

Election Law Violation Complaint

Hillsdale County, MI

Submitted by

Stephanie Scott

Resident of Hillsdale County

To

Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office

Hillsdale County Michigan

On this day, May 5, 2026;

1. Hillsdale County has several Special Elections occurring today, May 5, 2026.
2. This complaint pertains to Fayette Township in Hillsdale County.
3. Two school millages are on the ballot (Hillsdale & Jonesville schools).
4. Abe Dane, Hillsdale County Clerk, testified March 17, 2026 in the Michigan House of Representatives Election Integrity Committee that a city clerk that volunteered to work the Fayette Township May 5, 2026 election due to an empty township clerk position. house.mi.gov/ArchiveVideoFiles/HELEC-031726.mp4
5. Clerk Dane testified during the introduction of HB 5717 that would change statutory language of MCL 168.373 and allow a township board to 'enter into contract' with a person that 'resides within a reasonable proximity of the township'.
6. This bill also removes the statutory requirement of being a 'registered elector' of the township.
7. Current MCL 168.373 clearly addresses the substitution should a township clerk or deputy clerk be unavailable to perform the functions of elections, a 'qualified elector' shall perform the duties.
8. A qualified elector is defined in MCL 168.10 requires residency in the city or township for 30 days.
9. It is reasonable to assume that Clerk Dane is well aware of the current statute requiring the clerk's substitute to be a 'qualified elector' of the township.
10. Clerk Dane knows he is in violation of election law by completing election tasks on behalf of the township and by allowing this election to commence.

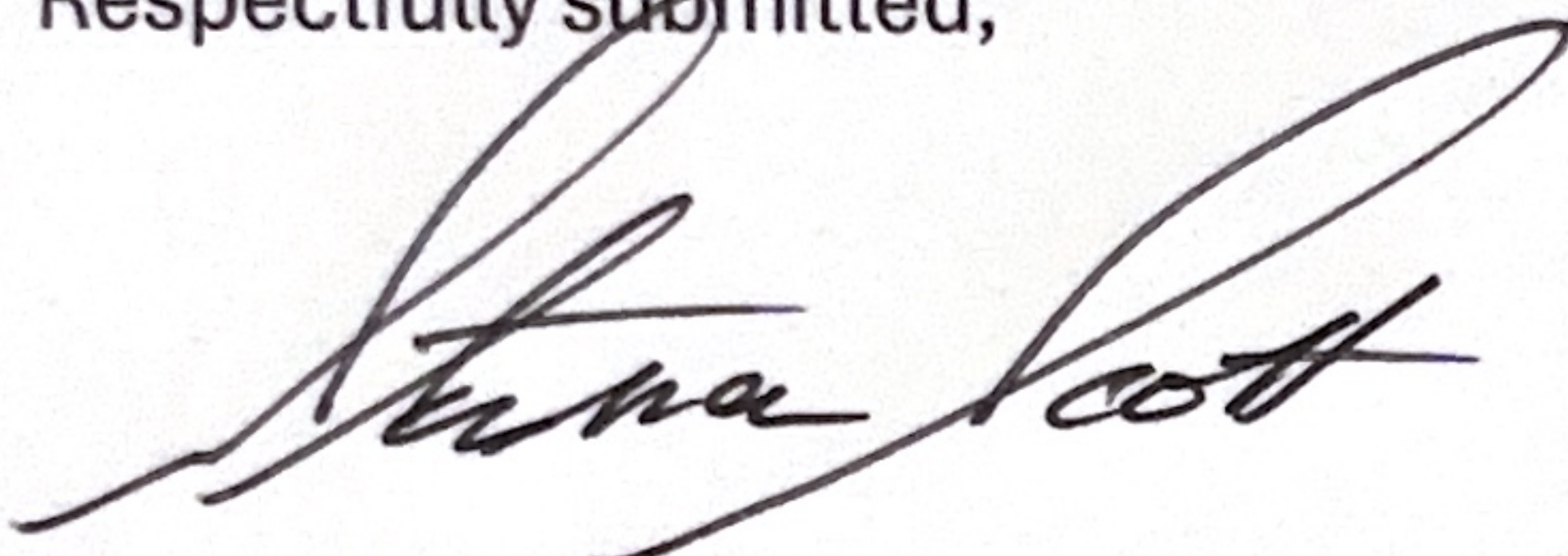
11. HB 5717 has not been voted into law and any application of the proposed language would be post facto application of law.
12. Cassidy Taylor is managing the Fayette Township May 5, 2026 Special Election in the capacity of clerk.
13. Ms. Taylor is currently the Litchfield City Clerk per the Fayette Township website.
14. Ms. Taylor cannot be a resident of both Fayette Township and City of Litchfield.
15. Ms. Taylor is not a resident of Fayette Township.
16. Election duties are the responsibility of the **local** election commission. MCL 168.719
17. The Michigan Bureau of Elections has promulgated rules for the conduct of elections (By authority conferred on the secretary of state by sections 31, 794c, and 797b of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.31, 168.794c, and 168.797b)
18. R168.772 Rule 2(4) Where the legislative body of a city or township provides for the purchase and use of an electronic voting system, **the clerk of the city** or township shall have custody of the devices and is responsible for their maintenance, repair, and preparation for elections.
19. Ms. Taylor does not have legal authority to utilize Fayette Township's tabulator.
20. Clerk Dane did not have legal authority to prepare the tabulator for use in Fayette Township.
21. R168.775 Rule 5 (1) the clerk or the authorized assistant shall prepare the tabulator.
22. Based on R168.772, it is presumed that this would reference the clerk that has custody of machine. Not the county clerk. Not a substitute clerk.
23. The local township election commission is comprised of supervisor, clerk and treasurer with the township clerk as chairman per MCL 168. 26.
24. In the absence of a township clerk, the Fayette local election commission was absent the chairman of the election commission board and substitutes can not be submitted to a non-existent clerk.
25. R168.778 Rule 8(3) Public accuracy test shall be performed by the election commission responsible for the election.
26. The local election commission shall provide for an accuracy test of an electronic voting system in the manner prescribed in rules promulgated by the secretary of state per MCL 168.794a.
27. R168.777 Rule 7(1) require the election commission responsible for the election to complete the election equipment preliminary testing (tabulator).
28. The election equipment must have a certified Logic and Accuracy Test (LAT) performed by the local election commission per MCL 168.798.
29. R168.778 Rule 8(12) the election commission certifies the test.

