

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

190 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55155

cfb.mn.gov



MN CAMPAIGN FINANCE BD
22 MAY 9 AM 10:59

Complaint for Violation of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act

All information on this form is confidential until a decision is issued by the Board.
A photocopy of the entire complaint, however, will be sent to the respondent.

Information about complaint filer

Name of complaint filer John Persell	
Address 2435 Staghorn Ln SE	Email address persells @ paulbunyan.net
City, state, and zip Bemidji, MN 56601	Telephone (Daytime) 218-751-2770

Identify person/entity you are complaining about

Name of person/entity being complained about Matt Bliss for House Distr 5A
Address PO Box 1404
City, state, zip Pennington, MN 56663
Title of respondent (If applicable)
Board/Department/Agency/District # (If legislator)

Signature of person filing complaint

Date

Send completed form to:

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

If you have questions:

Call 651-539-1189, 800-657-3889, or for TTY/TDD communication contact us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529. Board staff may also be reached by email at cf.board@state.mn.us.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-539-1180, 800-657-3889, or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529.

Give the statutory cite to the section of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211B, 10A.20 Subd.3 (d) (i) or Minnesota Rules you believe has been violated:

You will find the complete text of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211B, and Minnesota Rules chapters 4501 - 4525 on the Board's website at www.cfboard.state.mn.us.

Nature of complaint

Explain in detail why you believe the respondent has violated the campaign finance and public disclosure laws. Attach an extra sheet of paper if necessary. Attach any documents, materials, minutes, resolutions, or other evidence to support your allegations.

See Attached

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, describes the procedures required for investigating complaints. A full description of the complaint process is available on the Board's website.

Briefly, the Board will notify you when it has received your complaint. The Board must send a copy of the complaint to the respondent. Complaints and investigations are confidential. Board members and staff cannot talk about an investigation except as required to carry out the investigation or to take action in the matter. After the Board issues a decision, the record of the investigation is public.

The law requires a complaint to go through two stages before the Board can begin an investigation: a prima facie determination and a probable cause decision. If the complaint does not pass one of the stages, it must be dismissed.

The Board has 10 business days after receiving your complaint to determine whether the complaint is sufficient to allege a prima facie violation of the campaign finance laws. If the Board determines that the complaint does allege a prima facie violation, the Board has 45 days to decide whether probable cause exists to believe a violation that warrants a formal investigation has occurred. Both you and the respondent have the right to be heard on the issue of probable cause before the Board makes this decision. The Board will notify you if the complaint moves to the probable cause stage.

If the Board determines that probable cause does not exist, the Board will dismiss the complaint. If the Board determines that probable cause exists, the Board will start an investigation. The Board will send you monthly updates regarding the status of the investigation. At the end of the investigation, the Board will offer you and the respondent the opportunity to be heard before the Board makes a final decision.

In most cases, the Board will issue findings, conclusions, and an order as its decision. For a spending or contribution limits violation, the Board can enter into a conciliation agreement with the respondent instead of issuing findings, conclusions, and an order. The Board's final decision will be sent to you and posted on the Board's website.

Nature of complaint summary regarding Matt Bliss House Distr. 5A Committee Campaign
Finance reports.

10A.20 Campaign Reports.

The CF report for the end of year 2020 – Exhibit (A) - reported an in-kind donation in the amount of \$900.00 for a billboard with the fair market value of \$900.00 as an expenditure. There were two billboard locations with identical posters. One at the intersection of Hubbard County Rd 101 and Hwy 2 midway between Bemidji and Cass Lake. Exhibit (B). The second location was on the south edge of Hackensack on Hwy 371 across from the Countryside Food Co-op. Exhibit (C).

Those posters originally went up approximately 8 weeks before the November 3, 2020, election. They were left up after the election for the remainder of 2020, and all of 2021. They were taken down the end of March 2022.

The 2022 Minnesota Campaign Manual 10A.20 Subd.3 Contents of Report (i) the report must disclose the sum of all expenditures made by or on behalf of the reporting entity during the reporting period. 10A.20 Subd.3 Contents of Report (d) states the report must disclose the sum of all contributions to the reporting entity during the reporting period.

The Matt Bliss for House Distr. 5A Committee end of year CF report for 2021, Exhibit (D) did not have any in-kind contribution or expenditure reported for the posters. 2021 would be considered part of the 2022 election cycle.

Based on the billboard rates, Exhibit (E), comparable sized posters are \$625.00 for 4 weeks. The posters remained up for a full 12 months in 2021. There are thirteen four-week segments in twelve full months. Based on Exhibit (E), the full 2021 expenditure for billboards should be \$8,125.00.

