

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**CONCILIATION
AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the Citizens for Runbeck (Linda) committee (17046);

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.28, subdivision 3, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and Representative Linda Runbeck (the Candidate) agree as follows:

1. The Citizens for Runbeck (Linda) Committee (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Representative Linda Runbeck. On its 2013 amended year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures and its 2014 amended year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures, the Committee reported that it had accepted \$1,100 in total contributions from one individual during the two year period. The total amount of these contributions exceeds the applicable individual contribution limit during the 2013-2014 election cycle, which for a state representative candidate is \$1,000. The final contribution in this series, in the amount of \$100 and reported as being received on October 25, 2015, resulted in the violation. This contribution was not returned within 90 days, and thus, is deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. In a letter to the Board dated April 3, 2015, the Committee's treasurer stated that the excess contribution was not caught for two reasons. First, the Committee's record-keeping was done in Excel and did not integrate contributions from previous periods. Second, the treasurer believed that the Campaign Finance Reporter software would not accept an excessive contribution. The treasurer states that the Committee will now be entering the data into the Campaign Finance Reporter software on a regular basis, as required by a previous conciliation agreement, rather than maintaining a separate Excel file until reports are due. The Committee's treasurer also stated that the excess contribution had been returned to the donor and provided a copy of the check and the letter returning the excess contribution.
3. Board records show that this is the third instance in which the Committee reported the acceptance of a contribution that exceeded the individual contribution limit. The Committee registered with the Board on February 25, 2010. The first violation occurred in 2011. The second violation occurred in 2014 and was resolved by a conciliation agreement signed by the Candidate on November 23, 2014. That conciliation agreement provided for a stayed civil penalty of \$50, one times the amount of the violation, with the payment becoming due if the Committee violated the individual contribution limit again before January 1, 2017.
4. In the conciliation agreement signed by the Candidate on November 23, 2014, the Candidate and the Committee agreed to review and enter contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt. If the individual's \$100 contribution at issue in this matter had been entered within this agreed upon timeframe, the software would have notified the Committee of the violation in time for the Committee to return the contribution within the 90 days provided for by statute to cure a violation. The Candidate agrees that it did not comply with the prior agreement.
5. The parties agree that the Committee accepted an excessive contribution from an individual resulting in a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(5), in the 2013-2014 election cycle.

6. The Candidate agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$200 against the Candidate, two times the amount of the violation, for accepting individual contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(5). The penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. In addition, pursuant to the conciliation agreement signed by the Candidate on November 23, 2014, in which a civil penalty was stayed conditioned on no further violations of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(5) by the Candidate, the stayed civil penalty of \$50 is now imposed and due within 30 days of the date this agreement is signed by both parties.

7. If the Candidate does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Linda Runbeck Dated: 5/11/2015
Representative Linda Runbeck
Citizens for Runbeck

/s/ Gary Goldsmith Dated: 5/5/2015
Gary Goldsmith, Executive Director
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Agreement approved by Board at meeting of 5/5/2015, 201

/s/ George A. Beck
George A. Beck, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board