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MACOMB COUNTY TREASURER & CLERK TEAM UP TO CRACK DOWN ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE OFFENDERS

Rocca & Miller Announce One-Time 2nd Chance to Avoid Legal Action

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For More Information contact:
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MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN -- **Macomb County Treasurer Larry Rocca and Macomb County Clerk Fred Miller** have announced a new Macomb County Campaign Finance protocol to address both unpaid campaign finance late fees as well as institute a new collection process going forward including a discount offer for unpaid late fees and a commitment to enforce all legal obligations.

“We are sending a strong message to those who would ignore the state’s campaign finance laws,” said **Treasurer Larry Rocca**. “Your time is up. Follow the law, correct your errors, and pay your fines or we’ll see you in court.”

Rocca and Miller will offer a “Second Chance” program from May 20, 2019 thru July 19, 2019 to committees with past due campaign finance late fees. To qualify for a 50% discount, a committee must file all outstanding campaign finance statements/amendments, pay the discounted fee, and dissolve the committee, if eligible to do so, by July 19, 2019.

Presently there are 117 Macomb County campaign committees who owe a combined \$427,615 (60-day+ fines as of 5/8/19) in late filing fees and penalties as required by law. There are 645 active committees registered with the Clerk’s Election Department. Any monies recovered revert to the County’s General Fund.

A new “Three Strikes - You’re Out” approach will also be implemented.

STRIKE ONE - A 1st Request Letter will be sent to the committee by the Treasurer’s Office.

STRIKE TWO - A 2nd Request Letter will be sent and the Treasurer's Office will attempt to contact the committee by phone.

STRIKE THREE –A 3rd & Final Request Letter will be sent by Corporation Counsel clearly communicating that the next step of enforcement will be court action if the fees and statements are not addressed.

YOU'RE OUT – If the matter is not timely resolved legal action will be pursued. Nothing in this policy prevents the County Treasurer from filing suit at any time within his sole discretion. The County Treasurer and County Clerk have the right to modify this policy at any time. Nothing in this policy is intended to provide for additional rights or defenses to claims for campaign finance violations greater than those provided by current law.

“By increasing and varying our outreach to these delinquent filers, we’re giving them ample opportunity to set their record straight,” said **County Clerk Fred Miller**. “This is not about generating revenue for the county. Rather, it’s about enforcing the law and giving those who participate in the electoral process every chance to be accountable for their actions.”

Committees should contact the Macomb County Elections Department at 586-469-5209 for assistance regarding campaign finance compliance.

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