Minnesota

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 6, 2025
9:30 AM
Room 1200
Senate Office Building

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. **Approval of minutes**
   A. July 14, 2025
2. **Chair's report**
   A. Meeting schedule
3. **Executive director's report – no written materials**
4. **Reconciliation of 2024 contributions**
5. **Advisory opinion request 468**
6. **Enforcement report**
7. **Prima Facie Determinations**
   A. Complaint of Michael Brodkorb regarding Jennifer DeJournett
   B. Complaint of Rebeccah Thompson regarding Naomi Wilson
   C. Complaint of Troy Sheffler regarding Rep. Josh Heintzeman and the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman
8. **Legal Report**
9. **Other business**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Immediately following regular session

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD
. . . . . .
Monday, July 14, 2025
9:30 A.M.
Room 2000 (Skjegstad Conference Room)
Stassen Building
. . . . . .
REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rashid.

Members present: Asp (remote; joined during executive session), Banaian, Flynn (remote), Rashid, Swanson

Others present: Sigurdson, Engelhardt, Olson (remote), staff; Nathan Hartshorn, counsel

The meeting did not follow the order of business stated in the agenda with respect to approval of the minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Member Banaian introduced himself to the Board. Chair Rashid stated he will be out of town on the scheduled meeting date for August, but he could join the meeting remotely. Chair Rashid stated that Member Asp has agreed to serve as the Board's vice chair.

The following motion was made:

Member Swanson's motion: To approve the nomination of Member Asp as vice chair.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

APPEARANCE BY WES LUND (FORMER CANDIDATE)

Mr. Lund made remarks regarding his experience as a candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives. Mr. Lund stated he had some difficulty using the Board's electronic reporting system, Campaign Finance Reporter Online. Mr. Lund suggested further outreach by the Board regarding the political contribution refund program and the threshold amount of contributions candidates need to raise in order to qualify for a public subsidy payment. Mr. Lund stated that he experienced some people sharing misinformation. Mr. Lund suggested that the Board consider the impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(3) organizations that are involved in elections, including those financed by money coming from outside Minnesota.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sigurdson presented a memorandum and fiscal year 2026 budget that are attached to these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson said that Alexis Lohse has been hired to fill the vacant management/legal analyst position. Mr. Sigurdson stated that all but 21 of the required lobbyist reports that were due in June have been filed. Mr. Sigurdson said that he has been engaged in outreach to explain that going forward, lobbying includes lobbying of all political subdivisions in Minnesota. Mr. Sigurdson stated that June campaign finance reports were filed by 37 political committees and funds and four party units disclosing activity to influence local elections. Mr. Sigurdson reported that a special election has been called for House District 34B.

Mr. Sigurdson presented the Board's proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2026, which totals $1,819,000. Mr. Sigurdson stated that he intends to hire for an additional staff position. Mr. Sigurdson explained that state agencies are now allowed to carry unspent operating funds from the past biennium into the current biennium. In response to a question from Member Swanson, Mr. Sigurdson explained that the operating budget does not include funds related to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce lawsuit because those costs are covered by a one-time appropriation approved by the legislature.

The following motion was made:

Member Flynn's motion:	To approve the proposed 2026 fiscal year operating budget.
Vote on motion:	Unanimously approved.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT

A. Discussion Items

1. Administrative termination of lobbyist Jane Danner

Kyle Berndt, of Care Providers of Minnesota, requests the administrative termination of lobbyist Jane Danner (5641). Ms. Danner registered in February of 2024, and all her lobbyist activity was reported by another lobbyist. Care Providers has been unable to contact Ms. Danner and is requesting an administrative termination. If approved, the termination will be backdated to April 14, 2025.

2. Administrative termination of lobbyist Philip Duran

Sue Abderholden, of Rainbow Health, requests the administrative termination of lobbyist Philip Duran (719). Mr. Duran registered in February of 2024, and all his lobbyist activity was reported by another lobbyist. Rainbow Health is no longer a lobbyist principal and has been unable to contact Mr. Duran to obtain his termination. If approved, the termination will be backdated to May 31, 2024.

3. Administrative termination of lobbyist Kimberly Hansen

Mike Logan, of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, requests the administrative termination of lobbyist Kimberly Hansen (4352). Ms. Hansen registered in February of 2018, and all her lobbyist activity was reported by another lobbyist, who terminated on December 31, 2024. Ms. Hansen has not been employed by

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the lobbyist principal for six years. The lobbyist principal has been unable to locate Ms. Hansen. If approved, the termination will be backdated to December 31, 2024.

The following motion was made:

Member Swanson's motion: To approve the requested administrative terminations.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

B. Waiver Requests

1. Alicia (Kozlowski) for Duluth (18886)						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
2024 Pre-general large contribution notice	11/4/2024	6/12/2025	$1,000	No.	Reduce to $250.	Flynn moved to reduce the large contribution notice late fees to $250 each Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.
2022 Candidate EIS	5/31/2022	7/01/2022	$60		No motion.	
2022 Pre-primary large contribution notice	7/29/2022	10/31/2022	$1,000		Reduce to $250.	
2022 Year-end report	1/31/2023	2/2/2023	$50		No recommendation.	
The committee received an in-kind contribution from a party unit (production of and placement of a campaign video) valued at $2,451.09 during the 2024 pre-general large contribution notice period, but the treasurer was not informed of the contribution. It was discovered as part of the reconciliation process earlier this year. The treasurer filed an amended 2024 year-end report. The treasurer reports that she is new and this was a good-faith mistake. Regarding the 2022 late filing fees, the treasurer was not the treasurer when those late filing fees were incurred and does not have any information about why they were incurred. The late filing fee for the 2022 pre-primary large contribution notice was the result of the committee failing to timely file a large contribution notice for an in-kind contribution consisting of campaign videos from the same party unit that made an in-kind contribution in 2024. Upon request, the Board typically reduces the late filing fee for a first-time violation of the large contribution notice requirement to $250. The committee's cash balance as of December 31, 2024, was $28,827.						

C. Payments

1. Civil penalty for exceeding the aggregate special source limit

Jasinski (John) for Senate Committee - $2,000

2. Late filing fee for underlying source disclosure statements

Everytown for Gun Safety Victory Fund - $600

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3. **Late filing fee for 2020 June lobbyist report**

   Scott Hedderich - $525
   Lin Nelson - $25

4. **Late filing fee for 2021 January lobbyist report**

   Scott Hedderich - $25

5. **Late filing fee for 2024 June lobbyist report**

   Paul Peltier - $25

6. **Late filing fee for 2021 lobbyist principal report**

   Ed Allies - $25

7. **Late filing fee for 2023 lobbyist principal report**

   RockStep Capital Real Estate Investments - $325
   SouthWest Transit - $275

8. **Late filing fee for 2024 lobbyist principal report**

   Great North Innocence Project - $25

PRIMA FACIE DETERMINATIONS

Ms. Engelhardt presented a memorandum that is attached to these minutes. Ms. Engelhardt explained that a complaint against the We Love Minneapolis PAC, alleging prohibited approved expenditures, was dismissed because none of the communications referenced in the complaint referred to the alleged beneficiary of the approved expenditures or his opponents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Rashid recessed the regular session of the meeting and called to order the executive session. Upon adjournment of the executive session, Chair Rashid reported that the Board has made a probable cause determination in the Matter of the Complaint of Michael Brodkorb regarding Jennifer DeJournett.

MINUTES (June 16, 2025)

The following motion was made:

Member Rashid's motion:	To approve the May 14, 2025, minutes as drafted.
Vote on motion:	Four members voted in the affirmative. Banaian abstained.

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There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Rashid.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sigurdson
Executive Director

Attachments:
Executive director's report and fiscal year 2026 budget
Prima facie determinations memo and attachments

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MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2025

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM, unless otherwise noted.

2025

Wednesday, September 3

Wednesday, October 1

Wednesday, November 5

Wednesday, December 3

MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

DATE: July 30, 2025

TO: Board Members

FROM: Jeff Sigurdson
Executive Director

TELEPHONE: 651-539-1189

SUBJECT: **Yearly Update on Reconciliation of Contributions between Registered Committees**

Background

In the fall of 2013, the Star Tribune published an article describing problems found in the database of contributions to state candidates, political party units, and political committees and funds provided to the paper by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. In particular, the Star Tribune found that it could not reconcile over $20 million in contributions reported between registered committees from 2000 to 2012. Staff confirmed that the problems identified in the article existed, and during the remainder of 2013, all of 2014, and the first quarter of 2015, worked to reduce the number of contributions between registered entities that did not reconcile.

At the August 2015 Board meeting, staff reported to the Board on the progress made in reconciling contributions, and reported on nine steps implemented by the executive director to minimize unreconciled contributions in future reporting years. The Board directed staff to stop the active reconciliation of contributions made prior to 2014, to consider contributions reconciled if the difference between the donor and recipient reports are $50 or less, and to report annually to the Board regarding the reconciliation of contributions for the prior reporting year. This memo provides the status of the reconciliation of contributions between registered entities reported in 2024.

Reconciliation of 2024

The 2024 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures were due on January 31, 2025. The reports were processed using procedures designed to limit the number of unreconciled contributions caused by data entry errors. These procedures include double-checking the data entry of paper reports by staff, and requiring treasurers to submit complete amended reports if warranted.

In Table 1 the 2024 reconciliation numbers are highlighted in grey. The years 2011 – 2024 are provided for comparison.

Table 1

Year	Total Itemized Transfers Between Registered Committees	Amount Initially Not Reconciled	Percentage Initially Reconciled	Current Amount Not Reconciled	Percentage Currently Reconciled
2011	$4,087,836	$500,960	87.75%	$5,870	99.86%
2012	$32,772,360	$4,326,600	86.80%	$19,614	99.94%
2013	$4,506,703	$417,657	90.73%	$8,167	99.82%
2014	$24,647,813	$1,955,927	92.06%	$30,561	99.88%
2015	$5,125,778	$530,272	89.65%	$1,430	99.97%
2016	$32,920,683	$5,621,789	83.02%	$20,858	99.94%
2017	$5,548,494	$180,393	96.69%	$7,175	99.87%
2018	$43,457,655	$2,514,075	94.21%	$10,500	99.98%
2019	$8,015,000	$363,378	95.47%	$5,165	99.93%
2020	$40,444,505	$2,533,949	93.73%	$3,065	99.98%
2021	$7,792,135	$645,533	91.71%	$17,750	99.77%
2022	$56,872,614	$3,499,393	93.84%	$86,717	99.84%
2023	$8,488,540	$702,851	91.74%	$5,841	99.93%
2024	$34,747,995	$569,533	98.36%	$1,000	99.99%
Totals	**$309,428,111**	**$24,362,310**	**92.13%**	**$223,713**	**99.92%**

The reconciliation process takes considerable staff time to complete. Staff initially reached out informally through email to treasurers with a reconciliation issue and asked them to review their records on specific contributions. A significant number of problems were resolved through emails and subsequent amendments. Formal letters requiring a response were mailed to 137 candidate committees and 350 political committees, political funds, and party units in March and May of this year. In almost all cases, amendments were secured from the donor, the recipient, or both, to resolve the discrepancies. Staff is still working with four committees to resolve contributions that do not reconcile.

MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: July 30, 2025

To: Board Members

From: Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director **Telephone:** 651-539-1189

Re: Advisory Opinion 468 – Use of money raised for a political purpose for candidate and political party security, multicandidate political party expenditures.

This advisory opinion request was received from Charles Nauen, on behalf of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) on July 22, 2025. The request has been made public.

The DFL, and/or the DFL legislative party units, would like to contract with a third party to provide security services (security guards, threat assessments, guest screening) to candidates while they are campaigning and for political party events. Under the plan described in the advisory opinion request, the DFL would pay the contractor for the security services and develop criteria to determine which specific events would be provided security.

The request asks two questions: may money raised for political purpose be used to provide security services, and may the DFL provide security services to candidates as a multicandidate political party expenditure?

As drafted, the opinion provides that given the security threats that candidates and political party events may face, paying for security is reasonably related to the conduct of election campaigns, and therefore allowed under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. The draft opinion also concludes that a candidate's committee may classify the cost of providing security when the candidate is campaigning as a noncampaign disbursement. As explained in the advisory opinion, the Board is authorized to recognize new noncampaign disbursement categories in an advisory opinion.

There are six types of multicandidate political party expenditures provided in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.275, including "expenditures for party committee staff services that benefit three or more candidates". The statute does not specify what may be considered a staff service, or whether contracted personnel may be used to provide staff services. The draft opinion therefore concludes that a political party may provide security services to three or more candidates and classify the cost of the security services as a multicandidate political party expenditure.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Attachments:
Advisory opinion request
Draft advisory opinion

Charles N. Nauen
cnnauen@locklaw.com
612-596-4006

MINNEAPOLIS
100 Washington Avenue South
Suite 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2179
P: 612.339.6900

July 22, 2025

Mr. Jeff Sigurdson
jeff.sigurdson@state.mn.us
Executive Director
Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public
Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Minnesota DFL Request for Advisory Opinion

Dear Jeff:

We represent the Minnesota DFL Party ("DFL") and write to request an advisory opinion from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.02, subd. 12.

The safety and security of candidates, campaigns, and individuals attending party and campaign events have become significant concerns following the assassinations of Melissa and Mark Hortman and the attempted assassination of John and Yvette Hoffman. The DFL would like to make security services (e.g., security guards, threat assessments, or guest screening) available for party and campaign events to ensure that individuals remain comfortable participating in political and campaign events. Specifically, the DFL would engage a third-party service to provide security guards and related security services for events hosted by either the party or individual candidates. The DFL and/or its caucus party units would enter into a contract with the third-party service, would pay for the security services, and would determine whether the services would be made available for specific events based on criteria established by the DFL and/or its caucus party units.

The DFL requests an advisory opinion on the threshold question of whether security services for candidates while they are campaigning, or for political party events, are "reasonably related to the conduct of election campaigns" so that funds collected for political purposes may be used to pay for the security services pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 211B.12. We believe that providing security services for party and campaign events is plainly "related to the conduct of election campaigns." In the current climate both locally and nationally, it is reasonable—and perhaps necessary—to provide security services for attendees to feel comfortable participating in party and campaign events.

Assuming funds collected for political purposes may be used to pay for security services, the DFL also requests an advisory opinion addressing whether providing security services in connection with at least three separate events hosted by three different candidates is properly classified as a multicandidate political party expenditure "for party committee staff services that benefit three of more candidates" and, therefore, are "not considered contributions to or expenditures on behalf of a candidate" pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.275. As noted above, the DFL would engage a third-party service to provide these services for multiple candidates through a program administered by the DFL and/or its caucus party units.

To our knowledge, the Board has not addressed the question of whether services provided by a contractor are considered "party committee staff services" for purposes of determining whether an expenditure would qualify as a "multicandidate political party" expenditure. Section 10A.275, subd. 1(6) refers only to "party committee staff services" and does not limit such services to those that are provided by individuals who are employees of the political party unit. Accordingly, services provided by staff retained as independent contractors should qualify for this exception so long as the services provided by the contractor, when viewed in total, benefit three or more candidates.

We are happy to answer any question you may have regarding this request.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN PLLP

Charles N. Nauen

c: Minnesota DFL
David J. Zoll

State of Minnesota

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
Suite 190, Centennial Building. 658 Cedar Street. St. Paul, MN 55155-1603

THIS ADVISORY OPINION IS PUBLIC DATA
pursuant to a consent for release of information
provided by the requester

Issued to: Charles Nauen
Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP
100 Washington Avenue South
Suite 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2179

RE: Use of money collected for a political purpose on security services. Limited use of multicandidate political party expenditures for security services.

ADVISORY OPINION 468

SUMMARY

Money collected for political purposes may be used to provide security for candidates while they are campaigning, and for political party events. Under certain conditions the cost of security services may be provided by a political party as a multicandidate expenditure.

FACTS

On behalf of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL), you request an advisory opinion from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board based on the following facts.

1. The DFL is aware that the use of funds raised for a political purpose is regulated by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. This statute provides, in part, that money collected for political purposes must be used for expenses reasonably related to the conduct of election campaigns, or for noncampaign disbursements as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26.

2. The DFL believes that the assassination of Representative Melissa Hortman and Mark Hortman, and the attempted assassination of Senator John Hoffman and Yvette Hoffman, have made security an important concern for candidates and for individuals attending campaign or political party events.

3. The DFL would like to provide security services for candidate and political party events. Security services that might be provided include security guards, threat assessments, and guest screening. The DFL believes that providing security is reasonable in order for attendees to feel comfortable participating in political party and candidate campaign events.

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4. The DFL proposes to engage a third-party service to provide security services for events hosted by either DFL party units or by candidates. The DFL state committee and/or its legislative party units would enter into a contract with the third-party service, would pay for the security services, and would determine whether the services would be made available for specific events based on criteria established by the DFL and/or its legislative party units.

5. The DFL is aware that Minnesota Statutes section 10A.275 provides for multicandidate political party expenditures. Multicandidate political party expenditures occur when a political party unit, or two or more political party units working together, make certain specified expenditures, including "expenditures for party committee staff services that benefit three or more candidates". The DFL notes that the Board has not addressed the question of what may be included as "party committee staff services", and states that the statute does not limit staff services to employees of a political party unit.

Issue One

May money raised for political purposes be used to pay for security services for candidates while campaigning and for political party events?

Opinion One

Yes. Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 provides in part that funds raised by a political party or candidate committee may be used to pay for "salaries, wages, and fees;" when the expenditures are made for political purposes.[1] The statute also provides that money collected for political purposes may be used for "other expenses . . . that are reasonably related to the conduct of election campaigns." Both in comments to the media[2] and in conversations with Board staff, candidates have made it clear that following the attacks on Representative Hortman and Senator Hoffman, candidates are considering their security when scheduling campaign events, including the question of whether to campaign at all in certain venues if security cannot be provided. With that background in mind, the Board concludes that expenditures to pay the salary, wages, or fees of individuals or associations providing security services for candidates while campaigning, or for political party events, are made for a political purpose, and thereby are permitted by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12.

The Board notes that the use of untrained personnel for security services could in itself be a threat to participants at political events. Therefore, to ensure that the payments for security services achieve the desired results, the payments should be made only to security personnel and services that are properly trained, bona fide, and professional.

[1] Minn. Stat. § 211B.12
[2] Van Berkel, J. (July 2, 2025) *After violent attacks, politicians struggle to balance security and accessibility*. The Minnesota Star Tribune

The Board also takes this opportunity to address the question of whether payments for security services for a candidate while campaigning should be considered a noncampaign disbursement. For a candidate's principal campaign committee, the list of noncampaign disbursements provided in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26,[3] is important because the cost of the disbursements do not count against the campaign spending limit that applies to candidates who sign the public subsidy agreement.

The Board has the authority to recognize new noncampaign disbursements. In addition to providing a list of recognized noncampaign disbursements, Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26, also provides that noncampaign disbursement include:

> (22) other purchases or payments specified in board rules or advisory opinions as being for any purpose other than to influence the nomination or election of a candidate or to promote or defeat a ballot question;

The Board uses this authority with caution. Typically, a new category of noncampaign disbursements recognized by the Board is consistent in some way with an existing noncampaign disbursement.[4]

Generally, the twenty-nine noncampaign disbursements currently provided in statute allow candidates to spend principal campaign committee funds on goods and services that are not a direct effort to influence voters. Additionally, noncampaign disbursements are often for costs that would not occur if the candidate was not running for, or holding, public office. Notably, the list of noncampaign disbursements already includes the use of committee funds to provide two types of security for the candidate. Noncampaign disbursements include the use of committee funds to pay for accounting and legal services that support the security of the candidate or the candidate's immediate family, including specifically the cost of obtaining a harassment restraining order. Additionally, it is a noncampaign disbursement when committee funds are used to pay for "up to $3,000 for "detection-related security monitoring expenses for a candidate, including home security hardware, maintenance of home security monitoring hardware, identity theft monitoring services, and credit monitoring services", during each two-year election cycle segment. These security costs were defined as noncampaign disbursements by the legislature, in part, because a candidate's security should not be compromised because the campaign committee was at or near the campaign expenditure limit for their campaign, and because the expenditures for security are not for the purpose of influencing voters.

In this instance the Board concludes that the rationale used by the legislature to define costs for detection-related candidate security as noncampaign disbursements also applies to the cost of security services used while the candidate is campaigning. The Board therefore recognizes the cost of security services used by a candidate while campaigning as a noncampaign disbursement. If the Board intends to apply principles of law or policy announced in an advisory

[3] Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 26.
[4] *See* Minn. R. 4503.0900.

opinion more broadly than to the individual or association to whom the opinion was issued, the board must adopt these principles or policies as administrative rules.[5] Unless otherwise directed by the legislature, the Board will begin the process of adopting administrative rules at the end of the upcoming legislative session.

Issue Two

If the DFL contracts with a third party for security services, and then provides those security services to at least three separate candidates, may the party classify and report the cost of the security services as a multicandidate political party expenditure?

Opinion Two

Yes. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.275 provides, in part, that if a political party unit pays for "party committee staff services that benefit three or more candidates", the cost of those services may be classified as multicandidate political party expenditures. The statute does not provide guidelines or standards for evaluating if a given type of service provided by political party staff qualifies as a multicandidate political party expenditure.[6] Having determined in opinion one that money raised for political purposes may be used to provide security services, the Board finds no basis to exclude security for candidates as a type of service that may be provided as a multicandidate political party expenditure.

In reviewing the DFL plan to enter into a contract with a third party that will provide the security services to candidates, the Board considered whether the term "party committee staff" is limited to individuals who are employees of a political party unit. The great majority of political party units have no employees, and are "staffed" by volunteers. There is no indication that the legislature wanted to limit multicandidate political party expenditures to those few large political party units that actually have employees. In this case the DFL recognizes that its existing staff does not have the professional training, experience, and possibly the sheer number of individuals, needed to provide security services to candidates on a statewide basis. The individuals who are contracted to provide security services are being provided by, and at the direction of, one or more political parties, and are acting as political party staff when they provide the contracted services.

Additionally, the Board considered the scope of the proposed plan and determined that the statute does not limit the amount that political parties may spend on multicandidate political party expenditures.[6] The Board considered the DFL plan to provide security services to candidates "based on criteria established by the DFL", and determined that the statute does not require that staff services be provided equally to all candidates in order to qualify as a multicandidate political party expenditure.[7]

[5] Minn. Stat. § 10A.02, subd. 12a.
[6] The Board reached a similar conclusion in Advisory Opinion 370.
[7] The Board reached a similar conclusion in Advisory Opinion 377.

As with all advisory opinions, the specific facts of this request limit the application of the resulting opinions. This advisory opinion should not be read as stating that multicandidate political party expenditures are inclusive of any expenditure made on behalf of three or more candidates by a political party unit. In most cases an expenditure made by a political party to benefit a candidate and with that candidate's knowledge, will result in an in-kind contribution to that candidate regardless of whether a similar in-kind contribution is also made to other candidates.

Board Note

An important feature of multicandidate political party expenditures is that the expenditures are not classified as a direct contribution to any candidate, and are not an approved expenditure on behalf of any candidate. As a result, the expenditures are not reported by political party units as contributions to any candidate. Multicandidate political party expenditures are reported as general expenditures by the party. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3, paragraph (h),[8] requires that party expenditures that exceed $200 in aggregate with a vendor are itemized and must disclose:

> …the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure, including an explanation of how the expenditure was used, and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate or local candidate on whose behalf the expenditure was made…

If the DFL provides security services in the manner described in this advisory opinion the party unit must track and disclose the amount spent on security services by candidate and date. The purpose and explanation of the expenditure for the listed candidate may be provided in the form of - security services, and the campaign event at which the security services were provided.