30. If the election commission is not legal, the certification is not legal.
31. The election **shall not** use an electrotonic voting system that fails the LAT per MCL 168.794(a)(5).
32. State statute places restrictions on who can handle absentee ballots per MCL 168.761.
33. All responsibility for receiving and handling of absentee ballots is the responsibility of the local clerk unless he/she appoints someone to handle per MCL 168.764b.
34. All handling of absentee ballots is statutorily the responsibility of the city or local clerk per MCL 168.765. The local (city/township clerk) processes the absentee ballot or the local (city/township clerk) appoints someone to process.
35. There is no current statutory provision for anyone other than the township clerk, a deputy clerk or a qualified elector of Fayette Township to perform the necessary functions related to registrations, nominations or elections of the May 5, 2026 election.
36. With Clerk Dane, in capacity of County Clerk, working in any capacity and performing functions relating to this election, including processing absentee ballots, the election is not legal.
37. Chain of custody of the May 5, 2026 election is destroyed.
38. With an empty township clerk position, the election commission is without a chairperson.
39. There is no provision for a substitute clerk, and his/her responsibilities of the local election commission.
40. Without a local election commission compliant with statute, the tabulator testing (LAT test) certification cannot be completed.
41. Without a certified and legal LAT, the tabulators cannot legally be used in the election.
42. Per election law MCL 168.941, any sheriff having any knowledge of any violation of the provisions of Act 116 of 1954 shall institute criminal proceedings.
43. Per MCL 168.940, a prosecuting attorney whenever he shall receive credible information that any such offense has been committed, to cause the same to be prosecuted.
44. Punishment for offenders is defined in MCL 168.934 and MCL 168.935.
45. This is not the first election illegally run in Hillsdale County by the Hillsdale County Clerk's office.
46. The Adams Township November 2021 election and the May 2022 special election, and the May 2023 recall election were unlawfully run with similar violations by the Hillsdale County Clerk's office under the supervision of County Clerk Marney Kast.

47. Abe Dane, in the capacity of Chief Deputy Clerk, under the supervision of County Clerk Marney Kast commandeered three elections and performed the duties in violation of Michigan election law.
48. This repeated blatant violation of law is submitted for Hillsdale County Sheriff to review and forward on to the Hillsdale County Prosecutor.

Please respond within ten (10) days of this notice upon receipt of this complaint.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie Scott

Enclosure

cc: Gretchen Witmer, Governor;

Jocelyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State;

Dana Nessel, Michigan Attorney General;

Lenawee/Hillsdale Medical Examiner/Coroner

