

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Steve Cwodzinski for State Senate committee (17990);

1. Steve Cwodzinski for State Senate is the principal campaign committee of Senator Steve Cwodzinski, who was a candidate for Senate District 49. The aggregate special source contribution limit, which includes contributions from lobbyists, political committees and funds, and associations not registered with the Board, was \$7,300 for candidates for state senate during the 2023-2024 election cycle segment. The committee's 2023 and 2024 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures disclosed a total of \$8,075 in special source contributions, which exceeded the limit by \$775.
2. The committee's treasurer, Laurie Engel, stated that she was not aware of the limit applicable to the 2023-2024 election cycle segment, acknowledged that the committee exceeded the limit, and explained that the committee did not discover the issue until December 2024, at which time it immediately issued refunds for the excess amount. A political committee that received a \$250 refund reported receiving the refund within its 2024 year-end report. Ms. Engel provided copies of deposited refund checks showing that the remaining excess amount was refunded to special source contributors. The excess amount was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
3. The Cwodzinski committee and the Board agree that the committee inadvertently accepted excessive contributions from special source contributors in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during the 2023-2024 election cycle segment. The committee registered with the Board in 2016 and has no prior violations of the aggregate special source limit.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees that its treasurer will review the aggregate special source contribution limit at the beginning of each two-year election cycle segment, and will review the amount of each contribution and enter it within 60 days of receipt within the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter Online application.
5. The Cwodzinski committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$200 for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. Payment is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The amount of the civil penalty was determined in part by the fact that this was a first-time violation of the aggregate special source limit.

6. If 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/ Steve Cwodzinski
Senator Steve Cwodzinski
Steve Cwodzinski for State Senate

Dated: April 11, 2025

/s/ Faris Rashid
Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: April 8, 2025