Candidate committees do not report multicandidate political party expenditures made on the candidate's behalf. Security services provided by the DFL to another political party unit is an in-kind contribution to the other political party unit, and is reported by both the DFL and the party unit that receives the security services.[9]

Issued: August 6, 2025

Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

[8] Minn. Stat. §10A.20, subd. 3(h)
[9] Minn. Stat. § 10A.20, subd. 3 (c), (k).

MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: July 30, 2025

To: Board members
Counsel Hartshorn

From: Megan Engelhardt, Assistant Executive Director **Telephone:** 651-539-1182
Alexis Lohse, Legal/Management Analyst **Telephone:** 651-539-1183

Subject: Enforcement report for consideration at the August 6, 2025, Board meeting

A. Discussion Items

1. Administrative Termination of (Mark) Wright 4 MN Senate (#18919)

Mark Wright was a candidate for Senate District 18 in 2022. The ending cash balance for the Wright committee in 2022 was $206.57. Mr. Wright passed away in March of 2023. His treasurer, Tina McClain, did not have access to the bank account and does not have any information as to what happended to the remaining $206.57. Board staff is requesting that the Board administratively terminate the Wright committee as of December 31, 2022.

2. Administrative Termination of Ceci (Haakenson) for House 55B (#18003)

Ceci Haakenson was a candidate for House of Representatives District 55B in 2016. The ending cash balance for the Haakenson committee in 2017 was $747.11. Ms. Haakenson passed away in 2018. Her treasurer, Beth Moen, did not have access to the bank account and does not have any information as to what happened to the remaining funds. Board staff discovered that there is a listing for unclaimed property registred with the State of Minnesota with Wings Financial Credit Union, which was the depository the committee used. Board staff is requesting that the Board administratively terminate the Haakenson committee as of December 31, 2017.

3. Administrative Termination of (Sharon) Shimek for House B (#17558)

Sharon Shimek was a candidate for House of Representatives District 30B in 2014. The ending cash balance for the Haakenson committee in 2018 was $244.33. Ms. Shimek passed away in 2024. Ms. Shimek was her own treasurer and did not respond to attempts to get her to file her reports after 2018. Board staff is requesting that the Board administratively terminate the Haakenson committee as of December 31, 2018.

B. Waiver Requests

1. CPC LLC (Community Partnership Collaborative) (7525)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
2021 LPR	3/15/2022	3/17/2022	$50	Yes. A $325 late filng fee for the 2019 LPR that was due 3/16/2020 was waived.	No action. Already considered by Board in 2022.
2023 LPR	3/15/2024	3/18/2024	$25		No recommendation.
2024 LPR	3/17/2025	3/18/2025	$25		No recommendation.
CPC LLC's director states that the 2021 lobbyist principal report was filed two business days late due to the fact that the director was traveling and did not have access to the internet. CPC LLC previously requested a waiver for the the late fee incurred in 2022, but the Board did not take any action on the waiver. The director states that the 2023 LPR was filed one business day late because she was sick and could not work. The director states that the 2024 LPR was filed one day late due to an agency crisis and she could not find the time to file the report on time.					

C. Payments

1. Civil penalty for exceeding the aggregate special source limit

Neighbors for Zaynab Mohamed - $200

2. Civil penalty for 2022 annual economic interest statement

Carlos Mariani - $300

3. Late filing fee for 2018 annual economic interest statement

Carlos Mariani - $100

4. Late filing fee for 2022 annual economic interest statement

Carlos Mariani - $100

5. Late filing fee for 2022 candidate economic interest statement

Alicia (Kozlowski) for Duluth - $60

6. Late filing fee for 2022 year-end report

Alicia (Kozlowski) for Duluth - $50

7. Late filing fee for 2022 pre-primary large contribution notice

Alicia (Kozlowski) for Duluth - $250

8. **Late filing fee for 2024 pre-general large contribution notice**

   Clardy (Mary Frances) for House - $250
   Alicia (Kozlowski) for Duluth - $250

9. **Late filing fee for 2024 pre-general report**

   Women LEAD MN PAC - $50

10. **Late filing fee for 2024 January lobbyist report**

    Tamela Walhof - $25

11. **Late filing fee for 2024 June lobbyist report**

    Elizabeth Doyle - $25
    Mark Grant - $75
    Michael Opat - $25
    Tamela Walhof - $25

12. **Late filing fee for 2022 lobbyist principal report**

    Roman Health Ventures - $150

13. **Late filing fee for 2024 lobbyist principal report**

    Teach for America – Twin Cities - $750

Waiver request from CPC, LLC

WAIVER REQUEST

CPC, LLC is requesting a waiver for the following reports: CPC LLC
2021 lobbyist principal report due March 15, 2022 - $50 late filing fee (two business days late)
2023 lobbyist principal report due March 15, 2024 - $25 late filing fee (one business day late)
2024 lobbyist principal report due March 17, 2025 - $25 late filing fee (one business day late)

Explanation for late reports
2021 lobbyist principal report due March 15, 2022 - $50 late filing fee (two business days late): I was traveling and did not have access to the internet.

2023 lobbyist principal report due March 15, 2024 - $25 late filing fee (one business day late): I was sick and could not work.

2024 lobbyist principal report due March 17, 2025 - $25 late filing fee (one business day late): We were working through agency crisis and I could not find the time to complete the report on time.

Thank you
Shanasha Whitson
CPC, LLC
612-481-3577

MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: July 30, 2025

To: Board members

From: Megan Engelhardt, Assistant Executive Director **Telephone:** 651-539-1182

Re: Prima Facie Determinations

Complaints filed with the Board are subject to a prima facie determination which are made by the Board chair in consultation with staff. If the Board chair determines that the complaint states a violation of Chapter 10A or the provisions of Chapter 211B under the Board's jurisdiction, the complaint moves forward to a probable cause determination by the full Board.

If the determination finds that the complaint does not state a prima facie violation, the prima facie determination must dismiss the complaint without prejudice. When a complaint is dismissed, the complaint and the prima facie determination become public data. The following complaints were dismissed by Chair Rashid and the prima facie determinations are provided here as an informational item to Board members. No further Board action is required.

Jennifer DeJournett

On June 30, 2025, the Board received a complaint submitted by Michael Brodkorb regarding Jennifer DeJournett. The complaint stated that Ms. DeJournett is an elected member of the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners and therefore a local official. Lobbyist Avonna Stark and Ms. DeJournett worked together to pass a bill in 2023. The complaint alleged that Ms. DeJournett was given a custom wine glass by Ms. Stark in violation of the gift ban.

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071, subdivision 2, provides that "A lobbyist or principal may not give a gift or request another to give a gift to an official. An official may not accept a gift from a lobbyist or principal." For purposes of that provision, in 2023, Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071, subdivision 1, defined the term "official" to mean "a public official, an employee of the legislature, or a local official of a metropolitan governmental unit." The Three Rivers Park District is not a metropolitan governmental unit. Therefore, the chair determined that the complaint did not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071.

Naomi Wilson

On July 19, 2025, the Board received a complaint submitted by Rebeccah Thompson. Ms. Thompson is a candidate for Minneapolis City Council. The complaint alleged that an unregistered association has provided false information on a website, including the statement that the website was "Prepared and paid for by Friends and Family of Becka Thompson 2024". The complaint asserted that the website was an attempt to mislead voters, including by implying that Ms. Thompson is running for Ward 14, which does not exist. The complaint stated that information produced pursuant to a subpoena shows that Naomi Wilson purchased the domain name and registered the domain name with GoDaddy.com. The complaint alleges that Ms. Wilson and other individuals formed an association with the intent to influence the election. The complaint alleged that the alleged association is not registered with the Board and is not using a disclaimer on their campaign material.

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14 requires political committees and political funds to register with the Board after raising or spending a threshold amount. Under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1, a general purpose political committee or fund must register with the Board within 14 days after it "has made a contribution, received contributions, or made expenditures in excess of $750." The complaint alleged that the Board should include the retail price of a computer or telephone used in producing the website or social media posts, among other expenses, to determine that the alleged association was required to register as a political committee or fund. However, the Board determines the value of any in-kind contribution consisting of the use of a computer or telephone for a short period of time by the fair market value of that use, not the price someone would pay to purchase brand new devices. There was no evidence that the alleged association was required to register with the Board. Only entities required to register with the Board or file campaign finance reports with a local filing officer under Minnesota Statutes section 211A.02 are required to include disclaimers on their campaign material, so there was no evidence that a disclaimer was required on the materials produced by the alleged association.

The complaint also alleged that Wedge LIVE!, operated by John Edwards, is a corporation and made contributions to the alleged association that are prohibited by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15. However, there was no evidence provided that Wedge LIVE! is a corporation. Therefore, the Board's chair dismissed the complaint without prejudice.

Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman and Representative Josh Heintzeman

On July 21, 2025, the Board received a complaint submitted by Troy Scheffler regarding Representative Joshua Heintzeman, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 6B. The complaint expressed disagreement with a previous decision to close a staff review on the basis that an amended 2024 year-end report of receipts and expenditures that the Heintzeman committee filed with the Board on May 5, 2025, remedied any violation of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3. The complaint also expressed disagreement with a probable cause determination made by the Board regarding a previous complaint filed by Mr. Scheffler regarding the same issues. The complaint argued that a $10,000 noncampaign disbursement for legal services related to a First Amendment lawsuit involving Representative Heintzeman amounts to "fraud and extortion".

The complaint noted that the amended 2024 year-end report that the Heintzeman committee filed with the Board on May 5, 2025, referenced the wrong case in explaining the purpose of an in-kind

noncampaign disbursement resulting from an in-kind contribution made by a party unit, the HRCC. That error was corrected when the Heintzeman committee filed another amended 2024 year-end report on May 22, 2025.

The complaint also alleged that when the Heintzeman committee filed amended 2024 year-end reports, it referenced the wrong case in explaining the purpose of three noncampaign disbursements totaling $445 paid to the district court in Crow Wing County. The complaint alleged that the fees were related to a defamation lawsuit captioned *Scheffler v. Franzen, et al.*, 18-CV-22-3881, rather than a First Amendment lawsuit captioned *Zinda v. Heintzeman*, 18-CV-24-2821. Board staff will notify the Heintzeman committee, and if the assertion is correct, the Heintzeman committee will be required to file another amended 2024 year-end report to correct that error pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.025, subdivision 4.

The complaint cited Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34, and 211B.12, and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900. All but one of the reporting issues raised in the complaint had already been previously considered by the Board. The remainder of the complaint was largely comprised of *ad hominem* attacks, criticism of the Board and various other entities, and argument regarding issues over which the Board lacks jurisdiction.

Therefore, the Board's chair dismissed the complaint without prejudice and noted that when a complaint disagrees with determinations made by the Board and has standing to seek judicial review, the proper forum for that review is the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Attachments:
DeJournett complaint
DeJournett prima facie determination
Wilson complaint
Wilson prima facie determination
Heintzeman complaint
Heintzeman prima facie determination

MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

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	Michael Brodkorb		
Address	4136 Countryview Drive	Email address	michaelbrodkorb@gmail.com
City, state, and zip	Eagan, MN 55123	Telephone (Daytime)	(612) 618-1168

Identify person/entity you are complaining about

Name of person/entity being complained about	Jennifer DeJournett
Address	18094 Gladstone Blvd N
City, state, zip	Maple Grove, MN 55311-1104
Title of respondent (If applicable)	Commissioner Three Rivers Park District
Board/Department/Agency/District # (If legislator)	

Signature of person filing complaint

June 30, 2025

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 via the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529. Board staff may 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, or Minnesota Rules you believe has been violated: 10A.071

You will find links to the complete text of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211B, and Minnesota Rules chapters 4501 - 4525 on the Board's website at cfb.mn.gov.

Nature of complaint

Explain in detail why you believe the respondent has violated the campaign finance and public disclosure laws. Attach extra sheet(s) of paper if necessary. Attach any documents, photographs, or other evidence needed to support your allegations. Electronic files may be provided to the Board by email or via a file transfer service.

Please see the attachments.

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4525 describe 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 chair or their designee has 10 business days after receiving your complaint to determine whether the complaint alleges a prima facie violation. If the complaint alleges a prima facie violation, the Board has 60 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 may start an investigation. In some cases the Board will issue findings, conclusions, and an order as its decision. In other cases the Board will instead enter into a conciliation agreement with the respondent. The Board's final decision will be posted on the Board's website.

On May 22, 2025, I filed a complaint with the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board regarding Jennifer DeJournett, a commissioner with the Three Rivers Park Board. In a letter dated May 28, 2025, the Board informed me that the Board's chair found prima facie violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.03 and 10A.04, which pertain to lobbyist registration and reporting.

The complaint against Jennifer DeJournett outlines extensive lobbying activities she allegedly conducted on behalf of Clean Water Action in 2023, specifically in support of legislation regulating PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in Minnesota, known as "Amara's Law."

I have attached my complaint dated May 22, 2025, and the letter I received from the Board on May 28, 2025.

In preparation for the upcoming Board meeting, where the complaint I filed against Ms. DeJournett will be discussed, I found another potential violation.

Ms. DeJournett worked closely with Avonna Starck, the Minnesota State Director of Clean Water Action, to advocate for and ultimately help pass PFAS-related legislation in Minnesota. Their collaboration was described as bipartisan cooperation, with Starck representing a progressive environmental organization and DeJournett serving as a Republican lobbyist.

After the 2023 Legislative Session, Ms. Starck did several media interviews about her lobbying work with Ms. DeJournett. In one interview, Ms. Starck discussed giving Ms. DeJournett a gift of custom wine glasses.

> *"After session ended, I had wine glasses made for the three of us that said, "Underestimate Me." It'll be fun because that's what they did." Avonna Starck, Vickers Chyb, J. (Host). (2023, July 19). We All Live Downstream - Clean Water Action Podcast. PFAS Victory in Minnesota Featuring the Mama Bears! [Audio podcast episode].*

The gift of wine glasses from Ms. Stark, a registered lobbyist, to DeJournett, a local official in Hennepin County, likely violates Minnesota's gift ban statute under Minnesota Statutes §10A.071. The statute prohibits lobbyists and principals from giving gifts to officials, and similarly prohibits officials from accepting gifts from lobbyists or principals.

Under §10A.071, "officials" include public officials, legislative employees, and metropolitan governmental units' local officials. Hennepin County is explicitly included in the definition of a metropolitan governmental unit; thus, its local officials fall within the scope of the gift ban. Ms. DeJournett, as a local official in Hennepin County, is therefore covered by the statute. Likewise, Avonna Stark is described as a registered lobbyist, which subjects her to the restrictions in the law.

The definition of a "gift" under the statute includes tangible personal property, such as wine glasses, when given without receiving equal or greater consideration in return. Stark's own words on a podcast indicate the wine glasses were given as a commemorative item to celebrate a perceived political victory, with no indication of compensation or statutory exception.

Furthermore, no specific exceptions listed in the law—such as items of insignificant value, informational materials under $5, or gifts tied to speaking engagements—appear to apply.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION

On June 30, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Michael Brodkorb regarding Jennifer DeJournett. The complaint alleges that Ms. DeJournett accepted a gift in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071. The complaint includes a copy of another complaint that Mr. Brodkorb filed with the Board on May 22, 2025.

The complaint states that Ms. DeJournett is an elected member of the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners and is thereby a local official. The complaint alleges that in 2023 "Ms. DeJournett worked closely with Avonna Starck, the Minnesota State Director of Clean Water Action, to advocate for and ultimately help pass PFAS-related legislation in Minnesota." Board records reflect that Ms. Starck has been a registered lobbyist on behalf of Clean Water Action since November 2022.[1] Clean Water Action is a principal with two lobbyists currently registered on its behalf.[2]

The complaint states that "After the 2023 Legislative Session, Ms. Starck did several media interviews about her lobbying work with Ms. DeJournett. In one interview, Ms. Starck discussed giving Ms. DeJournett a gift of custom wine glasses." The complaint includes links to an episode of a Clean Water Action podcast, We All Live Downstream, dated July 19, 2023, titled "PFAS Victory in Minnesota Featuring the Mama Bears!".[3] The podcast episode featured Ms. DeJournett, Ms. Starck, and Andrea Lovoll,[4] who according to Board records was a lobbyist for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy in 2023. At approximately 35 minutes and 38 seconds into the podcast episode, Ms. Starck said "After session ended I had wine glasses made for the three of us that said 'Underestimate me, it will be fun', because that's what they did."

The complaint asserts:

> Hennepin County is explicitly included in the definition of a metropolitan governmental unit; thus, its local officials fall within the scope of the gift ban. Ms. DeJournett, as a local official in Hennepin County, is therefore covered by the statute. Likewise, Avonna Stark is described as a registered lobbyist, which subjects her to the restrictions in the law.

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[1] cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/viewers/lobbying/lobbyists/5195/
[2] cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/viewers/lobbying/lobbying-organizations/2050/
[3] buzzsprout.com/1936739/episodes/13253842-pfas-victory-in-minnesota-featuring-the-mama-bears; podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/pfas-victory-in-minnesota-featuring-the-mama-bears/id1559131514?i=1000621790773
[4] cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/viewers/lobbying/lobbyists/4862/

> The definition of a "gift" under the statute includes tangible personal property, such as wine glasses, when given without receiving equal or greater consideration in return. Stark's own words on a podcast indicate the wine glasses were given as a commemorative item to celebrate a perceived political victory, with no indication of compensation or statutory exception.

Determination

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071, subdivision 2, provides that "A lobbyist or principal may not give a gift or request another to give a gift to an official. An official may not accept a gift from a lobbyist or principal." For purposes of that provision, in 2023, Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071, subdivision 1, defined the term "official" to mean "a public official, an employee of the legislature, or a local official of a metropolitan governmental unit."[5]

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 24, provides that:

> "Metropolitan governmental unit" means any of the seven counties in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2, a regional railroad authority established by one or more of those counties under section 398A.03, a city with a population of over 50,000 located in the seven-county metropolitan area, the Metropolitan Council, or a metropolitan agency as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 5a.

The Three Rivers Park District is not a metropolitan agency.[6] While Minnesota Statutes section 473.121, subdivision 2, includes Hennepin County as part of the seven-county metropolitan area, Hennepin County is legally distinct from the Three Rivers Park District. Minnesota Statutes section 383B.703 provides that the Three Rivers Park District is "a local government unit organized and existing under the provisions of sections 398.01 to 398.36," which pertain to park districts and county parks throughout Minnesota. Minnesota Statutes section 398.01 provides that park districts are "political subdivisions of the state of Minnesota and public corporations." Minnesota Statutes section 383B.73 provides for a taxation and budgeting process for the Three Rivers Park District that is distinct from other park districts subject to Minnesota Statutes section 398.16.

While the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners is afforded a limited amount of control over the Three Rivers Park District, it is legally distinct, has its own taxing authority, and is governed by a seven-member board of which five members are elected by residents of each of five districts. Therefore, the Three Rivers Park District is not one of the seven counties specified in Minnesota Statutes section 473.121, subdivision 2, and is not a metropolitan governmental unit under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 24. Because she was not a local official of a metropolitan governmental unit in 2023 by virtue of serving on the Three

[5] The definition of "official" for purposes of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071 was amended to be inclusive of all local officials, rather than being limited to local officials of metropolitan governmental units, effective January 1, 2024. *See* 2023 Minn. Laws ch. 62, art. 5, § 21.
[6] *See* Minn. Stat. § 473.121, subd. 5a.

Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners, Ms. DeJournett was not prohibited from accepting a gift from a lobbyist or principal in 2023. The chair therefore concludes that the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, this prima facie determination is made by a single Board member and not by any vote of the entire Board. The complaint is dismissed without prejudice.

Date: July 9, 2025

Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

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	Rebeccah Thompson Linder		
Address	4251 Thomas Ave N.	Email address	03-sierra-sake@icloud.com
City, state, and zip	Mpls, MN 55412	Telephone (Daytime)	213-400-0806

Identify person/entity you are complaining about

Name of person/entity being complained about	Naomi Wilson, Taylor Dahlin, John Edwards, (@soup for my family + WedgeLIVE
Address	3725 17th Ave So
City, state, zip	Mpls, MN 55407
Title of respondent (If applicable)	
Board/Department/Agency/District # (If legislator)	

AKA [redacted] www.voteforbecka committee & John/Jo DOE

Signature of person filing complaint

July 17, 2025
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 via the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529. Board staff may 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, or Minnesota Rules you believe has been violated: _____

You will find links to the complete text of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211B, and Minnesota Rules chapters 4501 - 4525 on the Board's website at cfb.mn.gov.

Nature of complaint

Explain in detail why you believe the respondent has violated the campaign finance and public disclosure laws. Attach extra sheet(s) of paper if necessary. Attach any documents, photographs, or other evidence needed to support your allegations. Electronic files may be provided to the Board by email or via a file transfer service.

Please See Extended Attached.

The committee known so far includes Ms. Wilson, Ms. Dalhin, Mr. Edwards, his company WedgeLIVE, @soupformy_fam (unidentified X handle) who self identifies as a "super delegate" - a title only able to be held by powerful individuals in govt OR party politics.

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4525 describe 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 chair or their designee has 10 business days after receiving your complaint to determine whether the complaint alleges a prima facie violation. If the complaint alleges a prima facie violation, the Board has 60 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 may start an investigation. In some cases the Board will issue findings, conclusions, and an order as its decision. In other cases the Board will instead enter into a conciliation agreement with the respondent. The Board's final decision will be posted on the Board's website.

Scanned with CamScanner

COMPLAINT TO THE MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Information about complaint filer (Complainant)

Name: Ms. Rebeccah Thompson
Address: 4251 Thomas Ave North
City, State, Zip: Minneapolis MN 55412
Telephone Number: 213-400-0806
Email Address: 03-sierra-sate@icloud.com

Provide the specific statute in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 211A (Campaign Finance Act) or Chapter 211B (Fair Campaign Practices Act) that you allege has been violated:

- 211b.02 False Claim Of Support
- 211b.04 Campaign Material Must Include Disclaimer.
- 211a.02 Financial Report.
- 211a.06 Failure To Keep Account; Penalty.
- 211a.05 Failure To File Statement.
- 211b.075 Intimidation And Interference With The Voting Process; Penalties.
- 211b.15 Corporate Political Contributions.

Information about the complaint

- **Date(s) of violation(s):** 12/30/2024 and continuing through the filing of this complaint.
- **Date of election or ballot question:** November 4th, 2025, City Council
- **Elected office or ballot question involved:** City of Minneapolis Ward 12

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COMPLAINT

1. AN UNREGISTERED CAMPAIGN COMMMITTEE HAS BEEN OPERATING THAT VIOLATES STATE STATUTES.

An unregistered campaign committee has been operating against me in my Minneapolis 12th Ward City Council race in November. This committee has produced two websites, at least four types of stickers, posters, and business cards. It has used a broad social media campaign to disseminate these materials. They also posted posters at park events and the 12th Ward DFL endorsing convention, posted stickers around the neighborhood, and handed out business cards at events.

This committee is not registered. It includes multiple people who have spent over $750. Because of this, it violates state laws that require political committees to register with the state, to keep account of their spending, and to report their fundraising and spending. Because there is no reporting, it is possible that this committee has received corporate or foreign donations.

The materials make false claims of support, do not include disclaimers, and provide information intended to interfere with the voting process.

In addition, the materials include deep fake images, although this is out of the scope of the Campaign Finance Board.

MATERIALS PRODUCED BY UNREGISTERED CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

2. MATERIALS PRODUCED BY FRAUDULENT CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

The following materials are known to have been produced by this campaign:

- A first website at www.voteforbecka.com. My website is www.vote4becka.com The choice of web names was done to confuse voters.
- A second website at www.becka4ward12.com
- Four sets of stickers.
- Two types of posters.
- Business cards which have been handed out at campaign events directing people to the fraudulent website.
- Tweets to tens of thousands of people, tweets that have been reposted and retweeted.

