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Pay Your Bills: State Hits Bert Johnson with “Final Notices” to Pay \$6,000 in Outstanding Campaign Finance Penalties

New MDP Chairman Brandon Dillon’s First Act Should be Forcing Leading Party Member to Comply with Campaign Finance Law

LANSING, MI, July 13, 2015 –The Michigan Department of State has been attempting unsuccessfully for 6 months to get state Senator Bert Johnson to pay fees associated with 8 different violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, according to a fresh round of notices delivered to his campaign committee.

According to the notices, Johnson’s “Committee to Elect Bert Johnson to State Senate” was delinquent 7 times in 2014 in filing “late contribution reports,” and once in filing a “post general campaign statement.” In total, Johnson’s committee owes state taxpayers \$5,950 stemming from his committee’s campaign finance violations.

Johnson’s committee was first contacted by the state regarding a late filing fee 6 months ago this week, on January 15, and was delivered second notices in March. Johnson received “final notices” on June 11.

Six months after first receiving notice of the penalties, Johnson still refuses to settle his account with Michigan taxpayers.

“Senator Johnson needs to make things right with taxpayers and pay these bills,” said Michigan Freedom Fund President Terri Reid. “It’s bad enough Bert Johnson’s campaign habitually violates Michigan’s campaign finance laws, the last thing he should do is stiff taxpayers when he gets caught.”

The Michigan Freedom Fund called on new Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Brandon Dillon to demand Democratic Johnson finally comply with Michigan campaign finance law.

“Brandon Dillon’s first act as MDP Chairman should be putting his own house in order, forcing Senator Johnson to pay his bill to taxpayers and to finally comply with Michigan campaign finance law,” said Reid.

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This isn't the only time Johnson has refused to pay bills stemming from his political efforts. A warrant was issued in Chicago in late May for Johnson's arrest stemming from his refusal to pay nearly \$22,000 awarded last year by a jury to his Chicago-based campaign consulting team.

Johnson's campaign finance violation history, fines, and outstanding notices can be viewed on the Department of State's website at <http://bit.ly/1SQFVYg>.

Michigan Freedom Fund is a nonprofit organization run by Michiganders for Michiganders, working to advance, promote, and protect Michigan workers' Constitutional rights. For more information on the Freedom Fund, please visit www.MichiganFreedomFund.com.

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