILLE IN 47130

Start: 09/18/2026 Stop: 09/18/2026
Times Ord: 1 Times Run: ***
LEG 2.00 X 15.00 Words: 116
Total LEG 30.00
Class: 105 PUBLIC NOTICES
Rate: LGOVT Cost: 16.71

Contact:

Phone: (812) 207-2152

Fax#:

Email: acornett@clarkcounty.in.gov

Agency:

Affidavits: 1

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Descr Cont: ***NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST*

Given by: *

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Created: tlong 09/16/26 13:09

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JEFF JEF 95 S 09/18
JNOL JEF 95 S 09/18

AUTHORIZATION

Under this agreement rates are subject to change with 30 days notice. In the event of a cancellation before schedule completion, I understand that the rate charged will be based upon the rate for the number of insertions used.

Name (print or type)

Name (signature)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

Notice is hereby given that the Clark County Election Board will conduct a public test of the electronic voting system to be used in the November 3, 2026 General Election.

The public test will be conducted on Monday, September 28, 2026, at 4:45 p.m. in the Election Room located in the basement of the Clark County Judicial Center, 501 East Court Avenue, Jeffersonville, Indiana. The test is open to representatives of political parties, candidates, the media, and the public pursuant to Indiana Code 3-11-14.5-4.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2026.

Clark County Election Board

Clark County, Indiana

Andrew Steele, Chairman

Tony Singleton, Member

Ryan Lynch, Board Secretary and Clark County Clerk

Please Sign In 9/28/26

Samly Basham