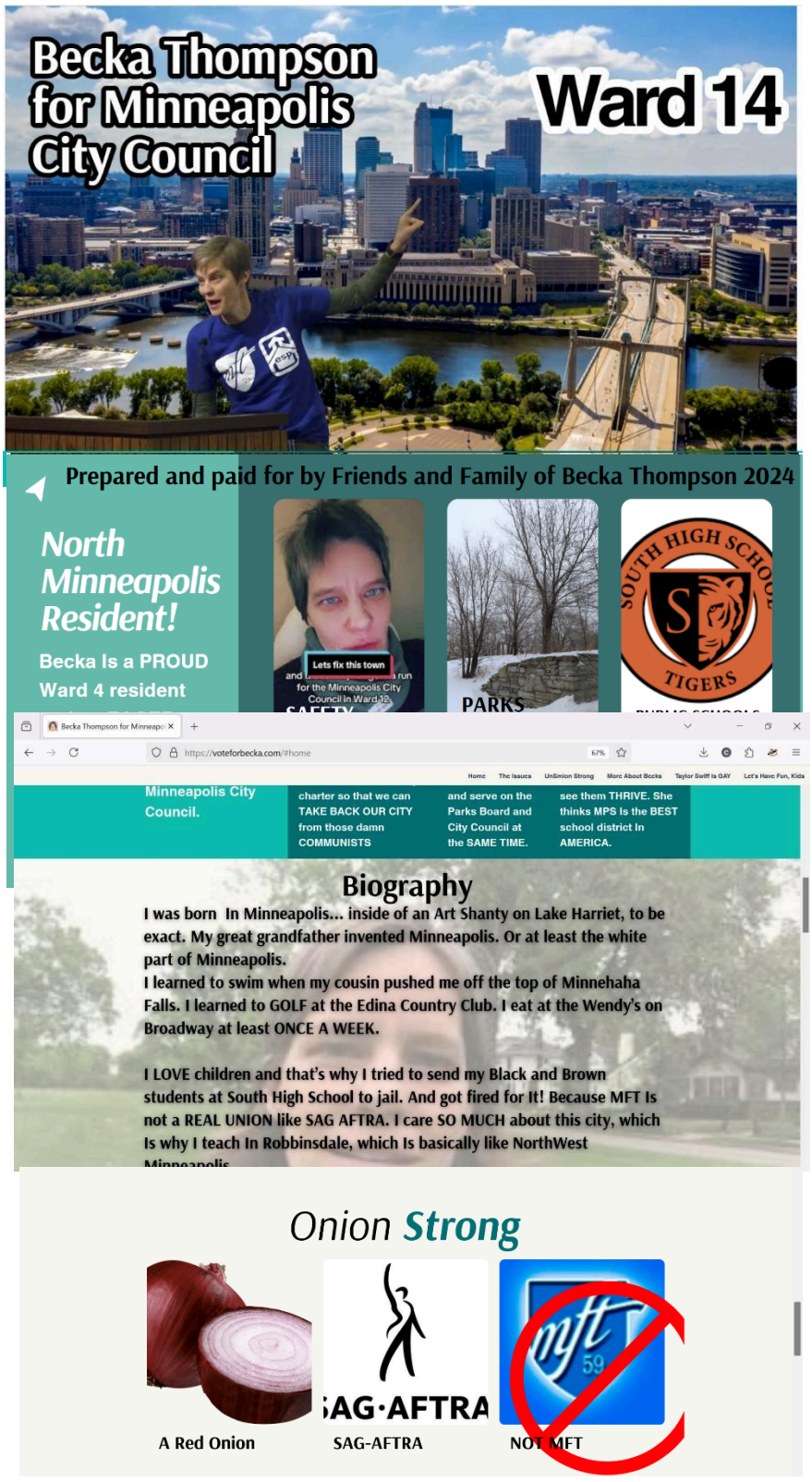
3. SCREEN SHOTS OF FIRST FRAUDULENT WEBSITE

This website was at www.voteforbecka.com.

This website claims to be paid for by “Friends and Family of Becka Thompson,” which is a false claim of support.

This website does not have a legal disclaimer.

This website interferes with the election process by telling people that I am running for Ward 14. There is no Ward 14 in Minneapolis. This is an attempt to mislead voters in the election process.



https://voteforbecka.com/#home
Home
The Issues
UnSmion Strong
More About Becka
Taylor Swift is GAY
Let's Have Fun, Kids
SINGLE MOM
CONSERVATIVE
PROBLEM SORVER
CHRISTIAN
LGBTQ
SMART
POLYMATHOROUS
More about Becka
WILL VOTE
I'm a candidate for Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board
Campaign Finance?
more like CHAMPAGNE in MY ASS
Yes, I have donations available on my website. No, I haven't properly filed a campaign finance report. I am too busy being a teacher, a parks commissioner, volunteering at churches, birthing new Ideas, and watching Taylor Swift music videos.
I am a proud GAYLOR. Taylor swift Is GAY and she proved It to me at the ERAS TOUR.
I like girls
For more Information regarding Taylor Swift being GAY check my TikTok account at @beckathompson31
a minneapolis kid
VOTE FOR
SINGLE MOM
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER
UNO SMION STRONG
PROBLEM SOLVER
PROBLEM SOLVER
BECKA THOMPSON
THE COMMON SENSE CANDIDATE
hi Aurin
LET'S HAVE FUN, KIDS!

4. UPDATED SCREENSHOTS OF FIRST FRAUDULENT WEBSITE

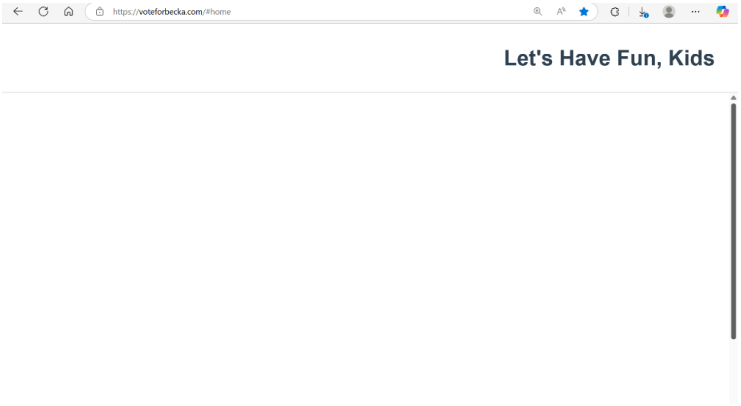
They then updated the website. It still has no disclaimer.

5. BLANKED OUT FIRST FRAUDULENT WEBSITE

Once they were notified of a legal case, they blanked out most of the website. This meant people would go to the website but now think I was no longer running for office.

It still has no disclaimer.

A blank website was still up as of 7/11/2025.

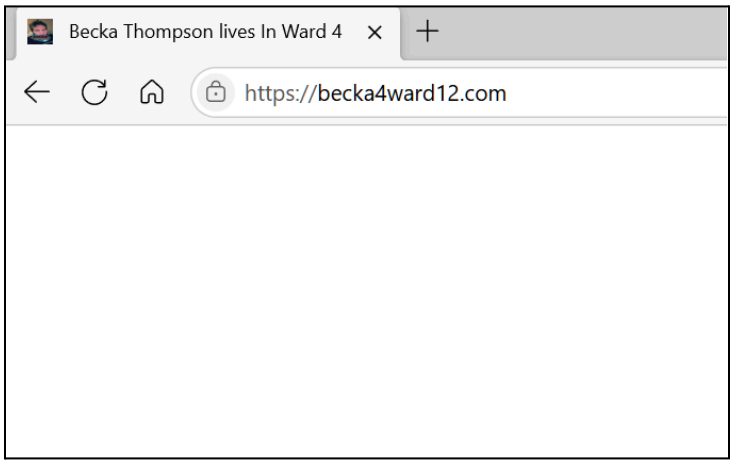


6. BLANKED OUT SECOND WEBSITE.

They created a second website at www.becka4ward12.com.
I do not have any screenshots except this of the blanked out page. This meant people would go to the website but now think I was no longer running for office.

It does not have a disclaimer.

A blank website was still up as of 7/11/2025.



7. BUSINESS CARDS DIRECTING INDIVIDUALS TO FRAUDULENT WEBSITE

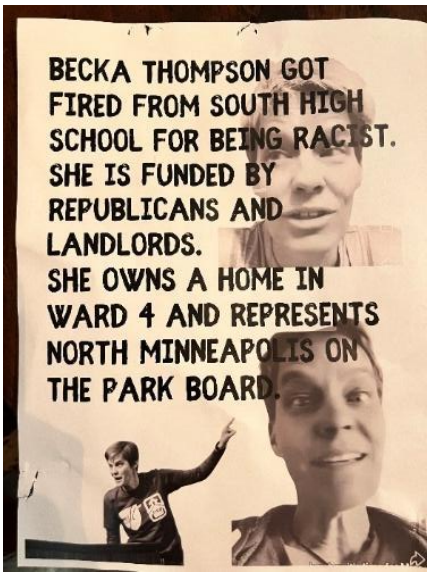
At the March 17 event at Arbiter Brewing, several people went through the brewery handing out cards directing people to the misleading website while I hosted an event in a private part of the brewery. These cards were also left on tables at both a March 17 and an April 3 event at the Cardinal Bar in Minneapolis.

8. STICKERS DIRECTING INDIVIDUALS TO THE FRAUDULENT WEBSITE AND MISLEADING VOTERS.

These stickers say that I am running for Ward 14. Ward 14 does not exist. This is intended to mislead voters and interfere with the voting process.

Also, some of these stickers are big enough to require disclaimers but do not have disclaimers.

9. POSTERS WITH FALSE CLAIMS AND NO DISCLAIMERS.



These posters were produced without a disclaimer.

DISSEMINATION OF MATERIALS BY UNREGISTERED CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

10. DISSEMINATION TWEET OF FIRST WEBSITE BY "SOUP FOR MY FAMILY"

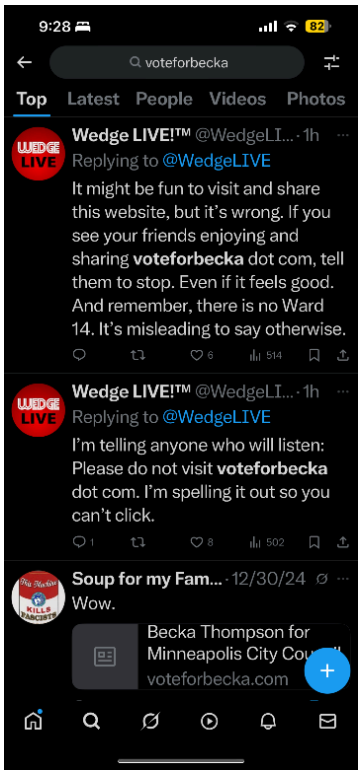
This tweet disseminated the existence of the first website. It was done four hours after the website was created. It takes Google at least two days to index a website so creator of the website had to communicate with this individual.

11. DISSEMINATION TWEET OF FIRST WEBSITE BY TAYLOR DAHLIN

This tweet disseminated the existence of the first website. It was done four hours after the website was created. It takes Google at least two days to index a website so the existence of the website had to be communicated to this individual by its creator.

12. DISSEMINATION TWEET OF FIRST WEBSITE BY JOHN EDWARDS VIA HIS BUSINESS WEDGELIVE

This tweet disseminated the existence of the first website. It admits that it knows that the website is fraudulent but disseminates it anyways. WedgeLIVE is a private business. It is not known if it is a corporation, however.



13. DISSEMINATION OF BUSINESS CARDS

At the February 17 event at Arbiter Brewing, people went through the brewery handing out business cards directing people to the misleading website while I hosted an event in a private part of the brewery. This was done in such a way to make it look like they were my supporters and mislead voters, especially to make them think that I am running for the non-existent Ward 14. These cards were also left on tables at both the February 17 and an April 3 event at the Cardinal Bar in Minneapolis.

14. DISSEMINATION OF POSTERS

Posters were put up outside the 12th Ward DFL endorsing convention at Sanford Middle School the morning it was happening on May 3, 2025. Posters were also put up at multiple events for my campaign while the event was happening. Posters were also put up all over various areas ward 12, notably the Longfellow neighborhood.

15. DISSEMINATION OF STICKERS

Stickers were put up outside my event at the Cardinal Bar. They were also put up along Minnehaha Avenue and 42nd Street and streets around there.

IDENTIFICATION OF PERSON WHO PURCHASED WEBSITE

16. A COMPLAINT WAS FILED WITH THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

A complaint was filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings on this illegal campaign committee against John and Jane Doe. The presiding judge narrowed the scope of the inquiry to only the question of a violation of 211b.04 *Campaign Material Must Include Disclaimer*, stating that other violations should be taken up with the Campaign Finance Board.

The judge also issued subpoenas to GoDaddy.com and Domains by Proxy.com to disclose who purchased the domain and website registration.

17. SUBPOENA SHOWS NAOMI WILSON BOUGHT WEBSITE NAME AND DOMAIN

Under the OAH, a subpoena was produced which showed that Naomi Wilson purchased the domain name from Domains by Proxy and registered it at GoDaddy.com.

Wilson lives at 3725 17th Avenue South in Minneapolis.

Her phone number is 626-833-8074. Her email is naomialexandra@gmail.com

Shopper Info for Shopper ID 623503342

Shopper ID:	623503342
Private Label ID:	1
Login Name:	naomialexandra@gmail.com
First Name:	Naomi
Last Name:	Wilson
Company:	
Address1:	3725 17th Ave S
Address2:	
City:	Minneapolis
State/Prov:	MN
Postal Code:	55407
Country:	US
Phone Work:	+1.6268338074
Phone Home:	
Mobile:	
Fax:	
Email:	naomialexandra@gmail.com
Date Created:	8/27/2024 12:29:50 PM
Last Changed By Date:	12/31/2024 7:12:14 AM
Fraud:	Verified by Fraud Dept - Customer OK
Twitter Handle:	

18. COMPLAINT AT OAH WAS AMENDED TO INCLUDE NAOMI WILSON

The complaint at the Office of Administrative Hearings on this illegal campaign committee was amended with Naomi Wilson's name, as well as that of John/Jane Doe.

19. SUBPOENA ISSUED TO WILSON TO PRODUCE ALL DOCUMENTS, ALL COMMUNICATIONS, AND ALL RECEIPTS

The OAH issued a subpoena to Wilson to produce all materials that she had on this campaign, including any receipts, any reimbursements, any communications, and any other information she has on the activities of this committee or this campaign.

WILSON NON-COMPLIANCE ON SUBPOENA

20. UNDER SUBPOENA, WILSON PROVIDED NO COMMUNICATIONS

The court's subpoena required Wilson to produce all communications in discovery. Wilson flaunted the court's subpoena and produced no communications at all, despite admitting she communicated with individuals while under oath. She produced no texts, no messaging, no emails, no phone call records. Not a single phone call to her "good friend" Taylor Dahlin, who disseminated the existence of the campaign. As a prolific Twitter user, she produced no direct messages. Instead, she claims to use Signal and only Signal as her sole way of communicating with others and that she set it to automatically delete her communications.

If it is true that the only way Wilson communicates with other individuals is through Signal, choosing this method of communication means she had to have the forethought that she may be subpoenaed someday. She chose a communications tool that would hide her actions and hide people who she coordinated with. Secrecy was not incidental - it was a clear choice.

The end result is that she produced no communications in discovery and thwarted the court finding out the truth. We may never know who all was involved in this illicit campaign and there are several individuals who had a lot to gain from hiding their involvement, if they were involved.

21. UNDER SUBPOENA, WILSON DID NOT PROVIDE ALL RECEIPTS FOR ALL EXPENDITURES

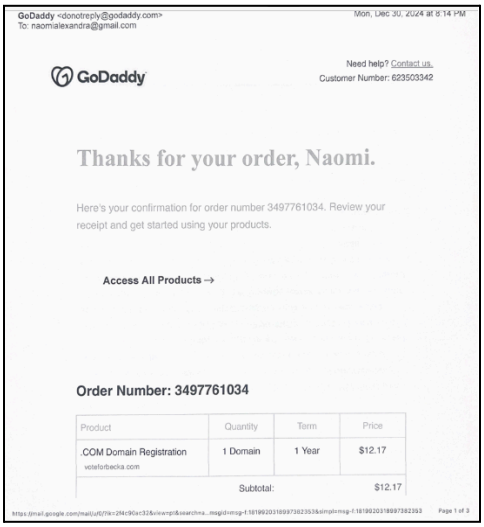
The courts directed Wilson to produce receipts for all expenditures related to this campaign. She did not. Wilson produced receipts which show that she purchased the website name and domain for the first website, and five of the seven printed materials. She did not produce all the receipts for the printed materials. She did not produce receipts for the second website. She didn't produce receipts for software that she says she used to create graphics despite showing in court that she was paying those costs. She didn't produce receipts for the computer she says she used to create the materials or for her phone that she used to communicate with the other individuals who disseminated the information.

In short, she did not comply with the directive of the court to produce receipts about all the costs involved in this campaign. Wilson's effort to obfuscate the truth should be seen for what it is – an attempt to hide the true expenses of this campaign.

It would also appear that the receipts for the stickers were receipts for the proofs of stickers. Proofs are when you purchase a small number of stickers to see what a full run would look like, then after reviewing the final product, place orders for large numbers. It is possible that large numbers of stickers were purchased but the receipts not provided, as this would explain why Wilson purchased a handful of stickers four times.

22. RECEIPTS PROVIDED BY WILSON

A receipt from GoDaddy for $12.17 for the registering the domain name www.voteforbecka.com on December 30th, 2024.



GoDaddy <donotreply@godaddy.com>
To: naomialexandra@gmail.com
Mon, Dec 30, 2024 at 8:14 PM

GoDaddy

Need help? Contact us.
Customer Number: 623503342

Thanks for your order, Naomi.

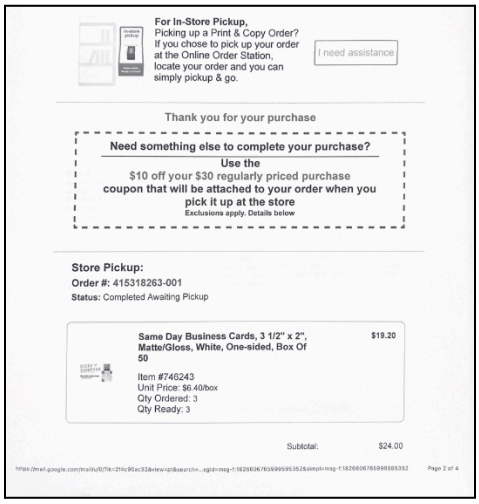
Here's your confirmation for order number 3497761034. Review your receipt and get started using your products.

Access All Products →

Order Number: 3497761034

Product	Quantity	Term	Price
.COM Domain Registration voteforbecka.com	1 Domain	1 Year	$12.17
		Subtotal:	$12.17

A receipt from Office Depot for $20.93 for 150 business cards on 3/14/2025 with Thompson fraudulent website on them.



For In-Store Pickup,
Picking up a Print & Copy Order?
If you chose to pick up your order at the Online Order Station, locate your order and you can simply pickup & go.

I need assistance

Thank you for your purchase

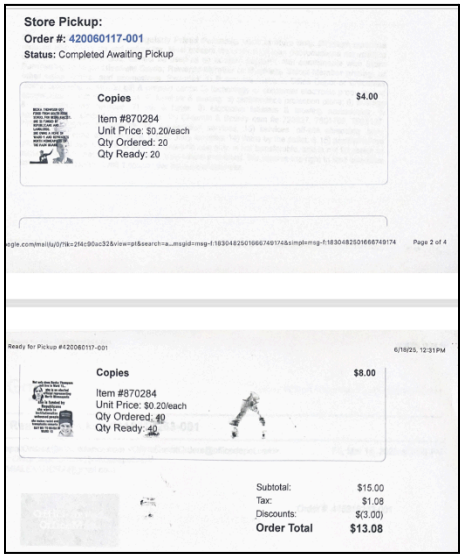
Need something else to complete your purchase?
Use the
$10 off your $30 regularly priced purchase
coupon that will be attached to your order when you pick it up at the store
Exclusions apply. Details below

Store Pickup:
Order #: 415318263-001
Status: Completed Awaiting Pickup

Same Day Business Cards, 3 1/2" x 2", Matte/Gloss, White, One-sided, Box Of 50 — $19.20
Item #746243
Unit Price: $6.40/box
Qty Ordered: 3
Qty Ready: 3

Subtotal: $24.00

A receipt from Office Depot for $13.08 for printing of two posters on 3/26/2025.

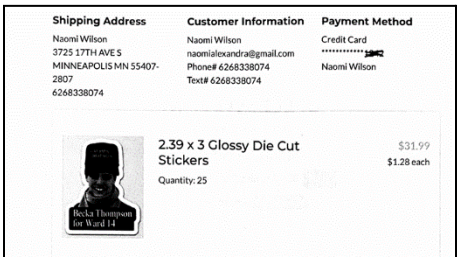


Store Pickup:
Order #: 420060117-001
Status: Completed Awaiting Pickup

Copies — $4.00
Item #870284
Unit Price: $0.20/each
Qty Ordered: 20
Qty Ready: 20

Copies — $8.00
Item #870284
Unit Price: $0.20/each
Qty Ordered: 40
Qty Ready: 40

Subtotal: $15.00
Tax: $1.08
Discounts: $(3.00)
Order Total $13.08



Shipping Address
Naomi Wilson
3725 17TH AVE S
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55407-2807
6268338074

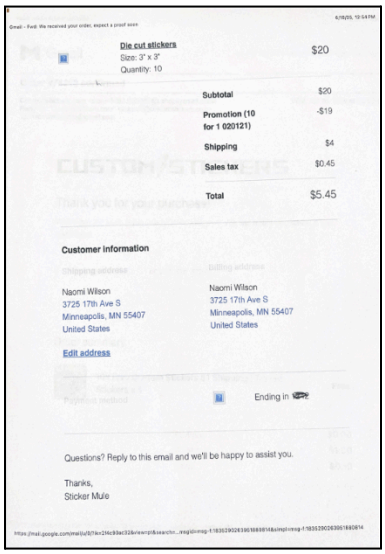
Customer Information
Naomi Wilson
naomialexandra@gmail.com
Phone# 6268338074
Text# 6268338074

Payment Method
Credit Card
[redacted]
Naomi Wilson

2.39 x 3 Glossy Die Cut Stickers — $31.99
$1.28 each
Quantity: 25

A receipt for $31.99 for 25 stickers of Becka Thompson for Ward 14 in a MAGA hat from Makestickers.com on 3/27/25.

A receipt for $5.45 for the purchase of 10 unidentified stickers (the image is obscured) from StickerMule on 3/27/25.



Die cut stickers
Size: 3" x 3"
Quantity: 10 — $20

Subtotal $20
Promotion (10 for 1 020121) -$19
Shipping $4
Sales tax $0.45
Total $5.45

Customer information

Naomi Wilson
3725 17th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407
United States

Edit address

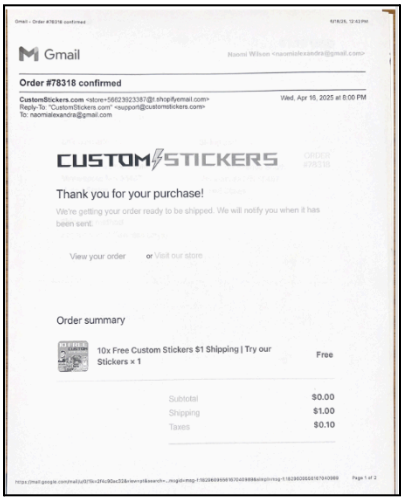
Naomi Wilson
3725 17th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407
United States

Ending in

Questions? Reply to this email and we'll be happy to assist you.