2020

Committee Transaction Summary

Bliss, Matt House Dist. 5A Committee

Reg Num 17881

Principal Campaign Committee

1	Beginning cash balance 1/1/2020 (should be the same as the previous year ending cash balance)		6,100.26		
A	Receipts		Cash	In-Kind	Total
2	Individual contributions	Sch. A1 - IND	13,126.00	900.00	14,026.00
3	Lobbyist contributions	Sch. A1 - LOB	700.00	0.00	700.00
4	Political committee and political fund contributions	Sch. A1 - PCF	3,950.00	0.00	3,950.00
5	Political party & terminating principal campaign committee contributions	Sch. A1 - PTY/ TERM PCC	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00
6	Other contributions	Sch. A1 - OTH			
7	Public Subsidy Payment	Sch. A1 - PS	3,261.73	0.00	3,261.73
8	Receipts from loans payable	Sch. A2 - LP	5,000.00		5,000.00
9	Miscellaneous income	Sch. A2 - MISC			
10	Total Receipts	Sum #2 to #9	34,537.73	900.00	35,437.73
B	Disbursements		Cash	Unpaid Bills	In-Kind
11	Campaign expenditures	Sch. B1 - CE	40,253.81	0.00	900.00
12	State ballot question expenditures (Not local referendums)	Sch. B1 - BQ			
13	Total Campaign Expenditures	Sum #11 to #12	40,253.81	0.00	900.00
14	Non-campaign disbursements	Sch. B1 - NCD	199.18	0.00	0.00
15	Contributions to other principal campaign committees	Sch. B2 - PCC			
16	Contributions to political parties	Sch. B2 - PTY			
17	Contributions to political committees and political funds	Sch. B2 - PCF			
18	Other disbursements	Sch. B3			
19	Total Expenditures and Disbursements	#13 to #18	40,452.99	0.00	900.00
20	Ending cash balance on 12/31/2020	#1 + #10 - #19	185.00		

Loans and Unpaid Obligations Summary

21A	Total Outstanding balance of all loans incurred during the current year	Sch. A2-LP		5,000.00
21B	Total outstanding balance of all loans incurred during any year prior to the reporting year	Sch. C		800.00
21C	Total Outstanding balance of all loans	Sum #21A + #21B		5,800.00
22A	Total unpaid obligations incurred during the current year	Line 19		
22B	Total unpaid obligations incurred during any year prior to the reporting year	Sch. D		
22C	Total unpaid obligations	Sum #22A + #22B		
23	Total debt of committee	Sum #21C + #22C		5,800.00

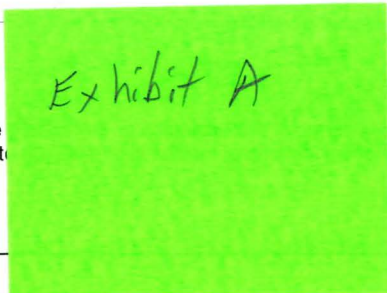
Certification

I certify that this report is complete, true and correct.

Lisa Podritz
Signature of Candidate, Treasurer, or Deputy Treasurer

January 24, 2021
Date

Certified Electronically By Valid Person



Any person who signs and certifies to be true a report or statement which the required information, is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Board of up to

or who knowingly omits information for a gross misdemeanor.

Schedule A1-IND Individual Contributions Received

Bliss, Matt House Dist. 5A Committee

Reg Num 17881

Principal Campaign Committee

Arnold, Adam

P O Box 490 Walker, MN 56484

Self-employed Owner Reeds Sporting Goods

Date		Cash	In Kind	Total
09/05/20	In Kind: This In-Kind donation came solely from Adam Arnold (no business/corp funds utilized) He chose to donate in the form of a billboard in lieu of a cash contribution. The fair market value is \$900.	0.00	900.00	900.00

Bliss, Emily N

26851 Roadrunner Dr NE Box 1404 Pennington, MN 566631404

Employer: Detroit Lakes Public School

Date		Cash	In Kind	Total
07/19/20		950.00	0.00	950.00

Christensen, Mary Ann

23077 223rd Ave Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Self-employed Self Employed

Date		Cash	In Kind	Total
10/05/20		500.00	0.00	500.00

Stennes, Paul M

PO Box 1315 Pennington, MN 56663

Employer: Retired

Date		Cash	In Kind	Total
07/19/20		250.00	0.00	250.00

Trochman, Timothy

39567 Oak Park Trail North Branch, MN 55056

Self-employed Self Employed - T-Com

Date		Cash	In Kind	Total
10/19/20		300.00	0.00	300.00

Zipko, Amy

N5831 1000th St Ellsworth , WI 54011

Employer: MN House of Representatives

Date		Cash	In Kind	Total
10/03/20		250.00	0.00	250.00

Schedule A1-IND Individual Contributions Received

	Cash	In Kind	Total
Total of itemized	2,250.00	900.00	3,150.00
Total of non-itemized	10,876.00	0.00	10,876.00
	Cash	In Kind	Total
Totals	13,126.00	900.00	14,026.00

