

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

**CONCILIATION
AGREEMENT**

In the Matter of Wiger (Charles) for Senate (13350);

1. The Wiger (Charles) for Senate committee is the principal campaign committee of Charles Wiger (the candidate). On its year-end reports of receipts and expenditures, the committee reported accepting \$17,350 in contributions from lobbyists, political committees and funds, and unregistered associations in 2015 and an additional \$1,750 from these sources in 2016. The total amount of contributions that the committee accepted from special sources exceeded the \$18,900 limit on aggregate special source contributions for the 2015-2016 election cycle segment by \$200. The \$200 that exceeded the limit was not returned within 90 days and was therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. During the routine reconciliation audit of the 2016 year-end reports, Board staff discovered that the Wiger committee had not reported a \$500 contribution from a political committee. In telephone calls and emails with staff, Sen. Wiger explained that a \$500 check from a political committee had been deposited into the Wiger committee's bank account without a signature. Neither the Wiger committee nor the bank have been able to determine how the bank received the check or how it came to be deposited without a signature. Because Sen. Wiger and his committee treasurer were not aware of the check, they did not enter it into the Campaign Finance Reporter software as a contribution from a political committee. When the committee learned about the contribution in late April 2017, it immediately returned \$500 to the donating political committee and filed an amended 2016 year-end report disclosing the contribution. The Wiger committee returned the entire \$500 contribution to ensure that it was well below the aggregate special source limit.
3. Board records indicate that this is the first instance in which the committee reported the acceptance of contributions that exceeded the special source limit. The committee registered with the Board on September 28, 1995.
4. The parties agree that the committee accepted excessive contributions from special sources in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during the 2015-2016 election cycle segment.
5. To resolve this matter informally, and to avoid these violations in the future, the candidate and the committee agree that they will:
 - a. Take a photo of every contribution check before deposit and reconcile the committee's internal records against the committee's bank statements every month;
 - b. Use the committee's new computer to run a batch compliance report after each time contributions are entered and take steps to remedy any violations the software identifies so that problems may be resolved within the 90 days that statutes provide for the return of a contribution before it is deemed accepted; and
 - c. Update the Campaign Finance Reporter software whenever the software notifies the user that an update is available.

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 for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. \$50 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties and \$150 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2019, for this violation. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before January 1, 2019, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately and the Board may impose such other penalties as may be appropriate. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, within that timeframe, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

7. If the candidate or the committee 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/ Charles Wiger Dated: July 11, 2017
Charles Wiger
Wiger (Charles) for Senate

/s/ Daniel N. Rosen Dated: July 5, 2017
Daniel N. Rosen, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board