Thanks,
Sticker Mule

A receipt for $1.10 for 10 custom stickers from CustomStickers.com, with no date and no explanation of which stickers.



Gmail

Order #78318 confirmed

CustomStickers.com
Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:00 PM

CUSTOM STICKERS

Thank you for your purchase!

Order summary

10x Free Custom Stickers $1 Shipping | Try our Stickers × 1 — Free

Subtotal $0.00
Shipping $1.00
Taxes $0.10

OAH HEARING ON JULY 1ST, 2025

23. OAH HEARING ON JULY 1ST 2025 WITH WILSON AS DEFENDANT

Based on the subpoenaed materials, on July 1st, 2025, the OAH held a hearing on this case where Wilson was the defendant.

WHO IS THE COMMITTEE?

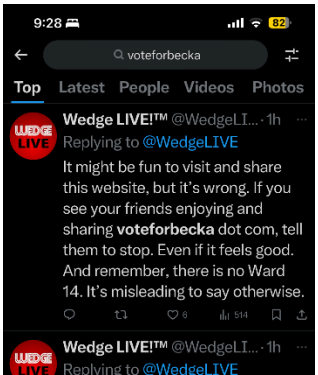
State Statutes §211B.01 defines a “committee” as “two or more persons acting together.” A committee must exist to have a requirement of a disclaimer under State Statutes §211B.04.

Receipt from GoDaddy/Domains by Proxy shows that Wilson paid for the purchase of the first website from GoDaddy.com. Receipts for campaign stickers, posters, and business cards than Naomi Wilson paid for these items. This makes her part of the committee.

On July 1st, before the court, Wilson admitted to contacting the Twitter user “Soup for my Family”, via the communications tool Signal about the existence of the website. “Soup for my Family” then disseminated the existence of the website to 6600 individuals. Multiple individuals then reposted the existence of the website. Wilson did not disclose the real name of the person behind this Twitter account. “Soup for my Family” is part of the committee.

On July 1st, before the court, Wilson admitted to contacting Taylor Dahlin, a close friend of hers, via Signal to have her also disseminate the existence of the website. Dahlin then used her Twitter account to disseminate the existence of the website to 2600 individuals. Multiple individuals then reposted the existence of the website. Dahlin is also part of the committee.

John Edwards, through his business WedgeLIVE, also disseminated the existence of the first website. That makes Edwards part of the committee.



Also, because he used his private business to disseminate this information, WedgeLIVE is part of the committee.

Wilson also never explained how Edwards, a noted graphics designer and website designer who produces local political content, used the exact same graphics for his WedgeLive podcast two weeks before Wilson purchased the first website where the same graphic was used. She also never explained how John Edwards was in possession of documents showing that Wilson was involved in this campaign. Had Wilson produced communications under subpoena as directed by the court, these questions would have been answered. Again, Wilson's effort to obfuscate the truth should not be allowed to benefit the members of the illicit campaign.

Despite her actions to avoid disclosing the truth to the court, it is very likely other individuals are also involved. Under oath, Wilson would not disclose:

- Who helped her disseminate business cards directing people to the fraudulent website at Arbiter Brewing. She admitted to handing out cards but stated that she didn't know who else was there handing out the cards that she produced. The only way these unknown individuals could have gotten these cards was if Wilson literally handed the cards to them. And then both Wilson and these unknown individuals handed out the cards in the same bar at the same time, but Wilson says she didn't know who they were. This is hard to believe.
- Who disseminated the posters she produced at the 12th Ward Endorsing Convention, noting only that it was not her. Wilson would literally have had to hand them the posters she produced to put them up. But Wilson says she does not know who they were. Again, this is hard to believe. Again, Wilson's effort to obfuscate the truth should not be allowed to benefit the members of the illicit campaign and should be considered when the court determines penalties.

These undisclosed individuals are also part of the committee.

It is clear that Wilson, "Soup for my Family", Dahlin and Edwards constitute a committee. Other individuals at Arbiter Brewing and putting up posters were also part of the committee. There may have been more individuals, but Wilson's refusal to disclose communications makes it impossible to know how many other individuals make up this committee. Clearly more than two people were involved.

WAS MORE THAN $750 SPENT?

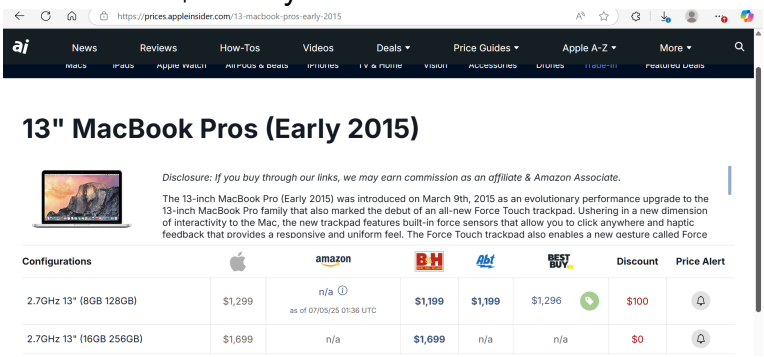
As noted above, Wilson was not forthcoming with all of the costs that she incurred. The members of the Board should see this as admission that the costs exceeded $750, as there is no reason to hide expenditures except to try to mislead the Board that the costs are less than $750.

As noted above, Wilson submitted receipts of expenditures for GoDaddy, Domains by Proxy, and five of seven printed materials of $84.72.

She admitted that she also purchased a second domain for the campaign. Those costs were not disclosed. She also did not produce receipts for two of the printed materials. It also appears that the four stickers are proofs and that it is likely more stickers were purchased subsequently but the receipts not provided.

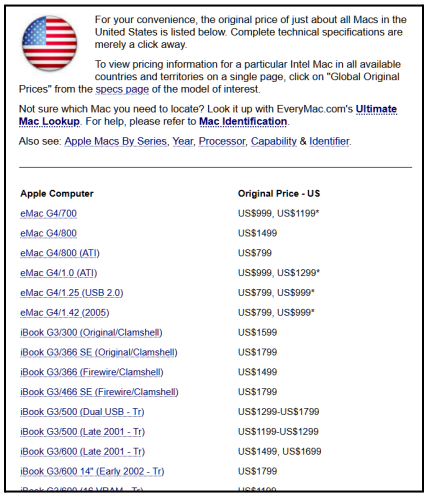
Under oath, Wilson stated that she used a software program called Canva to produce the website and graphics. The cost of that is $155 a year.

Wilson also stated under oath that she used a ten year old MacBook to produce the website and graphics. The cost of a MacBook from 2015 was either $1299 or $1699, depending on the configuration according to Apple Insider.

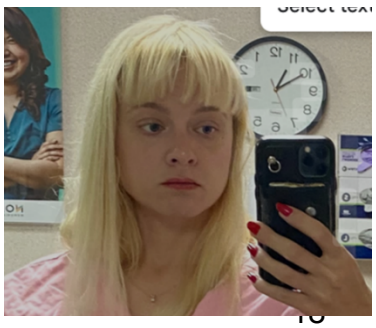


In fact, the lowest price MacBook ever sold was $799 according to EveryMac. Regardless of what MacBook she used, its cost alone would exceed $750.

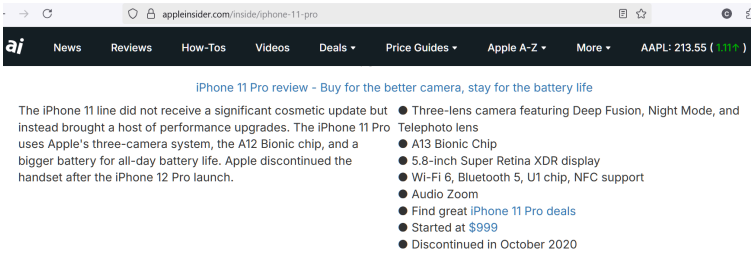
Wilson's expenses alone exceed $750.



But this campaign was not carried out just by Wilson. Wilson admitted to working with Taylor Dahlin and "Soup for my Family," to disseminate the campaign which makes them part of the committee. This image shows Dahlin using an iPhone with three cameras. Google Image That means she is using at least an iPhone 11 Pro or iPhone 11 Pro Max, introduced in 2019.



The price of the cheapest iPhone 11 Pro was $999, according to Apple Insider. [Apple Insider]



"Soup for My Family" and Edwards also had similar costs in disseminating this campaign. The other unnamed individuals would have also had similar costs.

The OAH asked where one draws the line on the costs of dissemination when using social media tools like Twitter. If these images were mailed through the postal service, clearly the cost of postage for mailing every image would be included as a campaign expense. What if every image is tweeted? Are the computers and phones of every person who tweeted the picture a campaign expense, as they are the equivalent of postage? In the plain reading of 211A and 211B, the answer would be, "yes." This would mean that the costs of this campaign vastly exceed $750.

It is clear that all of these expenses exceed $750, meeting the threshold required for State Statutes §211B.04.

LAWS VIOLATED

24. STATUTE 211B.02 FALSE CLAIM OF SUPPORT.

> *"A person or candidate may not knowingly make, directly or indirectly, a false claim stating or implying that a candidate or ballot question has the support or endorsement of a major political party or party unit or of an organization. A person or candidate may not state in written campaign material that the candidate or ballot question has the support or endorsement of an individual without first getting written permission from the individual to do so."*

This website claims that this website was "Prepared and Paid for by Friends and Family of Becka Thompson." None of my friends or family prepared or paid for this website. That is a false claim of support. It also attempts to mimic my own campaign committee 'friends of Becka Thompson' filed with the state.

25. STATUTE 211B.04, subd. 2 CAMPAIGN MATERIAL MUST INCLUDE DISCLAIMER.

"(a) The required form of the disclaimer on a written independent expenditure is: "This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by ..... (name of entity participating in the expenditure), ... (address). It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it." The address must be either the entity's mailing address or the entity's website, if the website includes the entity's mailing address. When a written independent expenditure is produced and disseminated without cost, the words "and paid for" may be omitted from the disclaimer.

(b) The required form of the disclaimer on a broadcast independent expenditure is: "This independent expenditure is paid for by ..... (name of entity participating in the expenditure). It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it." When a broadcast independent expenditure is produced and disseminated without cost, the following disclaimer may be used: "..... (name of entity participating in the expenditure) is responsible for the contents of this independent expenditure. It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it.""

The "www.voteforbecka.com" website claimed (before being blanked out) that this website was “Prepared and Paid for by Friends and Family of Becka Thompson.” This is categorically false and meant to mirror my own actual campaign committee. No legal disclaimer is provided on any other material. No legal disclaimer was provided on the second website. No legal disclaimer was provided on any printed material. This violates the requirement for a disclaimer. The issue of disclaimer is being addressed by the OAH.

26. STATUTE 211A.02 FINANCIAL REPORT.

“211A.02 FINANCIAL REPORT.

Subdivision 1.When and where filed by committees or candidates.

(a) A committee or a candidate who receives contributions or makes disbursements of more than $750 in a calendar year shall submit an initial report to the filing officer within 14 days after the candidate or committee receives or makes disbursements of more than $750 and must continue to make the reports required by this subdivision until a final report is filed.”

This statute requires that any committee that has either received or spent $750 must report their spending. This means they have to both register as a committee and also disclose their funding. There is no campaign committee that has registered for this campaign. And as shown above, they spent more than $750.

27. STATUTE 211A.06 FAILURE TO KEEP ACCOUNT; PENALTY.

> "*A candidate, treasurer, or other individual who receives money for a committee is guilty of a misdemeanor if the individual:*
>
> *(1) fails to keep a correct account as required by law;*
>
> *(2) mutilates, defaces, or destroys an account record; or*
>
> *(3) in the case of a committee, refuses upon request to provide financial information to a candidate; and*
>
> *(4) does any of these things with the intent to conceal receipts or disbursements, the purpose of receipts or disbursements, or the existence or amount of an unpaid debt or the identity of the person to whom it is owed."*

The committee behind this website has not registered so it cannot keep account.

28. STATUTE 211A.05, Subd. 1. FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT.

> *"A candidate who intentionally fails to file a report required by section 211A.02 or a certification required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. The treasurer of a committee who intentionally fails to file a report required by section 211A.02 or a certification required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each candidate or treasurer of a committee must certify to the filing officer that all reports required by section 211A.02 have been submitted to the filing officer or that the candidate or committee has not received contributions or made disbursements exceeding $750 in the calendar year. The certification must be submitted to the filing officer no later than seven days after the general or special election. The secretary of state must prepare blanks for this certification. An officer who issues a certificate of election to a candidate who has not certified that all reports required by section 211A.02 have been filed is guilty of a misdemeanor."*

This statute requires that a committee file a statement if it raised or disbursed $750. Clearly this unregistered committee has spent at least this amount but has not filed a statement.

29. STATUTE 211B.075 INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE WITH THE VOTING PROCESS; PENALTIES.

Subd. 2.Deceptive practices.

(a) No person may, within 60 days of an election, cause information to be transmitted by any means that the person:

(1) intends to impede or prevent another person from exercising the right to vote; and

(2) knows to be materially false.

(b) The prohibition in this subdivision includes but is not limited to information regarding the time, place, or manner of holding an election; the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility at an election; and threats to physical safety associated with casting a ballot.
Subd. 3.Interference with registration or voting.

No person may intentionally hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person in casting a ballot or registering to vote.

This website and printed materials claim that there is a Ward 14 and that I, Rebeccah Thompson, am running for it. If you lived in Ward 12, the Ward I am actually running for, this would be deceptive and confusing. This information was put out within 60 days of caucusing, when there was voting for endorsements. This is interference in elections as outlined in State Statutes 211B.075.

This is no different than saying that “Democrats vote on Wednesdays” or “Democrats can vote by text.” In *United States v. Mackey* (2023), the leader of a similar social media campaign to mislead voters was sentenced to seven months in jail.

30. STATUTE 211B.075, Subd. 4. INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE WITH THE VOTING PROCESS; PENALTIES.

"A person may be held vicariously liable for any damages resulting from the violation of this section and may be identified in an order restraining violations of this section if that person:

(1) intentionally aids, advises, hires, counsels, abets, incites, compels, or coerces a person to violate any provision of this section or attempts to aid, advise, hire, counsel, abet, incite, compel, or coerce a person to violate any provision of this section; or

(2) conspires, combines, agrees, or arranges with another to either commit a violation of this section or aid, advise, hire, counsel, abet, incite, compel, or coerce a third person to violate any provision of this section."

This website and printed materials claim that there is a Ward 14 and that I, Rebeccah Thompson, am running for it. If you lived in Ward 12, the Ward I am actually running for, this would be deceptive and confusing. This is interference with the voting process as outlined in State Statutes 211B.075. The individuals in this campaign disseminated this illegal website on social media to tens of thousands of individuals. Those individuals then violated this statute by further disseminating this material.

31. STATUTE 211B.15 Subd. 2.Prohibited contributions.

(a) A corporation may not make a contribution or offer or agree to make a contribution directly or indirectly, of any money, property, free service of its officers, employees, or members, or thing of monetary value to a political party, organization, committee, or individual to promote or defeat the candidacy of an individual for nomination, election, or appointment to a political office.

(b) A political party, organization, committee, or individual may not accept a contribution or an offer or agreement to make a contribution that a corporation is prohibited from making under paragraph

(c) For the purpose of this subdivision, "contribution" includes an expenditure to promote or defeat the election or nomination of a candidate to a political office that is made with the authorization or expressed or implied consent of, or in cooperation or in concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate or committee established to support or oppose a candidate but does not include an independent expenditure authorized by subdivision 3.

Subd. 3.Independent expenditures.

A corporation may not make an expenditure or offer or agree to make an expenditure to promote or defeat the candidacy of an individual for nomination, election, or appointment to a political office, unless the expenditure is an independent expenditure. For the purpose of this subdivision, "independent expenditure" has the meaning given in section 10A.01, subdivision 18.

Because this conspiracy of individuals behind this false campaign have not filed a campaign finance report, I do not know whether they are being funded by corporations, by foreign nationals, or other prohibited groups. I do know that dissemination of the existence of the website was done by a business, WedgeLIVE!. It is not known if this business is incorporated or not.

CONCLUSION

A fraudulent unregistered campaign committee, which included Naiomi Wilson, Taylor Dahlin, John Edwards, “Soup for my Family” and other unknown individuals violated the following statutes:

- 211b.02 False Claim Of Support
- 211b.04 Campaign Material Must Include Disclaimer.
- 211a.02 Financial Report.
- 211a.06 Failure To Keep Account; Penalty.
- 211a.05 Failure To File Statement.
- 211b.075 Intimidation And Interference With The Voting Process; Penalties.
- 211b.15 Corporate Political Contributions.

I ask that the Campaign Finance Board take actions against these individuals to ensure the integrity of elections in Minnesota.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF REBECCAH THOMPSON REGARDING NAOMI WILSON

On July 19, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Rebeccah Thompson. Ms. Thompson is a candidate for Minneapolis City Council.[1] The complaint alleges that an unregistered association has campaigned against Ms. Thompson.

The complaint alleges that false information was displayed on a website, voteforbecka.com,[2] including the statement that the website was "Prepared and paid for by Friends and Family of Becka Thompson 2024". The complaint asserts that the website was an attempt to mislead voters, including by implying that Ms. Thompson is running for Ward 14, which does not exist. The complaint includes screenshots of various iterations of the website. The complaint states that as of July 11, 2025, the website was blank, which may cause people to think Ms. Thompson is no longer running for office.

The complaint explains that a separate complaint was filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) and that subpoenas were issued "to GoDaddy.com and Domains by Proxy.com to disclose who purchased the domain and website registration" for voteforbecka.com. The complaint states that information produced pursuant to a subpoena shows that Naomi Wilson purchased the domain name and registered the domain name with GoDaddy.com. The complaint says that another subpoena was issued to Ms. Wilson, and that Ms. Wilson produced "receipts which show that she purchased the website name and domain for the first website, and five of the seven printed materials." However, the complaint asserts that in an "effort to obfuscate the truth" and "hide the true expenses of this campaign", Ms. Wilson did not produce receipts related to a second website, becka4ward12.com, did not produce receipts for the computer and software she used to create graphics, and did not produce a receipt for her telephone.

The complaint states that the OAH held a hearing regarding the complaint filed with that office on July 1, 2025, and that Ms. Wilson testified during the hearing. The complaint includes a screenshot of a post on X from a user with the moniker Soup for my Family. The post consisted of the word "Wow" and the website address voteforbecka.com. The post is timestamped 10:42 PM on December 30, 2024. The complaint alleges that the post "was done four hours after the website was created" and "It takes Google at least two days to index a website so creator of the website had to communicate with this individual." The complaint says that during the OAH hearing, Ms. Wilson testified that she contacted the X user Soup for my Family, using

[1] Ms. Thompson's campaign website address is vote4becka.com.
[2] voteforbecka.com

Signal, regarding the existence of the website voteforbecka.com. The complaint alleges that the X user Soup for my Family "then disseminated the existence of the website to" 6,600 X users.

The complaint includes a screenshot of a post on Bluesky from a user with the moniker taylr, which allegedly belongs to Taylor Dahlin. The post consisted of the text "this is so so funny" and the website address voteforbecka.com. The post is timestamped 9:38 AM on December 31, 2024. The complaint alleges that this post also "was done four hours after the website was created" and "It takes Google at least two days to index a website so the existence of the website had to be communicated to this individual by its creator." The complaint says that during the OAH hearing, Ms. Wilson testified that she contacted Ms. Dahlin, using Signal, regarding the existence of the website voteforbecka.com. The complaint alleges that Ms. Dahlin then disseminated "the existence of the website to" 2,600 individuals. Despite stating that Ms. Dahlin disseminated the existence of the website via Twitter, which was renamed X in mid-2024, the complaint includes a screenshot indicating that Ms. Dahlin disseminated the existence of the website via a post on Bluesky.

The complaint includes a screenshot of separate X posts from a user with the moniker Wedge LIVE!™ that refer to "voteforbecka dot com". It is not clear from the complaint when those posts were published. The complaint alleges that Wedge LIVE! is a business operated by John Edwards.

The complaint alleges that another website, becka4ward12.com,[3] was created and as of July 11, 2025, was blank, which may cause people to think Ms. Thompson is no longer running for office.

The complaint asserts that during a March 17, 2025, event at Arbeiter Brewing:

> several people went through the brewery handing out cards directing people to the misleading website while I hosted an event in a private part of the brewery. These cards were also left on tables at both a March 17 and an April 3 event at the Cardinal Bar in Minneapolis.

The complaint includes a photograph of one of the business cards, which includes the website address voteforbecka.com, a photograph of Ms. Thompson, and the text "BECKA THOMPSON MINNEAPOLIS WARD 14". The cards do not appear to include a disclaimer.

The complaint states that during the OAH hearing, Ms. Wilson testified that she handed out the business cards during the March 17, 2025, event at Arbeiter Brewing. The complaint says that Ms. Wilson:

> admitted to handing out cards but stated that she didn't know who else was there handing out the cards that she produced. The only way these unknown individuals could have gotten these cards was if Wilson literally handed the cards

[3] becka4ward12.com

> to them. And then both Wilson and these unknown individuals handed out the cards in the same bar at the same time, but Wilson says she didn't know who they were. This is hard to believe.

The complaint includes photographs of four stickers, each stating that Ms. Thompson is running for Ward 14. The complaint alleges that the stickers were "intended to mislead voters and interfere with the voting process." One sticker depicts Ms. Thompson wearing a red hat with the phrase "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN" and includes the text "Becka Thompson for Ward 14". One sticker depicts Ms. Thompson next to the text "Endorsed by the Pythagorean Theorem for Ward 14". One sticker depicts Ms. Thompson wearing what appears to be a Batman mask and includes the text "ONLY BECKA CAN SAVE WARD 14". One sticker includes the website address voteforbecka.com, a photograph of Ms. Thompson, and the text "BECKA THOMPSON MINNEAPOLIS WARD 14". The stickers do not appear to include a disclaimer. The complaint alleges that "Stickers were put up outside my event at the Cardinal Bar. They were also put up along Minnehaha Avenue and 42nd Street and streets around there."

The complaint includes photographs of two posters allegedly containing false claims about Ms. Thompson. Neither poster appears to include a disclaimer. The complaint alleges that:

> Posters were put up outside the 12th Ward DFL endorsing convention at Sanford Middle School the morning it was happening on May 3, 2025. Posters were also put up at multiple events for my campaign while the event was happening. Posters were also put up all over various areas ward 12, notably the Longfellow neighborhood.

The complaint states that during the OAH hearing, Ms. Wilson refused to disclose:

> Who disseminated the posters she produced at the 12th Ward Endorsing Convention, noting only that it was not her. Wilson would literally have had to hand them the posters she produced to put them up. But Wilson says she does not know who they were. Again, this is hard to believe.

That complaint argues that by virtue of disseminating the website address voteforbecka.com, the individual responsible for the X account named Soup for my Family, Ms. Dahlin, Mr. Edwards, and Wedge LIVE!, are each part of an association with Ms. Wilson. The complaint argues that the undisclosed individuals who assisted in disseminating the business cards and posters are also part of the association.

The complaint includes screenshots of receipts consisting of $12.17 for a one-year domain name registration for voteforbecka.com; $20.93 for printing 150 copies of business cards; $13.08 for printing 20 copies of one poster and 40 copies of another poster; $31.99 for 25 copies of a set of stickers; $5.45 for 10 copies of a set of stickers; and $1.10 for 10 copies of a set of stickers. The complaint states that during the OAH hearing, Ms. Wilson testified that she used graphic design software, Canva, to produce graphics. The complaint asserts that the cost of a one-year Canva subscription is $155. The complaint says that Ms. Wilson also testified that

she used a ten-year-old MacBook to produce the website and graphics. The complaint alleges and provides evidence that depending on the configuration, the retail price for a 13-inch MacBook Pro was $1,299 or $1,699. The complaint asserts that "Regardless of what MacBook she used, its cost alone would exceed $750." The receipts depicted in the complaint total $84.72. However, the complaint notes that the receipts don't include the cost of a Canva subscription, the value of Ms. Wilson's computer, the value of Ms. Wilson's telephone, costs related to the second website, becka4ward12.com, or costs to produce at least one set of stickers.