Schedule B1-CE Campaign Expenditures

Bliss, Matt House Dist. 5A Committee

Reg Num 17881

Principal Campaign Committee

Vendor: Acme Tools Bemidji

2025 30th St NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Date	Specific purpose of expenditure	Paid	Unpaid	In Kind	Total
09/08/20	Miscellaneous: Weed Whip for Rural Ditches	215.95	0.00	0.00	215.95

Vendor: APG Media of Minnesota*

PO Box 410
Ashland, WI 54806

Date	Specific purpose of expenditure	Paid	Unpaid	In Kind	Total
10/22/20	Advertising - general: Internet Advertising	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00

Vendor: Arnold, Adam

P O Box 490
Walker, MN 56484

Date	Specific purpose of expenditure	Paid	Unpaid	In Kind	Total
09/05/20	Advertising - Billboard	0.00	0.00	900.00	900.00
	In Kind: This In-Kind donation came solely from Adam Arnold (no business/corp funds utilized) He chose to donate in the form of a billboard in lieu of a cash contribution. The fair market value is \$900.				

Vendor: Arrow Printing

1375 Washington Ave S
Bemidji, MN 56601

Date	Specific purpose of expenditure	Paid	Unpaid	In Kind	Total
07/01/20	Printing and Photocopying: Fundraising mailers	803.84	0.00	0.00	803.84
07/01/20	Postage/ Delivery: Fund raising postage	274.66	0.00	0.00	274.66
07/16/20	Printing and Photocopying: Campaign Literature	522.04	0.00	0.00	522.04
09/10/20	Advertising - Print: mailing	1,524.28	0.00	0.00	1,524.28
09/10/20	Postage/ Delivery: postage for mailing	2,487.19	0.00	0.00	2,487.19
09/22/20	Advertising - general: Car magnets/signs	319.91	0.00	0.00	319.91
10/14/20	Postage/ Delivery: postage for mailing	1,579.87	0.00	0.00	1,579.87
10/14/20	Advertising - Print: Printing for mailing	986.00	0.00	0.00	986.00
10/27/20	Printing and Photocopying: Printing of mailing lit	744.63	0.00	0.00	744.63
10/27/20	Postage/ Delivery: postage on mailing lit	1,127.39	0.00	0.00	1,127.39
	Vendor Total: Arrow Printing	10,369.81	0.00	0.00	10,369.81

Vendor: Forum Communications Company

PO Box 2020
Fargo, ND 581072020

Date	Specific purpose of expenditure	Paid	Unpaid	In Kind	Total
11/28/20	Advertising - Print: print ads	780.00	0.00	0.00	780.00

Exhibit B

March 2022



HUBBARD

101

COUNTY

THIS HIGHWAY

CLOSED

TO OVER

9 TONS

AXLE WEIGHT



Exhibit C

EICHORN
FOR STATE SENATE

Re-Elect **Matt**
BLISS
for State Representative

March 27, 2022 Hackensack



2021

Committee Transaction Summary

Bliss, Matt House Dist. 5A Committee

Reg Num 17881

Principal Campaign Committee

1	Beginning cash balance 1/1/2021 (should be the same as the previous year ending cash balance)		185.00		
A	Receipts		Cash	In-Kind	Total
2	Individual contributions	Sch. A1 - IND	3,915.00	0.00	3,915.00
3	Lobbyist contributions	Sch. A1 - LOB			
4	Political committee and political fund contributions	Sch. A1 - PCF	700.00	0.00	700.00
5	Political party & terminating principal campaign committee contributions	Sch. A1 - PTY/ TERM PCC	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
6	Other contributions	Sch. A1 - OTH			
7	Public Subsidy Payment	Sch. A1 - PS	72.41	0.00	72.41
8	Receipts from loans payable	Sch. A2 - LP	4,900.00		4,900.00
9	Miscellaneous income	Sch. A2 - MISC			
10	Total Receipts	Sum #2 to #9	13,087.41	0.00	13,087.41
B	Disbursements		Cash	Unpaid Bills	In-Kind
11	Campaign expenditures	Sch. B1 - CE	958.93	0.00	0.00
12	State ballot question expenditures (Not local referendums)	Sch. B1 - BQ			
13	Total Campaign Expenditures	Sum #11 to #12	958.93	0.00	0.00
14	Non-campaign disbursements	Sch. B1 - NCD	34.65	0.00	0.00
15	Contributions to other principal campaign committees	Sch. B2 - PCC			
16	Contributions to political parties	Sch. B2 - PTY			
17	Contributions to political committees and political funds	Sch. B2 - PCF			
18	Other disbursements	Sch. B3			
19	Total Expenditures and Disbursements	#13 to #18	993.58	0.00	0.00
20	Ending cash balance on 12/31/2021	#1 + #10 - #19	12,278.83		

