

Gordon Snow's Election Law Problem...

It has recently been discovered that longtime Alpena Board of Education Trustee, Gordon Snow, is in blatant violation of Michigan election law.

Gordon Snow has been a Trustee, according to [his LinkedIn page](#) for 17 years and 9 months. And, has been involved in teaching or administration in the district since 1966. That is a long time.

Below is his biography as seen on the [Alpena Public Schools website](#):



Article featured image

Gordon Snow

Mr. Snow, raised in Royal Oak, came to Alpena to attend ACC following his high school graduation in 1963. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and two master's degrees from Central Michigan University. Before his retirement from Alpena Public Schools in 2000, Mr. Snow was an elementary teacher at Lincoln Elementary and Anna Besser Elementary for 24 years and a principal for ten years at Maple Ridge Elementary, Long Rapids Elementary, and Wilson Elementary. He has most recently supervised student teachers for Spring Arbor University and Western Governors University.

Prior to serving on the Board of Education, Mr. Snow served on the boards of Northeast Michigan Kennel Club, Child & Family Services, Thunder Bay Theatre, and the Alpena Community Concert Association. He also spent several years on the National Volunteer Leadership Council and the International Advisory Council of Youth for Understanding International Exchange program.

Over a period of forty years, Mr. Snow has hosted nearly 80 exchange students who were students at Alpena High School. His travels have taken him to fifty countries and he has visited all seven continents.

He is single, a dog lover, an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, and volunteers with several local organizations including St. Bernard's Friendship Room, McLaren Hospice, and the READ Adult Literacy Program at the library.

His term began on January 1, 2008 and he has been re-elected and served consecutively since that time. Mr. Snow's current term continues through December 31, 2024.

[✉ Email Mr. Snow](#)

His email is listed as: msnowg@alpenaschools.com



With such vast experience should come vast knowledge, right?

With so many years under his belt, and multiple election cycles, Mr. Snow should be highly cognizant of both the law concerning the proper usage of district electronic systems as well as the moral ramifications of using taxpayer funded systems to promote his own personal advantage.

We have received and, are sharing proof that Gordon Snow has broken state law. We will demonstrate that he is using Alpena Public School District email systems to assist in his reelection to the Alpena Board of Education. This is a direct violation of Michigan Campaign Finance Act 388 of 1976.

Snow's self-interested behavior is putting teachers at risk.

Not only is he breaking the law, the recipients of these emails are also unwittingly put at risk pursuant to Mr. Snow's egregious solicitations – especially those who may act on his behalf. Each one of these Alpena School District staff members should know their risk, and ask themselves why he would so recklessly endanger all of them. Remember folks: a misdemeanor does make a *criminal record*.

Someone who is interested in the well-being of Alpena schools should not be putting so many teachers in the crosshairs of the law. He alone bears the full responsibility of knowing and following election laws.

Here is how the law breaks down.

To fully parse law, you need to put together the elements to complete the "statement". I will break this down and notate the sections below.

First the definition:

MCL 169.211 Definitions; P.

(7) "Public body" means 1 or more of the following:

(c) A county, city, township, village, intercounty, intercity, or regional governing body; a council, **school district**, special district, or municipal corporation; or a **board**, department, commission, or council or an agency of a board, department, commission, or council.

This is the legal definition attributed to a School District and its board. Any verbiage which subsequently mentions "Public Body", can apply to this matter.

Next, we have:

MCL 169.257 Contributions, expenditures, or volunteer personal services; prohibitions; communication referencing local ballot questions; violation as misdemeanor; penalty.

Sec. 57. (1) A public body or a person acting for a public body **shall not use** or authorize the use of funds, personnel, office space, **computer hardware or software**, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure or provide volunteer personal services that are excluded from the definition of contribution under section 4(3)(a).

Which is punishable as a misdemeanor as shown below:

(3) A person that knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, if the person is an individual, by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both...

[Find it all here.](#)

It's succinctly clear that this was knowingly done. Frankly, there's not much more to say since this speaks clearly of its own accord. The following screenshots we obtained from our whistleblower will tell you all you need to know.

The screenshot shows an email thread. On the left, Jenny Marceau (Wilson Staff) sends a message titled "Fwd: Please Help!". The main body of the email is a forwarded message from Gordon Snow. The forwarded message contains a list of email addresses and a request for help with campaign signs. To the right of the forwarded message, there is a response from Gordon Snow, dated Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 11:05 PM. The response discusses the campaign signs and provides contact information for David Rabbideau.

Jenny Marceau
To: Wilson Staff >
Yesterday

Fwd: Please Help!

If anyone is interested in helping Gordon please let me know.
Thank You,
Jenny

Jennifer Marceau, M.Ed
Wilson Community School Principal
4999 Herron Rd.
Herron, MI 49744
Phone: (989) 358-5700 Fax: (989) 358-5705
marceauj@alpenaschools.com

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Gordon Snow**
<gsnow_1@charter.net>
Date: Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 11:05 PM
Subject: Please Help!
To: <feldpauschj@alpenaschools.com>, <marceauj@alpenaschools.com>, <blackm@alpenaschools.com>, <hitchcocks@alpenaschools.com>, <grondind@alpenaschools.com>, <knudsonk@alpenaschools.com>, <leek@alpenaschools.com>, <bourdager@alpenaschools.com>, <studleyj@alpenaschools.com>
CC: Rabbideau, David
<Rabbideaud@alpenaschools.com>

Hello,

As you know, I'll be on the ballot in November for a four-year term (January, 2025 - December, 2028) on the APS Board of Education.

My campaign signs are beginning to appear around town; and elsewhere in the county, I hope.

After talking with Dave Wednesday morning, my plan is to make yard signs available to members of the APS family throughout the district--with your help.

Please poll your staff--everybody--and let me know by September 10 how many signs are wanted. I'll order them, and eventually deliver them to your building--I'm hoping by the week of September 23. Donations toward the purchase of the signs are certainly welcome, but not required. Each sign costs me nearly \$14.

There certainly is no pressure from me or anyone else to help with my campaign, or help finance it, but I want to do all I can to get elected. There are three vacancies to be filled and four candidates--Sarah Costain, Monica Dzieszinski, and current member Eric Lawson--and I. Please take some time to review <nmlce.com>, the website of the Northeast Michigan League of Conservative Education, for more information.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I look forward to your support.

Regards,
Gordon

Oh, and by the way...

Thanks for the shoutout, Gordon! You're right. Everyone *should* check out our website. 😊

What's next?

Gordon needs to immediately withdraw his candidacy and announce his resignation at once. It is unclear if law enforcement will act or, if any charges will be filed. But this negligent malfeasance needs to be his last act as a part of the Alpena School District.

It will remain to be seen if any teachers, principals, or district staff acting on his behalf will face disciplinary or criminal actions in their part of using school district infrastructure to illegally promote an individual candidate.

The opinions & observations above are that of the author, Jeffrey Dobbs, a friend and partner to this movement.

Original article link: <https://www.nmlce.com/blog/2024/09/12/gordon-snows-election-law-problem/>

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