The complaint asserts that the Board should also consider the value of Ms. Dahlin's telephone and the value of any devices used by Mr. Edwards, the individual responsible for the X account named Soup for my Family, and any unidentified individuals who helped to disseminate the materials referenced in the complaint. The complaint states that with respect to the complaint filed with the OAH:

> The OAH asked where one draws the line on the costs of dissemination when using social media tools like Twitter. If these images were mailed through the postal service, clearly the cost of postage for mailing every image would be included as a campaign expense. What if every image is tweeted? Are the computers and phones of every person who tweeted the picture a campaign expense, as they are the equivalent of postage? In the plain reading of 211A and 211B, the answer would be, "yes." This would mean that the costs of this campaign vastly exceed $750.

The complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211A.02, subdivision 1:

> This statute requires that any committee that has either received or spent $750 must report their spending. This means they have to both register as a committee and also disclose their funding. There is no campaign committee that has registered for this campaign. And as shown above, they spent more than $750.

The complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211A.05, subdivision 1. The complaint states that "This statute requires that a committee file a statement if it raised or disbursed $750. Clearly this unregistered committee has spent at least this amount but has not filed a statement."

The complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 2:

> The "www.voteforbecka.com" website claimed (before being blanked out) that this website was "Prepared and Paid for by Friends and Family of Becka Thompson." This is categorically false and meant to mirror my own actual campaign committee. No legal disclaimer is provided on any other material. No legal disclaimer was provided on the second website. No legal disclaimer was provided on any printed material. This violates the requirement for a disclaimer. The issue of disclaimer is being addressed by the OAH.

The complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2 or 3:

> Because this conspiracy of individuals behind this false campaign have not filed a campaign finance report, I do not know whether they are being funded by corporations, by foreign nationals, or other prohibited groups. I do know that dissemination of the existence of the website was done by a business, WedgeLIVE!. It is not known if this business is incorporated or not.

The complaint also alleges violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 211A.06 (failure to keep account), 211B.02 (false claim of support), and 211B.075 (intimidation and interference with the voting process).

Determination

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, authorizes the Board to investigate alleged or potential violations of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A, and of Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.04, 211B.12, and 211B.15 "by or related to a candidate, treasurer, principal campaign committee, political committee, political fund, or party unit, as those terms are defined in" Chapter 10A. "A prima facie determination is a determination that a complaint filed under section 10A.022, subdivision 3, is sufficient to allege a violation of" Chapter 10A "or of those sections of chapter 211B listed in section 10A.022, subdivision 3." Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 32a. The Board does not have jurisdiction over Minnesota Statutes sections 211A.02, 211A.05, 211A.06, 211B.02, or 211B.075.

Definitions

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 1, provides that for purposes of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A, "the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise." Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01 defines the terms "association," "expenditure," "local candidate," "contribution," "expressly advocating," "independent expenditure," "independent expenditure political committee," "independent expenditure political fund," "person," "political committee," and "political fund," in relevant part, as follows:

> Subd. 6. Association. "Association" means a group of two or more persons, who are not all members of an immediate family, acting in concert.
>
> . . .
>
> Subd. 9. Campaign expenditure. "Campaign expenditure" or "expenditure" means a purchase or payment of money or anything of value, or an advance of credit, made or incurred for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate or a local candidate or for the purpose of promoting or defeating a ballot question.
>
> . . .

An expenditure made for the purpose of defeating a candidate or a local candidate is considered made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of that candidate or local candidate or any opponent of that candidate or local candidate.

Except as provided in clause (1), "expenditure" includes the dollar value of a donation in kind.

"Expenditure" does not include:

(1) noncampaign disbursements as defined in subdivision 26;

(2) services provided without compensation by an individual volunteering personal time on behalf of a candidate or a local candidate, ballot question, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit;

(3) the publishing or broadcasting of news items or editorial comments by the news media; or

(4) an individual's unreimbursed personal use of an automobile owned by the individual and used by the individual while volunteering personal time.

. . .

Subd. 10d. Local candidate. "Local candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination or election to a county, city, school district, township, or special district office.

. . .

Subd. 11. Contribution. (a) "Contribution" means money, a negotiable instrument, or a donation in kind that is given to a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, local candidate, or party unit. An allocation by an association of general treasury money to be used for activities that must be or are reported through the association's political fund is considered to be a contribution for the purposes of disclosure required by this chapter.

. . .

(c) "Contribution" does not include services provided without compensation by an individual volunteering personal time on behalf of a candidate, local candidate, ballot question, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit; the publishing or broadcasting of news items or editorial comments by the news media; or an individual's unreimbursed personal use of an automobile owned by the individual while volunteering personal time.

. . .

Subd. 16a. Expressly advocating. "Expressly advocating" means that a communication:

(1) clearly identifies a candidate or a local candidate and uses words or phrases of express advocacy; or

(2) when taken as a whole and with limited reference to external events, such as the proximity to the election, could only be interpreted by a reasonable person as containing advocacy of the election or defeat of one or more clearly identified candidates because:

(i) the electoral portion of the communication is unmistakable, unambiguous, and suggestive of only one meaning; and

(ii) reasonable minds could not differ as to whether the communication encourages actions to elect or defeat one or more clearly identified candidates or encourages some other kind of action.

. . .

Subd. 18. Independent expenditure. "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or local candidate, if the expenditure is made without the express or implied consent, authorization, or cooperation of, and not in concert with or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or any candidate's principal campaign committee or agent or any local candidate or local candidate's agent. An independent expenditure is not a contribution to that candidate or local candidate.

. . .

Subd. 18a. Independent expenditure political committee. "Independent expenditure political committee" means a political committee that makes only independent expenditures and disbursements permitted under section 10A.121, subdivision 1.

Subd. 18b. Independent expenditure political fund. "Independent expenditure political fund" means a political fund that makes only independent expenditures and disbursements permitted under section 10A.121, subdivision 1.

. . .

Subd. 26a. Person. "Person" means an individual, an association, a political subdivision, or a public higher education system.

. . .

Subd. 27. Political committee. "Political committee" means an association whose major purpose is to influence the nomination or election of one or more candidates or local candidates or to promote or defeat a ballot question, other than a principal campaign committee, local candidate, or a political party unit.

> Subd. 28. Political fund. "Political fund" means an accumulation of dues or voluntary contributions by an association other than a political committee, principal campaign committee, or party unit, if the accumulation is collected or expended to influence the nomination or election of one or more candidates or local candidates or to promote or defeat a ballot question. The term political fund as used in this chapter may also refer to the association acting through its political fund.

A political committee or fund that is not an independent expenditure or ballot question political committee or fund is commonly described by the Board as a general purpose political committee or fund. Both general purpose and independent expenditure political committees and funds may make independent expenditures. General purpose political committees and funds are prohibited from accepting corporate contributions because they may make contributions to candidates and local candidates. Independent expenditure political committee and funds may accept corporate contributions and are prohibited from making contributions to candidates and local candidates.

The complaint refers to the definition of the term “committee” found at Minnesota Statutes section 211B.01, subdivision 4. While that definition is similar to the definitions found in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter only to the extent that the complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A, or “of section 211B.04, 211B.12, or 211B.15 by or related to a candidate, treasurer, principal campaign committee, political committee, political fund, or party unit, as those terms are defined in” Chapter 10A. Minn. Stat. § 10A.022, subd. 3 (a).

Registration and reporting

Minnesota Statutes sections 211A.02, 10A.14, and 10A.20 similarly require entities to begin disclosing information regarding political campaigns after raising or spending a threshold amount. Minnesota Statutes sections 211A.02 and 211A.05 apply to candidates and their committees, as those terms are defined by Minnesota Statutes section 211A.01, subdivisions 3 and 4a. As used within Minnesota Statutes Chapter 211A, the term candidate means “an individual who seeks nomination or election to a county, municipal, school district, or other political subdivision office.” Minn. Stat. § 211A.01, subd. 3. Within Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A, those candidates are defined as local candidates. Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 10d. Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A applies to political committees and political funds, including those seeking to influence the nomination or election of one or more local candidates.

Under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1, a general purpose political committee or fund must register with the Board within 14 days after it “has made a contribution, received contributions, or made expenditures in excess of $750.” Under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1a, an independent expenditure political committee or fund must register with the Board within 14 days after it has “received aggregate contributions for independent expenditures” or “made aggregate independent expenditures” of “more than $1,500 in a calendar year.” The complaint does not specify whether the association that

allegedly made expenditures regarding Ms. Thompson is a general purpose or an independent expenditure political committee or fund. The complaint asserts that an unregistered association spent more than $750, and includes receipts showing that Ms. Wilson spent at least $84.72. The complaint also alleges that approximately $155 was spent on a Canva subscription.

The complaint alleges and includes evidence that at least two persons participated in disseminating campaign material referenced in the complaint, including the voteforbecka.com website, the business cards, and the posters. However, the evidence included in the complaint undermines the assertion that an unregistered association "made a contribution, received contributions, or made expenditures in excess of $750" such that it was required to register with the Board under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1. The complaint alleges that Ms. Wilson used a computer to produce the voteforbecka.com website and graphics used within the website and on other materials. The complaint also alleges that Ms. Wilson used a telephone to communicate with individuals who disseminated the campaign material described within the complaint.

The complaint appears to argue that the Board should conclude that the retail price of a computer or telephone, when it was purchased, is the value of the in-kind contribution received by an association when an individual uses that device to produce or disseminate campaign material, even if the device is a ten-year-old computer, and even if the device was used for a matter of minutes or hours. That argument is faulty for two reasons. First, Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), requires entities filing campaign finance reports with the Board to disclose an in-kind contribution at its fair market value. Minnesota Rules 4503.0100, subpart 3c, defines the term "fair market value" to mean "the amount that an individual would pay to purchase the same or similar service or item on the open market." The complaint does not provide any basis to believe that the fair market value of a computer is the same as the retail price the computer was purchased for ten years ago, and the same is true of used telephones. Second, the complaint does not provide any basis to believe that the computer or the telephones were donated to the alleged association. Instead, the complaint alleges that the computer of Ms. Wilson, and the telephones of various individuals, were used to perform tasks that require seconds, minutes, or at most hours, to perform. Therefore, the value of any in-kind contribution received by the alleged association consisting of the use of a computer or telephone would consist of the fair market value of the use of that device for a short period of time, not the price someone would pay to purchase the device.

The receipts depicted in the complaint total $84.72. If $155 was paid for a Canva subscription to produce graphics for the alleged association, that would increase the amount spent to $239.72. While the complaint alleges that a ten-year-old computer and telephones were used to perform various tasks, the complaint does not provide any basis to believe that the fair market value of using those devices to perform the tasks described in the complaint could conceivably exceed $510, as would be necessary to cause the association to exceed the $750 registration threshold. Moreover, the complaint does not assert that the alleged association engaged in any activity that would be prohibited if it was an independent expenditure political committee or fund, rather than a general purpose political committee or fund, so the applicable registration

threshold may be $1,500, rather than $750. Minn. Stat. § 10A.14, subd. 1a. Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.14, subdivisions 1 or 1a, or 10A.20, subdivision 2 or 2a.

Disclaimers

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 generally requires political committees and funds to include a disclaimer on their campaign material, which is defined to mean "any literature, publication, or material that is disseminated for the purpose of influencing voting at a primary or other election, except for news items or editorial comments by the news media." Minn. Stat. § 211B.01, subd. 2. However, the disclaimer requirement "does not apply to an individual or association that is not required to register or report under chapter 10A or 211A." Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subd. 3 (b).

The complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.14 or 10A.20, or otherwise demonstrate that the association that prepared and disseminated the campaign material referenced in the complaint was required to register and file reports with the Board. Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.

Corporate contributions

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15 generally prohibits corporations, including limited liability companies and nonprofit corporations, from making a contribution "to a political party, organization, committee, or individual to promote or defeat the candidacy of an individual for nomination, election, or appointment to a political office," unless the recipient is an independent expenditure or ballot question political committee or fund. Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 1, defines the term corporation to mean "(1) a corporation organized for profit that does business in this state; (2) a nonprofit corporation that carries out activities in this state; or (3) a limited liability company formed under chapter 322C, or under similar laws of another state, that does business in this state."

Although the complaint asserts that Wedge LIVE! is operated by Mr. Edwards, the complaint does not include evidence indicating that Wedge LIVE! is a corporation.[4] The complaint does not identify any other entity that allegedly made a prohibited corporate contribution.[5] Also, corporations may make independent expenditures, make contributions to independent expenditure political committees and funds, and provide goods or services in exchange for payment.

[4] Sole proprietorships and partnerships comprised of individuals are two types of businesses that are not defined as corporations under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15. *See generally*, Advisory Opinion 248 (Sept. 26, 1996) and Advisory Opinion 462 (May 1, 2024).
[5] *See* Minn. R. 4525.0200, subp. 2 (requiring complaints filed with the Board to "list the alleged violator").

Speculation regarding whether Wedge LIVE! is a corporation, whether it produced campaign material in exchange for payment, as an independent expenditure, or as a contribution, and if there was a contribution, who received the contribution, would be necessary to conclude that the complaint states that Wedge LIVE! made a prohibited corporation contribution. The complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15 because the complaint does not identify any alleged corporation other than Wedge LIVE! and the allegation that Wedge LIVE! made a prohibited corporate contribution is based on speculation unsupported by evidence.

Conclusion

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, this prima facie determination is made by a single Board member and not by any vote of the entire Board. The complaint is dismissed without prejudice.

Date: July 23, 2025

Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

-COMPLAINT-
for Violations of the
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act

Information about complaint filer (Complainant)

Name: TROY KENNETH SCHEFFLER

Address: 26359 Shandy Trl., Merrifield, MN 56465

Telephone Number: 763-225-7702

Email Address: troyscheffler@gmail.com

Information about the person/entity you are complaining about (Respondent)

Name: Joshua Heintzeman

Title: Minnesota House of Representatives Incumbent 6B and 2024 Candidate

Address: 10180 Tenonizer Trl, Nisswa, MN 56468

Telephone Number: 218-820-5674

Email Address: josh@joshheintzeman.com

Date(s) of violation(s): On or about 05/05/2025 and 05/22/2025 – continuing daily to signing. 19A,18, 10A.20, 10A.34, 211B.12 and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900

Elected office or ballot question involved: Minnesota State House of Representative District 6B

If allowed by law, do you wish to request an expedited probable cause hearing? Yes.

INTRODUCTION

In this Board's last probable cause finding on 04/08/2025 (In the matter filed 02/11/2025), covered for the Heintzeman's (which I had better specify Josh Heintzeman as there proven to be obvious perjury by LeBeau and now Senator Keri Heintzeman in the Sylvestra matter and the underlying fraud in this instant Complaint as Campaign Manager) by allowing, in sheer complicity of the fraud, the allowance for LeBeau and the Heintzeman's to take another crack at covering up the fraud.

Now, Josh, Keri, and their astoundingly incompetent attorney LeBeau (Best friends with Attorney and Board member David Asp; raising a significant conflict of interest), filed another intellectually stunted and fraudulent financial disclosure in an attempt to cover up their money laundering operation they have going to convert campaign donations into fraudulent "attorney fees" in financials filed 05/05/2025 and 05/22/2025 and also to further extort money from a Mr. Matthew Zinda, who dared to hold his House Member accountable to the United States Constitution in Minnesota District Court Case #18-CV-24-2821.

NATURE OF COMPLAINT

I. FRAUD/MONEY LAUNDERING – THE 05/05/2025 FILING (You guys figure out the applicable laws Sua Sponte; See IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF STEVE DRAZKOWSKI REGARDING THE NEIGHBORS

FOR ILHAN (OMAR) COMMITTEE for the manner of zeal allowed in a very similar matter; Exhibit 1)

I reallege and reincorporate the 2/11/2025 Complaint (Exhibit 2). So, here we are, the Board in the 02/11/2025 Complaint apparently found Heintzeman in violation, but somehow, the matter is now considered "dismissed", simply because he amended something… Strange, indeed, especially when his demonstrable and patent lie was amended into a further obvious and demonstrable lie.

In "amending" the "report of Receipts and Expenditures for Principal Campaign Committee" (due to this Board's allowance in its 04/08/2025 "Probable Cause" finding), the trio of fraudsters filed further fraudulent financials with this Board on 05/05/2025.

Let's cut to the chase. This Board was made well aware of the fraud of Heintzeman and LeBeau in the last Complaint; the means, the dates, the facts, the amounts, etc. Yet, it ignored everything. It had absolutely every fact and figure in plain language, that it should have rejected the amended filing off the bat and nailed them to the wall.

His 05/05/2025 "Amended" filing states:

1) "**07/31/2024 $5,000 NCD: Legal Services - Legal Services: Under MN law, legal campaign expenditures are permissible if they are for a \\\"political purpose\\\". Defending 2 OAH complaints regarding sign disclaimers. All associated legal expenses incurred are legitimate campaign expenditures consistent with MN campaign finance statutes.**"

This Board found in its 04/08/2025 Probable Cause finding, that the Respondent violated Minn. Rules 4503.0900 by failing to "supply sufficient information" as required. However, this part of his amendment is just as intentionally deficient.

"Defending 2 OAH complaints regarding sign disclaimers." Leaves much to be desired. What OAH complaints is the Respondent talking about and more importantly, since there are multiple claimed cases, what were the amounts allocated to each case and it appears hard to believe that both were paid at the same time.

I can assume one of the cases if for Zinda's OAH complaint that LeBeau was laughably bounced out by the judge in an epic fail in his extortion scheme. (Exhibit 3) The other can only be assumed is the OAH case filed by me with regard to Heintzeman voter intimidating a Police Chief; criminal indeed. Gee, I wonder why he would lie and claim it was for a disclaimer defense; Mr. "I support Law Enforcement"… Somehow, after perjuring himself, and subsequent rebuttal evidence, the transcript vanished after I appealed… He must have a David Asp equivalent in the OAH. (Exhibit 4)

Oh, and to remind this Board of Minn. Stat. 10A.18, which still craps on every facet of his latest filing.

It is still a law THIS BOARD must use in considering the accuracy in financials when making their determinations with regard to statutes they do enforce.

Again, they may not be the agency to impose a penalty with the law in particular, but they sure as hell can consider the statute when analyzing the

Heintzeman's steaming garbage fraudulent financials in conjunction with laws they can penalize candidates with.

2) "**08/08/2024 NCD: Legal Services - $10,000**
Legal Services: Under MN law, legal campaign expenditures are permissible if they are for a \"political purpose\" 18-CV-2821 (First Amendment case) All associated legal expenses incurred are legitimate campaign expenditures consistent with MN campaign finance statutes."

Yet another interesting claim that somehow $10,000 "slipped their minds" when they filed their financials on 01/31/2025. Not only is this expense ridiculous for a 1st Amendment case and a simple 11-page motion to dismiss (about 3 pages double spaced after removing the ad hominem against a pro se litigant; typical of LeBeau.

Anyhow, $10,000??? That is as stupid as the $9,000 previously asserted on 06/17/2024 (Remember this date) for a single day of legal work where LeBeau literally argued against himself as he filed a case based on the same grounds as his client. See: *Zinda v Simon*, A24-1001 (2024) and then take a gander at *Clark v. Reddick*, 791 NW 2d 292 - Minn: Supreme Court 2010. LeBeau has got to be the dumbest attorney I've ever come across and that's saying something. Dude didn't even get his affidavit for attorney fees done correctly. See Minn. R. Gen. P. 119.02. Were those fees also for extraordinary amounts of hours of "legal research"?

Of course, this is fraud and extortion and an unsubtle attempt at covering their tracks to avoid prison.

Regardless, how exactly is he claiming $10,000 with the CFB, but nearly $19,000 with the District Court? (Exhibit 5)

3) "**08/24/2024 $5,000 NCD: Legal Services - Legal Services: Under MN law, legal campaign expenditures are permissible if they are for a \\\"political purpose\\\". Defending 2 complaints to CFB relating to disclaminers [sic] on signs. All associated legal expenses incurred are legitimate campaign expenditures consistent with MN campaign finance statutes.**".

Again, as with the claim under #2, the Respondent fails to state what cases they were for, the amounts apportioned to each case, and when exactly the payments were made.

5) "**Crow Wing County Court Administration 213 Laurel St. Suite 11 Brainerd, MN 56401 Date Specific purpose of expenditure Paid Unpaid In Kind Total 08/28/2024 NCD: Legal Services - Legal Services: Court Fees - filing motion related to 18-CV-2821 (First Amendment case) 75.00 0.00 0.00 75.00 09/09/2024 NCD: Legal Services - Legal Services: Court Fees - original filing fee related to 18-CV-2821 (First Amendment case) 295.00 0.00 0.00 295.00 09/25/2024 NCD: Legal Services - Legal Services: Court Fees - filing motion related to 18-CV-2821 (First Amendment case) 75.00 0.00 0.00 75.00 Total 445.00 0.00 0.00 445.00**"

Okay, this is quite literally impossible to have occurred in case 18-cv-24-2821. These payments occurred in 18-CV-22-3881 (Exhibit 6) **NOT** 18-CV-24-2821 (Exhibit 7). Don't believe me? Take a look at the bottom of the exhibits and compare the dates and amounts.

These fraudsters are quite aware that the Defamation case is not going to be found by the Court of Appeals as "campaign related" when I would have inevitably appealed his 05/05/2025 disclosure (and am, as I just filed another CFB case and certainly expect to appeal this instant Complaint).

Again, as usual, LeBeau, Keri, and Josh Heintzeman are always ready to lie under oath. This is no doubt a coverup to avoid Minn. Stat 211B.12 and 10A.34.

6) "**HRCC (Registered Id: 20010) 525 Park St Ste 245 PO Box 17400 St Paul, MN 55117 Date Specific purpose of expenditure Paid Unpaid In Kind Total 07/24/2024 NCD: Legal Services - $6.000 In Kind Legal Services: Portion of legal services for Case 18-CV-2821 (First Amendment)**"

To no surprise, these mental defects couldn't even get the case name correct, "18-cv-2821"? The case in controversy is actually 18-CV-24-2821.

So, let's get to the crème ala crème, wtf is the $6,000 for and where did it come from? Well, it came from Heintzeman's ass. It CLEARLY states it was from the 1st Amendment case along with a specific case number.

What is hilariously retarded, is that these dwarfs originally claimed the $6,000 was made 12/31/2024 (While the HRCC that Heintzeman Chairs showed NOTHING) and this Board pretended to buy into this latest amendment, now in controversy, that the expense actually happened in July?

The Heintzeman's are both on these financials and were under the microscope and filed this trash? They also had LeBeau, Bostrom, and Cross Castle (Niska and Bostrom) looking these numbers over to ensure they had their story straight THIS TIME and this is what they ALL settled on… This case, date, and amount, was INTENTIONAL, as we will cover in the next section and yet another amendment.

So, this amendment claims the in-kind donation was now made 07/24/2024 for Zinda's "1st Amendment case". You know, ***5-month mistakes*** over in-kind donations seem legit…

Anyhow, I thought the Board's 04/08/2025 PC finding asked for further clarification, **not date changing**…

Reviewing the HRCC 01/30/2025 records, they just happened to entirely forget a $6,000 payment happened? Did I mention Josh Heintzeman is on the Board of the HRCC?