Loans and Unpaid Obligations Summary

21A	Total Outstanding balance of all loans incurred during the current year	Sch. A2-LP	4,900.00
21B	Total outstanding balance of all loans incurred during any year prior to the reporting year	Sch. C	5,800.00
21C	Total Outstanding balance of all loans	Sum #21A + #21B	10,700.00
22A	Total unpaid obligations incurred during the current year	Line 19	
22B	Total unpaid obligations incurred during any year prior to the reporting year	Sch. D	
22C	Total unpaid obligations	Sum #22A + #22B	
23	Total debt of committee	Sum #21C + #22C	10,700.00

Certification

I certify that this report is complete, true and correct.

Lisa Podritz
Signature of Candidate, Treasurer, or Deputy Treasurer

January 29, 2022
Date

Certified Electronically By Valid Person

Any person who signs and certifies to be true a report or statement which required information, is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Board of _____, or who knowingly omits _____ prosecution for a gross misdemeanor.

Schedule B1-CE Campaign Expenditures

Bliss, Matt House Dist. 5A Committee

Reg Num 17881

Principal Campaign Committee

Vendor: Arrow Printing

1375 Washington Ave S
Bemidji, MN 56601

Date	Specific purpose of expenditure	Paid	Unpaid	In Kind	Total
11/29/21	Advertising - Print: fundraising mailing	759.93	0.00	0.00	759.93

Schedule B1-CE Campaign Expenditures

	Paid	Unpaid	Inkind	Total
Total of itemized:	759.93	0.00	0.00	759.93
Total of non-itemized:	199.00	0.00	0.00	199.00
	Paid	Unpaid	Inkind	Total
Totals:	958.93	0.00	0.00	958.93

Schedule B1-NCD Noncampaign Disbursements

Bliss, Matt House Dist. 5A Committee

Reg Num 17881

Principal Campaign Committee

Schedule B1-NCD Noncampaign Disbursements

	Paid	Unpaid	Inkind	Total
Total of itemized:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total of non-itemized:	34.65	0.00	0.00	34.65
	Paid	Unpaid	Inkind	Total
Totals:	34.65	0.00	0.00	34.65

LOCATION LIST

BEMIDJI AND CASS LAKE POSTERS

*Impression values based on: Total Population





Map Icon	Label	Panel #	Geopath Id	Media/Style	Facing	H x W	*Weekly Impressions	Illum.
	1	10027	293398	Poster / Retro	East	10' 6" x 22' 9"	15,973	YES
<p>Location: HWY 2 EAST AT MP 126.1 S/L E/F Current Advertiser: NORTHWEST INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER Rate: \$625 per 4 weeks Production Cost: \$180 with poster flex Miscellaneous: Available 4/11/22</p>								
	2	10287	293639	Poster / Retro	West	10' 6" x 22' 9"	17,250	NO
<p>Location: HWY 2 EAST AT MP 129 N/L W/F Current Advertiser: LEECH LAKE TRIBAL POLICE Rate: \$625 per 4 weeks Production Cost: \$180 with poster flex Miscellaneous: Available 4/11/22 pending nonrenewal of Current Advertiser</p>								
	3	10278	293630	Poster / Retro	East	10' 6" x 22' 9"	29,782	NO
<p>Location: HWY 2 AT MP 126.2 N/L E/F Current Advertiser: GREAT LAKES AREA TRIBAL HEALTH BOARD Rate: \$625 per 4 weeks Production Cost: \$180 with poster flex Miscellaneous: Available 4/11/22-7/3/22, 8/29/22 on</p>								
	4	10291	293643	Poster / Retro	East	10' 6" x 22' 9"	21,673	NO
<p>Location: HWY 2 E 1 BLK E/O JCT 371 @MP 130.1 E/F Current Advertiser: LEECH LAKE TRIBAL POLICE Rate: \$625 per 4 weeks Production Cost: \$180 with poster flex Miscellaneous: Available 4/11/22 pending nonrenewal of Current Advertiser</p>								
	5	10003	293377	Poster / Retro	West	10' 6" x 22' 9"	19,537	YES
<p>Location: HWY 2E W/O CR 46 @ MP 123.3 N/L WF Current Advertiser: COCA COLA INTERNAL SALES Rate: \$625 per 4 weeks Production Cost: \$180 with poster flex Miscellaneous: Available 4/11/22 pending nonrenewal of Current Advertiser</p>								

Exhibit E