Let's now pay attention to the dates:

The HRCC originally had a general payment to LeBeau in their initial filings dated 07/24/2024. The HRCC amended their filings on 02/21/2025 to reflect that Heintzeman toooOOOtaLLY got the money, but left it a bit ambiguous as to why. **HOWEVER, they state it was a "direct contribution" to Heintzeman's Committee, but the Heintzeman's claim it was an "In Kind" donation to LeBeau… At the same time, they now claim there was a $6,000 payment to Jacobson, Magnuson, Anderson and Halloran P.C. So, which one is it, both???**

Lol, I am not even an accountant or an attorney and I can confidently say this is hilariously bad. The HRCC, that Josh Heintzeman chairs, according to Senator Keri Heintzeman and pals, supposedly gave a $6,000 in-kind AMENDED donation to LeBeau for Heintzeman's legal fees for the "1st Amendment:" lawsuit on 07/24/2024 after a change of general legal expenses to particular expenses. This hasn't and still isn't adding up, notwithstanding that the Heintzeman's initially claimed the $6,000 was given on 12/31/2024…

Give me a break. They were 5 months off? Uh, no, when they were busted, they simply scrambled to find a general payment made by the HRCC to LeBeau and ran with it. This isn't even a question and if records were subpoenaed, or at this

point a warrant would be more appropriate, none of this nonsense would be reflected. The $6,000 was either an end of year bonus to LeBeau or was am attempt to fill in the gap between the $10,000 claimed to be associated to Zinda's 1st Amendment attorney fees which was claimed to the District Court of nearly $19,000.

Looking at the HRCC's 01/30/2025 filing, on 07/24/2024, they originally only showed a $13,015.86 payment to Jacobson, Magnuson, Anderson and Halloran P.C. (LeBeau's firm)

Wow, both the HRCC that Heintzeman chairs (with the ability to cook books) had it wrong along with the Heintzeman Committee?! Yes sir, tooooooooootaly believable.

So, here's the kicker. The Public is supposed to believe that an in-kind donation was allegedly made on 07/24/2024… when the case that the donation that it was supposedly made for, "1st Amendment", DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL 08/08/2024. WHOA! LeBeau and the Heintzeman's are so amazing they defy linear time!

Don't worry, when the Heintzeman's caught wind that I was appealing and going to make yet another complaint about their 05/05/2025 obviously fraudulent filing, they amended AGAIN on 05/22/2025, and the Amendment is just as stupid as everything else. This Board wither needs to launch a formal investigation and report this insane level of financial fraud to LE or it just needs to close its doors.

This wasn't a mistake. Josh came up with this fraudulent date, Keri concurred, and a battalion of attorneys including LeBeau thought it best to claim this date to cover up their fraud. They were caught again.

II. THE FRAUDULENT 05/22/2025 FILING

Well, as we can see, the in-kind fake donation was supposedly not for Zinda's 1st Amendment case, but now they are conveniently claiming it was for the Ballot removal Supreme Court case…because of course they are. So, in recap, it never existed, until it did in a 01/31/2025 filing and then it didn't exist on 12/31/2024 as first reported, but rather 07/24/2024 for a 1st Amendment case until it wasn't for the 1st Amendment case, but actually for a case filed over a year ago… Got it.

Well, that presents some obvious problems beyond the fact that they were lying from the outset to cover their money laundering and extortion scheme.

I said to remember the 06/17/2024 $9,000 "Legal Services: Estimate for defense against removal petition", that has been being reported by these clowns since at least June 2024.

With that established, if the HRCC made an "in-kind" donation for $6,000 for <u>that</u> case, why do they still claim $9,000 is "unpaid" instead of $3,000, TO THIS DAY AFTER TWO AMENDMENTS? These guys have tied themselves up in a never-ending litany of bullshit. Oh, and how can it be an "estimate" if the HRCC is supposedly paying on it? See, Minn. Stat 10A.18. Something must be done about these organizations, LeBeau and the Heintzeman's CLEARLY gaming the system

as, as will be discussed, they feel quite comfortable with this Board protecting them as it has already numerous times.

Anyhow, because I was publicly calling out only the $6,000 payment towards Zinda's 1st Amendment case being fraud as linear time made it impossible, when the Heintzeman's caught word, they only thought to amend their lie with regard to this trash, but not all the other obvious bs in section "I"; which makes all those claims repeated in yet another fraudulent filing, this one. So, all the claims I just made which the Respondent violated in his 05/05/2025 "Amendment", he made more duplicative violations in his 05/22/2025 Amendment made after this Board erroneously and grotesquely "dismissed" his earlier violation which this Board found Probable Cause and exacted a sanction in which it made the Respondent correct his intentional deficiencies…the matter should have been coded as "Findings", not "dismissed".

III. 211A.04 and How it Conveniently Exempts State Legislators that Apparently have a Good for thee, but not for me legislative style.

Is there even a mechanism to hold State Officials or clear fraud? Mr. Zinda again tried to hold Heintzeman accountable as a diligent citizen should when he discovers clear fraud. On 07/16/2025, the judge dismissed his action based upon the convenient exemption that State legislators conveniently baked in for themselves. (OAH 21-0320-40985)

HOWEVER, this Board should pay note to the judge's commentary:

> "Complainant is cautioned to exercise greater diligence in commencing actions in the proper forum. **Nevertheless, the allegations regarding Respondent and the HRCC's reporting practices are serious and Complainant's concern appears to be genuine. Both Chapters 10A and 211A are intended to increase transparency and the voting public's understanding of the interests funding campaigns.** A review of the allegations does not permit a conclusion that Complainant's concerns are wholly devoid of merit, despite clearly having been brought to the wrong forum." (Exhibit 8)

Obviously, the judge realized how foul the Heintzeman's and LeBeau is, this Board should take heed and hold the Respondent accountable to his misdeeds in whatever manner available under their jurisdiction and enforcement.

IV. CRUNCHING THE LEGAL EXPENSE MONEY LAUNDERING AND EXTORTION NUMBERS FOR YOU GUYS

In their 01/31/2025 filing, they claimed $20,000 on 12/09/2024 for "Estimated Legal expenses", despite knowing the exact amounts they were trying to defraud Zinda out of in at least 2 cases; as they tried to extort the money abusing process through the Courts.

Now they are trying to parse that amount into 3 ridiculous and patently fraudulent amounts; 07/31/2024 $5,000 for "2 OAH Complaints"; 08/08/2024 for $10,000 "Zinda's 1st A Case"; and 08/24/2024 $5,000 for "2 CFB complaints".

They claimed to the Court the OAH complaint of Zinda cost $1,750.

They claimed to the Court on 04/07/2025 that the 1st A case cost $19,127.50 in attorney fees and costs.

They originally claimed that on 01/31/2025 that $6,000 went to ambiguous legal fees (Obviously, to justify the shortcomings of coming up to $19,127.50) and

then amended the financials on 05/05/2025 to assert that on 07/24/2025 the payment went to Heintzeman for legal fees associated with the Zinda 1st A case; but never adjusted their other numbers associated with the case. They chose this date because the HRCC never reflected a payment on 12/31/2024. So, they picked a date that was close to the filing which the HRCC paid LeBeau and went with that knowing they had to somehow match these "estimates" and payments with what they were trying to hustle in the District Court in case 18-CV-24-2821.

Now, after getting notice that the $6,000 was figured out as more fraud due to linear time, they amended AGAIN on 05/22/2025 that it was somehow associated to a case from a year ago, that we are to believe that LeBeau still hasn't been paid for, despite Heintzeman donating (laundering) more than $$$$$20,000$$$$ to the HRCC in 2024, that he chairs ($20,000 on 10/17/2024)…begging the question as to why NONE of these cases have been paid despite being closed for an inordinate amount of time.

LeBeau's 04/07/2025 affidavit for "costs" (Filing fees), specifically states $595, but the financials claim $445 for the 1st Amendment case…

Well, now that they have changed their mind on the $6,000, there is a gaping hole with regard to the amount that they're trying to hustle Zinda out of and otherwise launder. This is nuts. That $6,000 payment doesn't even exist; it is their garbage attempt at squaring away the Zinda extortion, got caught, and now have no idea how to remedy it.

So, according to their continued bullshit financials filed with the Board, Zinda's 1st A case went from claiming $20,000 on 01/31/2025, just about the amount LeBeau is now trying to extort ($19,127.50). Then when Complainant forced them to explain themselves a bit to this Board, while clearly represented by LeBeau, they desperately amended on 05/05/2025 to reflect around $16,445…getting a bit sketchy from what LeBeau claimed in his affidavit to the Court, but close.

Now, on 05/22/2025, they are claiming that Zinda's 1st A case is coming in at, albeit still absurdly, $10,445 for a case that LeBeau wrote a remedial MTD, MONTHS AGO.

This is a far cry from $19,127.50 that LeBeau stated under oath to the District Court that Zinda owed. So, being everyone is swearing under oath as to Zinda's costs, who is telling the truth? None of them, the answer is none of them. So, stop covering for them and report them to the LPRB and report these insane fraudsters to the authorities.

The Heintzman's, including their kid Kenneth (You remember, the dude that Josh laundered $15,000 through the HRCC to in 2022 as stated in my last Complaint) who works for Stauber, are absolute criminals. Don't be like them, do better.

V. David Asp's Conflict of Interest

Asp has a clear conflict of interest and is not only close friends with Reid LeBeau, but also the Respondent. Obviously, when it comes to his friend

committing fraud, it would be inappropriate for Asp to not recuse himself from this matter.

For recollection, Asp admits his relationship to LeBeau with about a guilty as possible response to the question. (Exhibit 9-Video)

Conclusion

The Heintzeman's and LeBeau are crooks. Sooner or later, the house of cards falls. In any event, Heintzeman needs to be reported to law enforcement and this Board needs to sack up and hold him accountable along with his criminal attorney LeBeau. You know, that means stop making excuses for this corrupt family and penalize them as is your duty and as the Public expects.

Oh, and one last reminder: You attorneys on the Board are required to report LeBeau to the LPRB.

Oath

I, Troy Scheffler, under penalty of perjury, swear or affirm that the statements I have made in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Truly yours, Signed within Crow Wing County, MN

/s/ Troy Scheffler 07/21/2025

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EXHIBIT 1

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND ORDER IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF STEVE DRAZKOWSKI REGARDING THE NEIGHBORS FOR ILHAN (OMAR) COMMITTEE

1. Background

On July 19, 2018, the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board[1] received a complaint submitted by Rep. Steve Drazkowski regarding the Neighbors for Ilhan (Omar) committee (Omar committee). The Omar committee is the principal campaign committee of Rep. Ilhan Omar.[2]

The complaint described a $2,250 payment to the Kjellberg Law Office on November 20, 2016, that was reported on the Omar committee's 2016 year-end report of receipts and expenditures. The complaint further stated that Carla C. Kjellberg of the Kjellberg Law Office served as the attorney of record in Rep. Omar's 2017 marital dissolution. The complaint alleged that the committee's payment to the Kjellberg Law Office was for services related to the marital dissolution, and therefore constituted conversion of committee funds to personal use in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12.

On July 24, 2018, the Board chair determined that the complaint alleged a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. Both the Omar committee and Rep. Drazkowski provided written responses for the Board to consider for the probable cause determination. Rep. Drazkowski's August 2, 2018, response was treated as a supplement to his July 19, 2018, complaint. In the supplement, Rep. Drazkowski alleged that the Omar committee's 2016 year-end report of receipts and expenditures did not include sufficient information to justify the classification of the payment to the Kjellberg Law Firm as a noncampaign disbursement, in violation of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3. The supplemental complaint relied on public statements made by lawyer Carla Kjellberg to allege that the Omar committee's report violated Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, by failing to disclose the payment to the Kjellberg Law Firm when it was incurred and failing to show that the payment was a reimbursement.

On August 7, 2018, the Board vice chair determined that the supplemental complaint alleged prima facie violations of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900 and Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20. On August 16, 2018, the Board found probable cause to initiate an investigation regarding the

[1] The Board has six members, none of whom may be an active lobbyist, a state elected official, or an active candidate for state office. The Board is not non-partisan, rather it is multi-partisan with no more than three of the six members supporting the same political party. *See* Minn. Stat. § 10A.02, subd. 1. The Board employs nine full-time staff members and oversees four major programs: campaign finance registration and disclosure, public subsidy administration, lobbyist registration and disclosure, and economic interest disclosure by public officials.

[2] Representative Ilhan Omar's committee, Neighbors for Ilhan (Omar), is for the Minnesota House of Representatives District 60B. In 2018, Rep. Omar was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District. This matter only relates to Rep. Omar's state candidate committee, Neighbors for Ilhan (Omar).

Omar committee's possible violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.20 and 211B.12 and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900 based on the July 19, 2018, complaint and supplement. The August 16, 2018, probable cause determination combined all matters into one investigation because they involved the same facts.

At the outset of the investigation, Board staff reviewed the Omar committee's 2017 year-end report of receipts and expenditures and discovered multiple noncampaign disbursements and one campaign expenditure relating to Rep. Omar's out-of-state travel. The noncampaign disbursements were for airfare, hotel accommodations, and other expenses related to attending five out-of-state events, all categorized as expenses of serving in public office. The Omar committee's 2017 year-end report stated that the campaign expenditure was for airfare "to Boston to speak at rally," which may have been to support a local candidate in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9. It was not clear from the report that the travel expenses were permitted noncampaign disbursements or permitted campaign expenditures under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. As required by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), Board staff sought approval from the Board to expand the investigation to include the 2017 out-of-state travel. The Omar committee was notified of staff's intent to bring the 2017 out-of-state travel expenses before the Board. On September 25, 2018, the Omar committee submitted a response about Rep. Omar's out-of-state travel. On October 3, 2018, the Board found probable cause to expand the investigation to include the out-of-state travel and the Omar committee's possible violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.27, subdivision 9, and 211B.12.

On October 8, 2018, the Board received another complaint from Rep. Drazkowski regarding the Neighbors for Ilhan (Omar) committee. This new complaint alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes Chapters 10A and 211B that were not raised in the earlier complaint, specifically that the Omar committee's 2017 year-end report of receipts and expenditures showed several out-of-state trips paid for by the committee and that such disbursements should not be allowed as campaign expenditures or noncampaign disbursements. The second complaint alleged that Rep. Omar's trip to Boston was to support a local candidate there in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9. The other allegations were similar to the travel issues that were the subject of the expanded investigation authorized by the Board. Although the Board already had expanded the investigation to include the 2017 out-of-state travel expenses, Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), required a prima facie determination on the new complaint submitted by Rep. Drazkowski. On October 12, 2018, the Board chair determined that the new complaint from Rep. Drazkowski alleged prima facie violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.27 and 211B.12. On November 7, 2018, the Board found probable cause existed that warranted an investigation of the Omar committee's possible violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.27, subdivision 9, and 211B.12.

2. The investigation

The required notices of the probable cause determinations and the investigation were provided to Rep. Drazkowski directly and to the Omar committee through its attorney. During the course of the investigation, the Board conducted sworn interviews with Elizabeth Loeb, treasurer of the Omar committee in 2016 and 2017; Carla Kjellberg, attorney for the Omar committee in 2016; Rep. Ilhan Omar, the candidate; Sonia Neculescu, district director/campaign manager of the committee; Connor McNutt, legislative aide to Rep. Omar; Matthew Gehring, staff coordinator for the Minnesota House of Representatives Research Office; and Patrick McCormack, director of the Minnesota House of Representatives Research Office. Over the course of the investigation, the Board requested documents on multiple occasions from the Omar committee. In response to the Board's request, the Omar committee provided copies of emails and a written response from Claudia Anderson, the former bookkeeper of the Omar committee. In the course of the investigation, participation by the Omar committee was both voluntary and cooperative. Lastly, an attorney for the Omar committee addressed the Board at the June 5, 2019, Board meeting.

3. Applicable statutes, administrative rules, and prior Board actions

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 provides that "[u]se of money collected for political purposes is prohibited unless the use is reasonably related to the conduct of election campaigns, or is a noncampaign disbursement as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26." The statute also provides that "[m]oney collected for political purposes . . . may not be converted to personal use."

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.34, subdivision 4, provides that the Board may impose a civil penalty of up to $3,000 per violation on the person responsible for the conversion of funds to personal use.

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 9, provides that campaign expenditure "means a purchase or payment of money . . . made or incurred for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate."

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26, paragraph (a), clause (10), provides that noncampaign disbursements by a principal campaign committee include payment for the candidate's expenses for serving in public office. Travel expenses can fall within this category when the reason for the candidate's attendance at the event is to help the candidate in the performance of the duties of the office held and the candidate would not have attended the event if the candidate were not an office holder; however, the sole purpose of travel outside the candidate's district cannot be for the candidate to build relationships. *See* Findings in the matter of the People for (Gregory) Davids Committee (Aug. 15, 2006); Findings in the matter of the Joe

Hoppe Volunteer Committee (May 27, 2016); Advisory Opinion 277 (Oct. 31, 1997); Advisory Opinion 383 (Aug. 15, 2006).[3]

The Board notes that in a previous advisory opinion the Board found that the cost of an international trip could not be paid for with campaign committee funds as either a campaign expenditure or a noncampaign disbursement. However, in that opinion the elected official was not traveling to attend a conference related to legislative issues of concern to Minnesota. Instead, the travel was organized as an opportunity to learn about concerns and challenges facing another country. *See* Advisory Opinion 390 (Nov. 28, 2006).[4]

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26, paragraph (a), clause (1), provides that accounting and legal fees related to the campaign committee are a permitted noncampaign disbursement. Legal fees may be paid for with committee funds if the services relate to the candidate's chances of election and the candidate does not personally benefit from the services. *See* Advisory Opinion 328 (June 26, 2001); Advisory Opinion 318 (Oct. 13, 1999).

Chapter 10A has several provisions relating to recordkeeping and reporting. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 4, states in relevant part, "[a] report must cover the period from January 1 of the reporting year to seven days before the filing date." Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3, paragraph (j), requires that the reporting entity disclose unpaid bills on a report of receipts and expenditures as those bills are incurred. Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, states that "[i]temization of an expense which is classified as a noncampaign disbursement must include sufficient information to justify the classification."

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 13, provides that when a committee reimburses someone for an expenditure, the committee can report that reimbursement in one of two ways: 1) report the expenditure or noncampaign disbursement as if it was paid directly to the vendor who sold the good or service used; or 2) report the name and address of the person being reimbursed as the payee and include the name and address of the vendor from which the person being reimbursed bought the good or service.

Finally, Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, paragraph (d), bars a state candidate or treasurer from making "a contribution from the principal campaign committee to a candidate for political subdivision office in any state."

4. Standard of proof and burden of proof

The standard of proof applicable to this matter is the preponderance of the evidence standard. Under that standard, the Board must be convinced by the evidence and the reasonable inferences that may be drawn from that evidence that it is more likely that a particular fact exists than that it does not exist. If the evidence on a particular matter is equally balanced, any finding

[3] In 2018, Minnesota Statutes section 10A.173, subdivision 4, codified these provisions into statute. The changes were not effective until June 1, 2018, and therefore do not apply in this case.
[4] Minnesota Statutes Chapters 10A and 211B do not specifically prohibit international travel.

based on that evidence is not proven by a preponderance of the evidence. *See* Findings in the matter of the complaint of Brian Wojtalewicz regarding Tim Miller, Citizens for Tim Miller, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative PAC, and Renville County Republican Party of Minnesota (Jan. 9, 2018).

In investigations involving Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12, the committee that spent the money has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the expenditure was for a purpose allowed under that statute. Therefore, regarding the claimed noncampaign disbursements at issue in the present case, the Omar committee has the burden of proving the disbursements were for a purpose allowed under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. *See* Findings in the matter of the John Lesch for State Representative Committee (Aug. 1, 2017).

5. Analysis

2016 LEGAL FEES

The complaint alleged that the Omar committee used campaign funds to pay for her marital dissolution because the committee's 2016 year-end report of receipts and expenditures showed a $2,250 payment to the Kjellberg Law Office in 2016 for "legal fees." The Omar committee's report did not include sufficient information to show that the expense was a noncampaign disbursement, as required by Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.

During the investigation, the Omar committee provided responses explaining that after Rep. Omar won the primary for Minnesota House of Representatives District 60B in August 2016, a blog posted an article with allegations that Rep. Omar was not married to the person she referred to as her husband, and that she was actually married to her brother as part of an immigration scheme. The Omar committee created a crisis committee to respond to the allegations. The crisis committee included Carla Kjellberg, an attorney who represented Rep. Omar and the Omar committee with respect to the crisis. Ms. Kjellberg also represented Rep. Omar in Rep. Omar's marital dissolution. Ms. Kjellberg and some in the crisis committee believed that the allegations required a response and that they needed to see what was in Rep. Omar's immigration and financial records in order to prepare that response. At some point, there were media reports that the U.S. Attorney's Office was investigating the immigration status of Rep. Omar. On August 22, 2016, the U.S. Attorney's Office issued a statement that it was not investigating, nor had it requested an investigation into Rep. Omar.

The Omar committee provided additional information showing that the $2,250 payment from the committee was reimbursement for two payments that the Kjellberg Law Office had made purportedly as part of its crisis management legal services for the committee. The additional information included two invoices that the Kjellberg Law Office had mailed to Rep. Omar directly, not to the Omar committee. The first was mailed on August 31, 2016, and asked for reimbursement of a $1,500 payment that the Kjellberg Law Office had made to the accounting firm of Frederick & Rosen, Ltd. The second was mailed on September 30, 2016, and asked for

reimbursement of a $750 payment that the Kjellberg Law Office had made to the law firm of De Leon & Nestor, LLC.

The invoices showed that the law firm of De Leon & Nestor, LLC had billed the Kjellberg Law Office $750 for obtaining Rep. Omar's immigration records directly from the federal government. Rep. Omar's family already had copies of these records. However, the crisis committee asked for them directly from the federal government so that it could show that the records had been independently obtained and reviewed. Obtaining copies of the records directly from the federal government therefore benefitted the Omar committee and provided no personal benefit to Rep. Omar. The $750 reimbursement payment from the Omar committee to the Kjellberg Law Office for the De Leon & Nestor invoice therefore was properly classified as a noncampaign disbursement.

The invoices also showed that the accounting firm of Frederick & Rosen, Ltd. had billed the Kjellberg Law Office $1,500 for services for "Hirsi/Omar 2015 & 2014" on September 1, 2016. While the initial purpose of retaining Frederick & Rosen may have been to obtain and review financial records, Ms. Kjellberg stated that there was some personal benefit to Rep. Omar from the services as there was an issue with her tax returns that needed to be corrected regardless of her status as a candidate. In their depositions, neither Ms. Kjellberg nor Rep. Omar described how the services benefitted the committee.[5] The Omar committee later provided additional explanatory information regarding the services provided by Frederick & Rosen. The crisis committee had Frederick & Rosen prepare releases for Rep. Omar and Mr. Hirsi to sign in order for Frederick & Rosen to obtain Rep. Omar's and Mr. Hirsi's filed joint tax returns for 2014 and 2015. Frederick & Rosen then reviewed the documents obtained from the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of the Omar committee. However, there is no substantive evidence in the record to show that the services benefitted the Omar committee, and the Omar committee has failed to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the services from Frederick & Rosen were a permitted noncampaign disbursement under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. Rep. Omar must reimburse the committee the $1,500 that was paid to the Kjellberg Law Firm for the services from Frederick & Rosen, Ltd.

Based on the analysis above, the preponderence of the evidence indicates that the $2,250 paid to the Kjellberg Law Office was not payment for Rep. Omar's marital dissolution.

[5] To the contrary, Ms. Kjellberg testified in her deposition:
Question: "Do you know, did Representative Omar's committee use any of the information that Frederick & Rosen provided as part of her response?"
Answer: "Probably not. That – this was correcting something that could have been detrimental to Ms. Omar."
Question: "Would the issue that was corrected, or potentially as least corrected, through this information from the Rosen firm been important for Representative Omar to correct regardless of her status as a candidate?"
Answer: "Yes, but probably not in the sense of urgency and necessity for professionals to do."

REPORTING ISSUES

The 2016 pre-general report of receipts and expenditures covered the period from January 1, 2016, through October 24, 2016, and was due on October 31, 2016. The Omar committee was required to include any obligations incurred during this time period on its 2016 pre-general report. The Omar committee's 2016 pre-general report, however, does not include the debts owed to Frederick & Rosen, Ltd. and De Leon & Nestor, LLC, which had been invoiced to Rep. Omar prior to the October 24th cut-off date. In addition, the year-end report did not correctly report the reimbursement to the Kjellberg Law Office. The Omar committee therefore violated the reporting requirements in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20.

2017 TRAVEL COSTS

During Rep. Omar's deposition, she stated that part of the process for deciding what trips she would make was to confirm with the Minnesota House Research Office that the travel was allowed. Staff therefore interviewed Rep. Omar's legislative aide from the Minnesota House of Representatives and two staff members of the Minnesota House Research Office to obtain information regarding the travel that Rep. Omar reported for 2017. The legislative aide testified that travel opportunities being considered by Rep. Omar were presented to House Research Office staff for review before a decision was made to undertake the travel. Confidentiality rules applicable to the Minnesota House Research Office prevent its staff members from answering specific questions posed by Board staff regarding members of that body. Therefore, the staff members deposed did not provide any information regarding travel undertaken by Rep. Omar or inquiries regarding travel from Rep. Omar's legislative staff.

However, House Research staff did explain that generally when they discuss whether a member can accept something of value, for example, travel and lodging reimbursement, from an organization or individual, they discuss whether that would violate the gift prohibition. They specifically discuss whether the gift is from a lobbyist, a lobbyist principal, or a foreign government because of the gift ban provisions of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.071 and other provisions in legislative rules applicable to Minnesota House members. They do not give advice about whether members can use campaign committee funds for travel purposes; rather, they commonly refer members to the Board for campaign committee issues. The Omar committee did not contact Board staff for information on the appropriateness of using committee funds for the travel reviewed in this investigation.

Boston Unity Rally for Deeqo Jibril. Only one travel cost was reported as a campaign expenditure on the committee's 2017 year-end report: the Delta Air Lines payment of $337.40, which was described as "to Boston to speak at rally." The Omar committee stated that the purpose of this trip was to attend a unity rally in Boston, which was a response to a white supremacy rally planned in that city. During her deposition, Rep. Omar stated that she was in Boston to attend the unity rally in opposition to the white supremacy rally and that when the white supremacy rally was cancelled, the opportunity to speak at the unity rally also was cancelled.

Rep. Omar said that someone on her staff discovered that a Boston City Council candidate was also a Muslim woman and suggested that they meet. Rep. Omar stated that the Boston City Council candidate created a campaign event that featured Rep. Omar. The event titled "Unity Rally for Deeqo Jibril with Rep. Ilhan Omar and Rep. Liz Malia in West Roxbury" was promoted on Eventbrite several days before Rep. Omar traveled to Boston. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, bars a candidate from making "a contribution from the principal campaign committee to a candidate for political subdivision office in any state." (Emphasis added.) Rep. Omar acknowledged that she spoke at the campaign event for a Boston City Council candidate. While Rep. Omar's appearance in itself would not constitute a committee contribution to the Boston City Council candidate's campaign, the expenditure of committee funds to pay for Rep. Omar to travel to Boston, thereby enabling her to speak at the candidate's campaign event, would constitute an in-kind contribution from the Omar committee to the candidate for Boston City Council. Further, the cost of the trip would not have qualified as a noncampaign disbursement for a cost of serving in office even if Rep. Omar had spoken at the unity rally event because attending that event would not have helped Rep. Omar in the performance of her duties as a legislator. Therefore, the $337.40 for the Boston trip must be repaid to the committee by Rep. Omar.

The remaining travel costs on the Omar committee's 2017 year-end report were categorized as noncampaign disbursements. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26, paragraph (a), clause (10), provides that noncampaign disbursements include payment for the candidate's expenses for serving in public office. Travel expenses can fall within this category when the reason for the candidate's attendance at the event is to help the candidate in the performance of the duties of the office held and the candidate would not have attended the event if the candidate were not an office holder.

The European Young Leaders Conference in Estonia. The total noncampaign disbursements for this trip were $1,700.80 for airfare ($564.40 on Delta Air Lines, $815.58 on Estair OU Tallin, and $320.82 on KLM Royal Dutch Airlines). Rep. Omar's state legislative aide, Connor McNutt, stated in his deposition that Rep. Omar's costs to attend the conference in Estonia were originally paid for by the conference organizers. Rep. Omar gave a speech at the conference. As described in the conference agenda, several substantive sessions at the conference related to, and may have been helpful for several of the legislative issues Rep. Omar worked on while in the Minnesota House. Rep. Omar stated in her deposition that she was sick during the conference but that she attended the entire event. Mr. McNutt also stated that the travel costs paid for by the Omar committee were related to Rep. Omar missing her return flight due to that illness. Thus, the only cost to the Omar committee was the cost in securing return flights due to the inability of Rep. Omar to use the travel paid for by the conference. Under circumstances where the cost of attending the conference qualifies as a cost of serving in office the Board concludes that unavoidable costs to reschedule return flights from that conference may be paid for with committee funds.

The Girl Up UN Conference in Washington D.C. The amount reported by the committee as a noncampaign disbursement was $581.43 for Rep. Omar's hotel stay. Rep. Omar gave a speech and was interviewed by a young woman from South America. The conference was a leadership conference for girls. While Rep. Omar would not have been asked to participate in the Girl Up UN Conference if she had not been elected to the Minnesota House, her participation did not assist Rep. Omar in the performance of her duties as a legislator. Therefore, the Omar committee could not pay the $581.43 for hotel costs as a noncampaign disbursement. Rep. Omar must repay her committee $581.43.

The People for the American Way's America's Cabinet meeting in New York. The committee reported a noncampaign disbursement in the amount of $611.20 for airline fees to attend a Young Elected Officials[6] conference. This payment, however, actually was made so that Rep. Omar could attend a planning meeting in New York regarding her participation in the People for the American Way's America's Cabinet. The America's Cabinet webpage states that its purpose is to work to educate and inform the general public about what the national government should be doing to support communities across the country.[7] Rep. Omar attended the planning meeting in April 2017 but the America's Cabinet project was not announced publicly until January 2018. While Rep. Omar would not have been asked to participate in the America's Cabinet had she not been elected to the Minnesota House, her participation did not assist Rep. Omar in the performance of her duties as a legislator. Therefore, the Omar committee could not pay the $611.20 for airfare as a noncampaign disbursement. Rep. Omar must repay her committee $611.20.

The National Immigrant Justice Center Human Rights Awards in Chicago. The reported noncampaign disbursement for this event was $232.20 for airfare. Rep. Omar was the keynote speaker at the organization's annual Human Rights Awards luncheon and received the Jeanne and Joseph Sullivan Award. The website for the National Immigrant Justice Center states that the annual Human Rights Awards luncheon "draws more than 800 Attendees and provides critical funding for NIJC to ensure that it can continue to promote human rights and access to justice for immigrants."[8] While Rep. Omar would not have been the recipient of the award or the keynote speaker at the event had she not been elected to the Minnesota House, this event was clearly a fundraising event for the National Immigrant Justice Center. Additionally, attending the event did not assist Rep. Omar in the performance of her duties as a legislator. Therefore, the Omar committee could not pay the $232.20 for airfare as a noncampaign disbursement. Rep. Omar must repay her committee $232.20.

The African Network of Southwest Florida's Annual Gala in Fort Myers (referred to on the 2017 year-end report as the Somali New Arrival Conference). The committee reported a noncampaign disbursement in the amount of $207 for airline fees to attend the "Somali New Arrivals Conference." The committee acknowledges that this was incorrect, as Rep. Omar

[6] The Young Elected Officials Network is a leadership development program of the organization People for the American Way.
[7] http://www.pfaw.org/campaign/americas-cabinet/
[8] https://immigrantjustice.org/calendar/nijc-human-rights-awards

attended the African Network of Southwest Florida's Annual Gala.[9] Rep. Omar was the keynote speaker at the organization's annual gala, which was a fundraiser for the organization. Rep. Omar was also paid $800 for her speech at the event.[10] Although Rep. Omar might not have been the keynote speaker at this event had she not been elected to the Minnesota House, she did not attend this event to assist her in the performance of her duties as a legislator. Therefore, the Omar committee could not pay the $207 airfare as a noncampaign disbursement. Rep. Omar must repay her committee $207 for this expense.

Based on the body of evidence before it, the Board makes the following:

Findings of fact

1. Neighbors for Ilhan (Omar) is the principal campaign committee of Rep. Ilhan Omar.

2. In 2016, the Omar committee made a noncampaign disbursement of $2,250 to the Kjellberg Law Office.

3. The Omar committee's 2016 year-end report stated only that the payment was for legal fees and did not explain what those fees were for or how they related to the committee.

4. The 2016 payment of $2,250 from the Omar committee to the Kjellberg Law Office was not a payment for Rep. Omar's subsequent marital dissolution.

5. The $2,250 payment was a reimbursement for two payments made by the Kjellberg Law Office. One payment of $750 was made to De Leon & Nestor, LLC for obtaining immigration records and one payment of $1,500 was made to Frederick & Rosen, Ltd. for services related to Mr. Hirsi's and Rep. Omar's filed joint tax returns of 2014 and 2015.

6. On August 31, 2016, the Kjellberg Law Office mailed an invoice to Rep. Omar for reimbursement of the $1,500 payment to Frederick & Rosen, Ltd.

7. On September 30, 2016, the Kjellberg Law Office mailed an invoice to Rep. Omar for reimbursement of the $750 payment to De Leon & Nestor, LLC.

8. The Omar committee's 2016 pre-general report, which covered the period of January 1, 2016, through October 24, 2016, does not include the incurred debt of $1,500 owed to Frederick & Rosen, Ltd., or the $750 owed to De Leon & Nestor, LLC.

9. The $750 paid to De Leon & Nestor, LLC, was for legal services that benefitted the committee.

[9] On two separate occasions counsel for the Omar committee confirmed that this expense was related to the African Network of Southwest Florida's Annual Gala.
[10] http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2018/10024006.pdf

10. There is no substantive evidence in the record to show that the $1,500 paid to Frederick & Rosen, Ltd. was for services that benefited the Omar committee.

11. In 2017, the Omar committee paid $337.40 for airfare to Boston so that Rep. Omar could make a speech at a unity rally and attend a campaign event for a local city council candidate.

12. In 2017, the Omar committee paid $1,700.80 for airfare so that Rep. Omar could return from the European Young Leaders conference in Estonia. Rep. Omar's costs to attend the conference in Estonia were originally paid for by the conference organizers. This conference may have assisted Rep. Omar in performing her legislative duties and her invitation to the event was due to her status as a legislator. The travel costs paid for by the Omar committee were related to Rep. Omar missing her return flight due to illness.

13. In 2017, the Omar committee paid $581.43 for a hotel stay so that Rep. Omar could give a speech and be interviewed by a young woman from South America at the Girl Up UN conference in Washington, D.C. While Rep. Omar would not have been asked to participate in the Girl Up UN Conference had she not been elected to the Minnesota House, she did not attend this event to assist her in her performance of her duties as a legislator.

14. In 2017, the Omar committee paid $611.20 for airfare so that Rep. Omar could attend a meeting for the People for the American Way's America's Cabinet in New York. While Rep. Omar would not have been asked to participate in the America's Cabinet had she not been elected to the Minnesota House, she did not attend this event to assist her in her performance of her duties as a legislator.

15. In 2017, the Omar committee paid $232.20 for airfare so that Rep. Omar could be the keynote speaker at the National Immigrant Justice Center's annual Human Rights Awards luncheon and receive the Jeanne and Joseph Sullivan Award. While Rep. Omar would not have been the recipient of the award or the keynote speaker at the event had she not been elected to the Minnesota House, this event was a fundraising event for the National Immigrant Justice Center. Additionally, she did not attend this event to assist her in her performance of her duties as a legislator.

16. In 2017, the Omar committee paid $207 for airfare so that Rep. Omar could be the keynote speaker at the African Network of Southwest Florida's Annual Gala. Rep. Omar was paid $800 for her speech at the event. While Rep. Omar might not have been the keynote speaker at this event had she not been elected to the Minnesota House, she did not attend this event to assist her in the performance of her duties as a legislator.

Based on the above findings of fact, the Board makes the following:

Conclusions of law

1. The Omar committee's 2016 year-end report of receipts and expenditures did not include a description of the payment to the Kjellberg Law Office sufficient to justify that payment as a noncampaign disbursement as required by Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.

2. The Omar committee's 2016 pre-general report of receipts and expenditures did not include the Omar committee's debts of $1,500 to Frederick & Rosen, Ltd. and $750 to De Leon & Nestor, LLC, in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3, paragraph (j), and subdivision 4.
3. The Omar committee has failed to meet its burden to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the payment of $1,500 to Frederick & Rosen, Ltd. was a permitted noncampaign disbursement under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12.

4. The Omar committee made an in-kind contribution of $337.40 in airfare to allow Rep. Omar to attend a campaign event in Boston for a local candidate in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, paragraph (d).

5. The Omar committee improperly paid the hotel costs for Rep. Omar's stay in Washington D.C. to give a speech and participate in an interview by a young woman for the Girl Up UN conference.

6. The Omar committee improperly paid the costs for Rep. Omar's travel to New York to attend a planning meeting for the America's Cabinet.

7. The Omar committee improperly paid the costs for Rep. Omar's travel to Chicago to accept an award at a fundraising luncheon for the National Immigrant Justice Center.

8. The Omar committee improperly paid $207 for Rep. Omar's travel to Florida to receive an honorarium for attending the gala for the African Network of Southwest Florida in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, the Board issues the following:

Order

1. The Omar committee must file an amended 2016 pre-general report disclosing the amounts owed for immigration services and obtaining and reviewing the joint tax returns, and must fully describe the purpose of those expenses within ten days of the date of this order.

2. Rep. Omar must personally reimburse the Omar committee $3,469.23. This reimbursement payment is the total amount of campaign funds that were used for purposes not permitted by statute in 2016 and 2017. Rep. Omar must provide documentation within 30 days from the date of this order showing the deposit of the reimbursement into the Omar committee's account.

3. A civil penalty of $500 is assessed against Rep. Ilhan Omar personally for the $207 payment in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. Rep. Omar must personally pay the $500 by check or money order made payable to the State of Minnesota. Payment must be within 30 days of the date of this order.

4. The Omar committee shall review its 2018 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures and make any amendments necessary to ensure that those reports comply with the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order contained herein.

5. This order resolves the violations discussed above and all other violations that could have arisen out of the reports filed by the Omar committee.

6. The Board investigation of this matter is concluded and hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 5.

/s/ Margaret Leppik Date: June 6, 2019
Margaret Leppik, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

EXHIBIT 2

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

-COMPLAINT-
for Violations of the
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act

Information about complaint filer (Complainant)

Name: TROY KENNETH SCHEFFLER

Address: 26359 Shandy Trl., Merrifield, MN 56465

Telephone Number: 763-225-7702

Email Address: troyscheffler@gmail.com

Information about the person/entity you are complaining about (Respondent)

Name: Joshua Heintzeman

Title: Minnesota House of Representatives Incumbent 6B and 2024 Candidate

Address: 10180 Tenonizer Trl, Nisswa, MN 56468

Telephone Number: 218-820-5674

Email Address: josh@joshheintzeman.com

Date(s) of violation(s): On or about October 1st, 2024 – continuing daily to signing.

Date of election or ballot question: General Election Nov. 5th, 2024.

Elected office or ballot question involved: Minnesota State House of Representative District 6B

If allowed by law, do you wish to request an expedited probable cause hearing? Yes.

INTRODUCTION

This introduction is not necessarily made for this Board, but rather to other State enforcement agencies, law enforcement, media, and most importantly the Public.

Fraud is rampant in Minnesota politics. We see that the Public has been quite concerned with it as of late, most specifically with partisan Republicans. With the election of Trump, we now see the Republican Party of Minnesota (RPM) now jumping on the bandwagon decrying that fraud must be investigated and prosecuted at every opportunity. As with most things political, this is just theater.

The State legislature has formed this institution, the Campaign Finance Board (CFB) to initially cover financial impropriety and later campaign disclosure issues. What the public is unaware, is that there is already an administrative agency, the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) that handles these matters.

The reason the State legislature created the CFB is for them to bake exemptions and stymy transparency in enforcement by members of the public. Most of the process with the CFB is "private"; not the case with the OAH. Also, with the OAH, Complainants can seek subpoenas, question witnesses, and participate in discovery.

With the CFB, even the vote to "enforce" the law is secret; defeating any semblance of due process for a complainant, e.g. the Public. In fact, the entire process denies the public any semblance of due process as following the complaint, the Respondent's submissions do not face scrutiny by the Complainant as they are

"private". It is no surprise that the lawmakers would set up such a toothless and disingenuous feigned agency of accountability.

With no exaggeration, State Legislators could, and often do, respond with absolute lies in their "defense", and the Complainant has no right to see the filing nor have any opportunity to rebut. This is curious as every other politician is rightfully forced to suffer a transparent enforcement action through the OAH.

Furthermore, the CFB has a partisan appointment process and requires 2 former establishment party members, most of the rest are declared party members, and even contain attorneys who regularly do work for establishment parties and/or are intimately involved with ones that do; establishing significant conflicts of interest.

Finally, both establishment parties have organizations which clearly only exist for laundering money, in specific with this Complaint, the House Republican Campaign Committee (HRCC). The HRCC exists exclusively for this purpose and its own website fails to state what it even does. Even House Reps have no idea what its structure is or necessarily who controls it as there are no bylaws associated with it.

In fact, the HRCC's website under "Latest", hasn't been updated since 02/2021, but launders millions of dollars each year…including hundreds of thousands of dollars from pro abortion leftist labor unions such as the AFL/CIO (Through the International Union of Operating Engineers) and SEIU; completely contradicting what the Republican Party of Minnesota advertises as their values.

In a nutshell, the HRCC is run by a cabal of Republican Representatives who use the money laundered through it by other adjacent representatives to keep the

establishment the establishment and place Party over politics to support their unfettered avarice.

Each supporter hustles money from their constituents under the guise of supporting their campaigns to then turn around and donate tens of thousands of those funds into the HRCC to have it then issue kickbacks to the same house reps, buy endorsements, fund pet projects, and primary out anyone with enough ethical fortitude to challenge their clique.

Demuth ($25,000), Franson ($18,952.05), Heintzeman ($20,200), Schultz ($30,500), etc. conveniently have tens of thousands to donate each year that they receive from wealthy donors wishing to gain their ears. The HRCC serves as a "pay to play" with the party as reps use this money to buy into committee assignments to run grifts and gain employment through the Republican Party of Minnesota. These politicians have turned the HRCC into the antithesis of Minn. Stat. 10A.29 prohibiting circumvention.

How does Schultz, being in only his second term, have that much money to donate? Well, his contribution records don't say and in the past 4 years don't even come close to accounting for as in 2024 only around $10,000 in contributions are itemized; conveniently right around what his purported expenses are. To no surprise, he has been being groomed by Josh Heintzeman for some years now. However, he hasn't quite caught up with the seasoned folks like Josh that transfer and then hide their stocks in mutual funds so they don't have to report them.

As of late, the Republicans demanded to form the "Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee", with Republican Rep. Robbins who graciously "donated" $21,300 to the HRCC to become Chair. Followed by Vice Chair Anderson who "donated" $8,200, Rep. Marion Rarick at $30,000, and up and coming Mr. Schultz at $30,500… Hudson trails at $2,550, but more than makes up for it being the circle's bulldog and outward public figure.

The current makeup of the HRCC includes Lisa Demuth, HRCC Chair (Now House Speaker, to no surprise), who assigned Josh Heintzeman as Chair of the Steering Committee due to a deal made with Kurt Daudt for Daudt to leave the party and pass the reins to his protégé, Heintzeman.

So, for any of you other House Reps out there or general members of the public reading this, this is how the Party system works in this State; you launder money to the HRCC and then you get on committees and then you get the lobbyists and then you get the real money behind the scenes.

If you have an issue with this process, the HRCC exists to circumvent spending and contribution limits and will be implemented to primary you out of office as Heintzeman has attempted by using it to assist unendorsed candidates such as Brian Johnson; despite ensuring everyone that it would never be used for that. (Ex. 16)

In any event, this Complaint comes following a legislator that is a chronic campaign law violator, who is no stranger to this Board, and one that has been proven to lie under oath, and continues to abuse his position of trust as you will see,

his Party insulates him. His attorney who has been helping him with his frauds is Mr. Rondell Reid LeBeau II, best friends with current CFB Board Member, Attorney David Asp; through admission by Mr. Asp during a hearing on 12/04/2024. "It's a big club and you ain't in it"-George Carlin

Complainant now raises issues of money laundering, misappropriation of campaign funds, unlawfully hiding income, and yet more intentional disclaimer violations by Minnesota State Representative Joshua Heintzeman.

NATURE OF COMPLAINT

I. Violation of Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subd. 1 (Campaign Signs)

> *211B.04 CAMPAIGN MATERIAL MUST INCLUDE DISCLAIMER. §Subdivision 1.Campaign material. (a) A person who participates in the preparation or dissemination of campaign material other than as provided in section 211B.05, subdivision 1, that does not* ***prominently*** *include the name and address of the person or committee causing the material to be prepared or disseminated in a disclaimer substantially in the form provided in paragraph (b) or (c) is guilty of a misdemeanor. (b) Except in cases covered by paragraph (c), the required form of disclaimer is: "Prepared and paid for by the ..... committee, ... (address)" for material prepared and paid for by a principal campaign committee, or "Prepared and paid for by the ..... committee, ... (address)" for material prepared and paid for by a person or committee other than a principal campaign committee. The address must be either the committee's mailing address or the committee's website, if the website includes the committee's mailing address. If the material is produced and disseminated without cost, the words "paid for" may be omitted from the disclaimer.*

Within or about the week of October 7th, 2024, Joshua Heintzeman did erect homemade signs and placed them in numerous locations. One location personally witnessed by Complainant was located at:

1) East side of Highway 371 off of Hastings Drive, Baxter, MN. Parcel Identification #40180626 Fortress Holdings LLC, Manager: Shanna P Perez. (Ex. 1)

The known signs have dimensions of 68" x 96".

This sign failed to prominently display any disclaimer as required by Minn. Stat. § 211B.04.

Mr. Heintzeman was intimately aware of campaign law, including Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, when placing these signs, for a number of reasons discussed infra.

Heintzeman placed this sign without disclaimer in direct criminal defiance of this Board and to State law. Heintzman has had numerous and continued complaints filed against him with this Board for lack of disclaimers on his campaign signs.

In 2022, through his attorney Reid LeBeau, Heintzeman perjured his way out of a disclaimer violation filed with this Board on 08/11/2022 by George Selvestra.

This Board, although finding probable cause, ultimately dismissed the complaint by the patent and absurd lie originally fabricated by LeBeau and spread to Keri and Josh Heintzeman that somehow a bumper sticker, with a disclaimer that was allegedly affixed due to the original disclaimer being covered by a temporary "footer", was washed off by "weather conditions" followed by the absolutely baffling claim that Keri was driving around the County daily checking to see if the bumper stickers were still there instead of just using something more permanent (Ignoring the fact that bumper stickers don't wash off in the rain)... (Ex. 2)

Keri Heintzeman signed an affidavit under oath that each and every sign the Heintzeman campaign made had an original "painted" and/or "handwritten"

disclaimer (Ex. 3). Then came a campaign complaint by your instant Complainant filed in 2024, showing this to be flagrant perjury.

Complainant by Complaint filed with this Board not only showed continued disclaimer violations by Heintzeman, but also showed the actual signs in the Selvestra complaint, not having the "footer" which showed there was no disclaimer as Keri Heintzman testified under oath to this Board, clearly committing perjury. (Exhibit #4 Being the photo of the sign w/ footer submitted with the Selvestra 08/11/2022 Complaint; and Exhibit #5 Being the photo of the exact same sign photographed by your Complainant, shortly after the Selvestra photo, submitted with the 2024 Scheffler Complaint without the footer)

The gravity of these lies by the Heintzeman team are quite significant considering they faced at worse a $100 fine…

Another disclaimer violation complaint was filed by a Matthew Zinda in August 2024 with the OAH that was ultimately dismissed on 08/16/2024 upon jurisdictional grounds (Refiled virtually word for word by your Complainant in 2024). Yet, the purpose of its mention is that the Heintzeman's were again on notice. OAH 21-0320-40204

On 12/04/2024, this Board found Probable Cause once again for yet another disclaimer violation committed by Heintzeman following complaint made by a Jakob Ingalls.

On 01/13/2025, this Board found Probable Cause for a disclaimer violation, filed by your Complainant, despite yet another LeBeau production at lying his client out if it.

Heintzeman was also aware at the time of his continued violations that a commissioner candidate during the 2022 election, one he endorsed, Rosemary Franzen, was held accountable by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for failure to prominently display a disclaimer along with other violations. Mr. Heintzeman and Rosemary Franzen consistently share the same attorney, R. Reid LeBeau II. OAH 71-0325-38723

One of the claims made, the OAH initially dismissed, as Franzen on some signage had disclaimers, but the Complainant argued that they were not prominently displayed.

Complainant appealed and the dismissal was reversed and remanded. *In re the Matter of Troy Kenneth Scheffler*, A22-1797, 2023 (Unpublished). The Court found that "prominently" was material in displaying disclaimers under 211B.04.

This Board's determination that a disclaimer need only be "legible" rather than "prominent" was rejected by the Court of Appeals. Yet, this Board erroneously accepted Heintzeman's disingenuous and certainly not "prominent" bumper stickers as meeting statutory requirements in both the Selvestra complaint (Clearly added after the fact) and, in part, in the former complaint filed by your Complainant.

Fortunately, this Board need not consider "prominence" this time, as this complaint and the campaign sign in question lacks a disclaimer altogether. This

again shows that Keri and Josh Heintzeman were and still are willing to lie under oath as they did in the Selvestra Complaint as it is clear that they don't write or paint disclaimers on their signs that get covered sometimes by footers.

With that said, Complainant would like to again emphasize that Keri Heintzeman along with Mr. LeBeau, claimed that "every" campaign sign they made had a disclaimer "***painted***" on them (Ex. 3), but the bumper stickers were merely used as a temporary fix due to the "footer".

As this Board can see, there is no bumper sticker, scribbled disclaimer, painted disclaimer, or footer in Exhibit 1.

At this point there is no question the Heintzeman's committed perjury with this Board with regard to *Selvestra* and are absolutely indignant and adamant that the law will not dictate their behavior; this Board must refer the matter for criminal charges not only for the continued disclaimer violations, but for perjury.

II. Intentional Failure to Disclose Income in Statement of Economic Interest for a Public Official Minn. Stat. § 10A.09

On 10/15/2024, hearing was held by the OAH with regard to Heintzeman harassing and intimidating a police chief that was supporting your Complainant's 2024 campaign. During this hearing, Heintzman was examined under oath by your Complainant.

Heintzeman was asked if his position as House Representative was his primary source of income, which Heintzeman denied. Complainant asked what

Heintzeman's primary source of income was, which Heintzman arrogantly responded, "Short term rentals".

Heintzeman has filed numerous Statements of Economic Interest with this Board, including in 2024 prior to the aforementioned hearing, and the latest being filed on 01/27/2025. Heintzman failed to disclose any income or real property related to "Short Term Rentals". (Ex. 6)

Instead, he listed "employment" by the Republican Party of Minnesota, something that he failed to list earlier in 2024 and "Up Country Log" a small business that he has publicly claimed only has an income of $15-20k a year and is "a family run tree service and excavator business". https://joshheintzeman.com/

Under information and belief, Mr. Heintzeman is fraudulently running a scheme in which other State politicians are using their "Lodging expense reimbursement" of $2,200/month to launder through Heintzeman when not actually utilizing any legitimate "short term rental" expenses. He owns no rental property in Crow Wing County or Cass County; the most obvious place to own short term rentals due to the area being known for vacations (Brainerd Lakes Area).

So, Occam's Razor, seems to conclude that he is running a rather atrocious fraud scheme using tax money along with his pals in the legislature such as Rep. Ron Kresha who clearly defrauded the Federal Government and its PPP grant program, that despite numerous House Reps knowing this, none have reported it…like with Heintzeman, the documents are right there for anyone to see that he applied claiming more than 17 contracted employees, in two fraudulent loans, 04/28/2020

and 03/12/2021, but in an OAH hearing on 11/24/2020, under oath, claimed he had zero non contracted employees. PPP rules do not allow grant applications for contracted employees. Kresha also lied on his application for utilities as he also stated under oath far less than what he defrauded United States' taxpayers of. Birds of a Feather. (Ex. 18)

It should be emphasized that Heintzeman makes well over $50,000 a year plus per diem, making his "short term rentals" a whopping excess of over $50,000 a year that he has failed to disclose to the Public; with the Republican Party of Minnesota likely paying him over $50,000.

It comes as no surprise that Heintzeman is a bit loose on following the law with disclosing investment properties as this Board can see he is a bit sketchy when it comes to "finagling" his homestead records as he maneuvers them around to different family members and then back into his name. (Ex. 7)

As far as in 2020, Heintzeman was still listing his stocks under "Vanguard Balanced Index I" with a value of over $10,000. Since then, he has not listed any stocks, but most certainly has them as there is no indication that he has liquidated anything. (Ex. 6)

III. Misuse of Campaign Funds Minn. Stat. § 10A.29 and 211B.12 and 211A.07

As one can imagine from a criminal personality like Heintzeman, he is regularly tied up in legal actions, some campaign "related", some not.

In 2024, he faced numerous legal actions and it is important to take them in order to show it matters not if they are allowable campaign expenses or not:

On 06/21/2024, *Matthew Zinda vs. Steve Simon and Deborah Erickson* (A24-1001) was filed. Mr. Heintzeman was not a party and therefore should have an issue claiming it to be a "campaign expense".

Yet, interestingly, Heintzeman hired Reid LeBeau to file a brief. Mr. LeBeau, as this board can see using the Appellate Case Management System, had no more than 2 days to write an optional brief for Heintzeman as an interested party…most likely only one day. This was the extent of Mr. LeBeau's possible services due to the briefing schedule and when Heintzeman was served.
https://macsnc.courts.state.mn.us/ctrack/search/publicCaseSearch.do

Absurdly, Heintzeman reported on 06/17/2024, "Estimate for defense against removal petition" with the CFB claiming, ***$9,000***! (Ex. 8)

$9,000 is not even remotely a "reasonable fee" under attorney ethics and this Board can rest assured that a complaint will be made to the LPRB against Mr. LeBeau and a few of his compatriots. In any event, the case was resolved and the Petition denied on 07/11/2024.

What Heintzeman was obviously doing, with the assistance of LeBeau, was attempting to frontload his "retainer" with LeBeau to cover other non-campaign related cases. Heintzeman knew from the briefing in this said case, that due to him deleting comments critical of him on his official Representative Facebook page, that he was soon being sued under the 1st Amendment; obviously not campaign related.

Heintzeman also knew that he was shortly going to be served a summons in an ongoing defamation lawsuit which he was added as a party on 12/13/2022 and

ultimately served on 08/06/2024. (*Scheffler v. Franzen*, et al. 18-cv-22-3881) Another case that was not campaign related, but still ongoing.

With regard to the Scheffler defamation case, that had nothing to do with Heintzeman's campaign, he still expensed out 08/28/2024 $75 "Court Fees", 09/09/2024 $296 "Court Fees", and 09/25/2024 $75 "Court Fees".

These "fees" are for two motions he filed and a filing fee for the defamation case which was concerning Complainant's campaign, not Heintzeman's… https://publicaccess.courts.state.mn.us/CaseSearch/

We will return to the fraud orchestrated with Reid LeBeau with regard to this case in a moment, just note that Heintzeman, could not have Reid LeBeau represent him in this case because of a conflict of interest. LeBeau had formally represented Defendant Rosemary Franzen and she *Pierringer* settled out of the defamation case. The matter was concerning a County Commissioner campaign between Complainant and Rosemary Franzen.

Heintzeman (through LeBeau) had attorneys from Cross Castle PLLC (Another Republican Party commonly retained firm) make an "appearance" instead of LeBeau to add credibility to Heintzeman's filings as he initially was representing himself, albeit embarrassingly; as we will later cover, LeBeau is still representing Heintzeman in this case behind the scenes; violating LPRB rules.

It should also be noted at this point, Heintzeman has not listed Cross Castle PLLC anywhere in his expenses in 2024…because he of course was front loading with LeBeau and also in his December 9th, 2024, "estimate" to LeBeau that he

revised to zero and then apparently to $20,000 or vice versa. Cross Castle first made their presence known to the Court on 12/10/2024 when attorney Aaron Bostrom filed a Motion to Dismiss for Heintzeman that was clearly written by LeBeau.

It is so patently obvious that this was yet another LeBeau production in the case that Bostrom failed to include a proposed order despite your Complainant making this an issue and the Court allowing Heintzeman a second bite at the apple and worse yet, it is clear that LeBeau wrote it and just asked Cross Castle to file it so Heintzeman would seem more credible with a law firm behind him…the problem is, Bostrom didn't serve it on your Complainant as he clearly expected that LeBeau did since LeBeau wrote it. There was also no proposed order included or Notice of Appearance filed by Bostrom until well after rules required and demand made by your Complainant. This is what happens when one hand doesn't know what the other is doing. (Ex. 9)

Laughably, Bostrom thought it made sense to claim that he thought "Heintzeman" served Heintzeman's Initial Disclosures; which is absurd as he was the listed attorney and that would obviously be highly inappropriate. Also, contradicting himself, Bostrom started his argument saying that "…the Heintzeman's reasonably desired to minimize discovery until the Court reached a decision on their Motion to Dismiss"; tacitly admitting that the Heintzeman's were intentionally not participating in discovery. (Ex. 10)

These people just can't help themselves but endlessly lie in hopes they completely confuse cases or an authority plays along. At this point they keep digging their holes deeper.

On 01/07/2025, when Complainant discovered Bostrom and Heintzeman failed to serve him, he responded and called out the LeBeau conflict and Bostrom's malfeasance as it was abundantly obvious that LeBeau, Bostrom, and Heintzeman were all wrapped up in a conspiracy to misuse campaign funds; this was never rebutted by Bostrom. (Ex. 11, P.1; 5-8)

Now that the jig was up this Board can see that Heintzeman's "estimate" of $9000 on 06/17/2024 to LeBeau's former firm, Jacobson, Magnuson, Anderson & Halloran PC, was amended to ZERO with regard to the Zinda case which they were hoping to defraud their campaign supporters, another mystery zero or $20,000 was added under LeBeau's firm, and a kickback from the HRCC for legal fees floated in on 12/31/2024 **despite HRCC records not showing it**. (Ex. 17)

Of course, LeBeau in desperation will make some excuse up for him and Heintzeman, but the reality is that Heintzeman, if claiming that ZERO campaign contributions were used for the Zinda case by zeroing out the $9000, he otherwise defrauded his supporters on 06/24/2024 where he falsely accused your Complainant of being Party to the Zinda case. As this Board can see, Heintzeman, despite being able to give the HRCC over $20,000 in 2024, was grifting and otherwise defrauding his supporters for legal expenses (Despite being able to buy a committee seat with over $20,000 to the HRCC in just 2024)…and then defrauding the State at large by

telling anyone that donates to the cause can have "$75 refundable under the political contribution refund program". (Ex. 12)

Asking for donations for a specific purpose and promising State reimbursement for legal expenses that he paid ZERO towards in 2024 is fraud. Complainant will cover it further, but after zeroing out the $9000, it would legally make it impossible for Heintzeman to pay LeBeau ANY monies to that point as Minn. Stat. 211A.07 would prohibit it.

Heintzeman shouldn't be on the House floor, he should be in prison along with LeBeau and Bostrom who have been actively assisting in all this fraud.

To further show that Heintzeman fully frontloaded with the $9000 is that upon Zinda filing with the OAH against Heintzeman for an actual campaign related issue, namely yet another disclaimer violation, Heintzeman never claimed it as a campaign expense; obviously because he had already frontloaded it with LeBeau.

Zinda filed the complaint with the OAH on **08/05/2024**. (OAH 21-0320-40204) After the Complaint was dismissed based upon jurisdictional grounds, LeBeau tried to extort Zinda out of $1,750 in attorney fees USING THE LIES IN THE SELVESTRA CASE! The judge laughed LeBeau out of his attorney fees attempt and fully denied them; the footnote on page 2 is hilarious. (Ex. 13)

The fact remains, that despite the matter being clearly campaign related, Heintzeman did not itemize expense it, <u>as required</u>, because he had already frontloaded with LeBeau and if he was seeking attorney fees. However, again, this case was resolved and allegedly unpaid triggering 211A.07.

On **12/09/2024**, Heintzeman again listed an "estimate" for legal expenses, with LeBeau's new firm, Chalmers, Adams, Backer, & Kaufman LLC, but after your Complainant called out his and mainly LeBeau's fraud schemes, he quickly zeroed that expense out too; according to online records, but somehow in Ex. 8, it lists $20,000 for estimated legal expenses. If the expense was devised on **12/09/2024**, it was obviously related to the *Scheffler v Franzen, et al.* Defamation case against Heintzeman as he was originally representing himself until LeBeau started ghost writing and Cross Castle filed the Memorandum on **12/10/2024**…again, exactly why the original "estimate" on **12/09/2024** was made to LeBeau's firm, showing zero online, but $20,000 in his Schedule B1, Chalmers Adams Backer & Kaufman LLC---NOT Cross Castle. Obviously LeBeau is handling this case and having Bostrom file in an unethical gambit to avoid professional rules as a *Pierringer* arrangement for one of his clients would establish a blatant conflict for another as such a settlement would necessarily require him to assign more or less blame for the damages to one or the other client at trial.

Then after the conflict and the fraud was pointed out to the Court by your Complainant on **01/07/2025**, Heintzeman retroactively formulated the kickback of $6,000 from the HRCC (**That their records do not show ANY legal expense or payment made to Heintzeman on 12/31/2024 or at any other time**) that he chairs by placing it on his 2024 Final Report of Receipts and Expenditures he filed **late January early February 2025**; which almost guaranteed, he will now claim was for

Cross Castle to cover that fraud on the Court; but again, did the funds even come from the HRCC?? You would think for the volume and consistency of fraud with these guys, they would be better at covering their trail.

Then there was the *Zinda v Heintzeman* case 18-cv-24-2821 filed on **08/08/2024** and dismissed **01/27/2025**, Heintzeman was deleting Zinda's comments on his official legislative Facebook page under a post of Heintzeman's that Josh ironically was claiming that "Free speech is the bedrock of America" and badmouthing Attorney General Keith Ellison for advocating for social media censorship; you can't make this stuff up. (Ex. 14) After discovering he was going to be sued, Heintzeman deleted his entire Facebook page to destroy the evidence and made a new one… Apparently, Heintzeman is now estimating in this case as how else would he be now expecting ***$20,000*** more in attorney fees? Ellison should have the last laugh by prosecuting Heintzeman himself.

Neither the Ingalls 2024 disclaimer complaint nor your Complainant's earlier 2024 disclaimer complaint, both clearly campaign related and both with LeBeau, were expensed out in itemized detail, as required by law, by Heintzeman, because, of course, Heintzeman had frontloaded them already with LeBeau.

Obviously, LeBeau didn't wait months on end to get paid for any of these cases NOR COULD HE HAVE PER STATUTE 211A.07. Again, LeBeau already tried to swindle Zinda out of attorney fees on **11/27/2024** with his OAH filing so we know when that case was resolved and for how much and that it was *clearly* campaign related.

The problem is that Complainant exposed Heintzeman's and LeBeau's fraud scheme and they quickly started zeroing out his claimed expenses and lo and behold, the HRCC, which Heintzeman sits on the Board of, floated in a $6,000 "In Kind Legal Fee" payment on **12/31/2024** which again the HRCC shows no record of! (Ex. 8)

Hallelujah! It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that Heintzeman, LeBeau, and Bostrom are desperate to comingle funds, earmark them, and hide them through the HRCC to cover for Cross Castle and the rest of the fraud as the HRCC has paid both law firms tens of thousands over the years and they thought could easily cover the paper trail. HEINTZEMAN IS THE CHAIR OF THE HRCC STEERING COMMITTEE.

To nobody's surprise reading thus far, the HRCC didn't list this expense on **12/31/2024**… Apparently, Josh hasn't got around to having them cook their books; rest assured, the moment those fraudsters read this Complaint, they will.

As your Complainant stated in his Introduction, the HRCC entirely exists for Republican House Members to launder money. Why don't they properly list the expense? Because as Complainant stated, they likely unlawfully comingled it into general payments made to Cross Castle and Chalmers, Adams, Backer, & Kaufman; against LPRB rules…or maybe didn't list it at all because they never paid it themselves.

211A.07 CLEARLY states that this idea of LeBeau's and Heintzeman's to kick around attorney fees is UNLAWFUL as statute requires Heintzeman to have

paid his attorney bills, like the extortion hustle for $1,750 against Zinda, paid within "60 days". Instead, Team Heintzeman apparently feels that he can kick the can into 2025…

The Zinda Supreme Court case and his OAH case resolved well over 60 days before the HRCC kickback to whatever case Heintzeman, LeBeau and Bostrom will conveniently pretend is for. Heintzeman "estimated" that case for $9,000 on 06/17/2024. So, this case was obviously intended to be paid by the public…

Taking into account 211A.07, the only cases Heintzeman is currently in are two CFB Disclaimer complaints that have already passed Probable Cause and a defamation suit. Taking into account the defamation case isn't even campaign related, how on earth does he estimate $20,000 for final wrap up in 2025 for legal expenses on two campaign disclaimer violations??

How any of this is even allowable expenses is fully disputed and contested by your Complainant. There was no mistake made by Heintzeman with any of these cases short of maybe being ignorant of his own party name in the original Zinda Petition with the Supreme Court.

It is unfair to the Public and wholly unethical to allow Heintzeman to continue intentionally defying disclaimer law and then dump responsibility off on the taxpayers and contributors to pay for it. Also, the Defamation and 1st Amendment cases have absolutely nothing to do with his campaign. So, he must surely be held to task for unlawfully expensing those.

This Board needs to also consider with this quandary if it indeed allowed any of these "legal expenses" to be expensed, that if a jury award was made to the Plaintiffs in these cases, if Heintzeman could use campaign funds from his committee coffers and the HRCC to pay it, effectively dumping those damage awards onto the public.

If, as law would demand, Heintzeman is prosecuted for the numerous, clearly established crimes in this complaint, should he be able to use his campaign funds to pay his defense costs? His Fines? If not, then he shouldn't be able to expense a dime for responding to the numerous complaints against him for intentional conduct.

Complainant and the Public expects a full investigation by this Board and subsequent prosecution.

IV. Other Fraud from Heintzeman and the HRCC with Regard to Earmarked Funds Minn. Stat. § 10A.16 and Possible Conflict of Interest 10A.07 (Rumor has it the HRCC is Statutorily Regulated)

In 2021-2022, Heintzeman stood in front of the Crow Wing County Republicans (BPOU) and shilled for the HRCC. He claimed that it was an amazing organization and that all their contributions were only going to be earmarked for supporting specific "endorsed Republican Candidates" with priority on close races; they of course weren't.

Heintzeman, being on the HRCC Board, bragged that he would donate a significant amount of "his" campaign funds to the HRCC to show how confident he was in the organization and to build trust with the BPOU. In 2021-2022, Heintzeman donated $15,550 to the HRCC.

What Heintzeman did not tell the BPOU is that he intended and did in fact have the HRCC, which again he is on the Board of, pay his son, Kenneth Heintzeman, $15,929.92…which included an astronomical amount in "Mileage" of $3,965.50. These funds were also apparently for "Employee Expenses" on 08/30/2022-11/29/2022 paid biweekly. (Ex. 15)

Apparently, the public is to believe that Kenneth while not only working for Pete Stauber, but also assisting Josh and his campaign at regular parades and events in Crow Wing County, also had enough time to earn nearly $16,000 in a mere 3 months. We are also to believe that at a 2022 mileage reimbursement rate of 62.5 cents per mile that Kenneth drove 6,344.8 miles for the HRCC… Paid on 11/01/2022 $1,435.50, 11/14/2022 $706.50, 11/15/2022 $937.50, and 11/28/2022 $886.00. Nobody else even came close to these mileage expenses.

Unless Kenneth was turning in expense reports as oddly as his father, two expenses were back-to-back. So, in a single day, Kenneth allegedly drove *exactly* 1500 miles ($937.50); an awfully convenient number…a distance equivalent of driving from the northern border of Minnesota to the southern, back and forth, over two times and would need to be driven the entire time at 65 mph for 24 hours straight!

Could Kenneth been helping his father backstab and lie about another sitting Republican House Member at the time his father was caught lying on video in Shakopee? Maybe, but the numbers still don't jive and were obviously earmarked. Also, this does not explain how Kenneth was working at the same time for Stauber

in CD 8. This is exactly why the Public frowns on nepotism to this absurd extent. https://alphanews.org/video-legislator-door-knocks-rep-mortensens-home-tells-wife-to-vote-for-his-opponent/

In any event, not only did Heintzeman fraudulently represent HRCC funding in that non-endorsed candidates were receiving funds, but that he was donating funds he clearly had already earmarked for his son.

It's this Board's job to investigate the insanity involved with the legal fee fiasco.

When will the fraud end? Who knows? Apparently, he has already earmarked LeBeau $20,000 as of another "estimate" for legal expenses of $20,000 he listed on 12/09/2024. Maybe he anticipates needing a defense for fraud and embezzlement.

V. Unlawful Appropriation and Comingling for Personal Use of Campaign Funds and Failure to Describe and Itemize Expenses and Disbursements Minn. § Stat. 211A.02, Subd.2

Since 2016, Heintzeman has been cutting himself checks from campaign funds. Initially, in 2016 he reimbursed himself $800.28 for an entire year for mileage (Making what Kenneth charged laughable). 2016 was legit, but it didn't take long for Heintzeman to catch on to the political grift.

Starting in 2018, he began paying himself "Loan Payments" which amounted to $5,446.72 that year. However, there is no evidence of any contribution made as a loan given despite also expensing out $1,881.82 in mileage and managing to also give $20,000 to the HRCC… He has plenty of cash in his committee account to not

employ "loans". This is a clear means of unnecessary concealment and otherwise could be used to benefit himself financially if funneling campaign expenditures through personal credit cards with rewards attached, etc. This is unlawful to use campaign funds for profit.

This practice, aka skimming, has persisted to 2024 where he made "Loan Payments" in the amount of $5,000 structured into five payments conveniently made on the same day. What the loan was ever for, is not reported. He also managed to give the HRCC $20,200…and according to the CFB website, expensed mileage in the amount of zero dollars, but listed on 12/31/2024 in his year end an "unpaid" amount of $804. (Ex. 8)

In total, despite seeing absolutely no "loan contribution", Heintzeman has paid himself over the years $17,251.86 for God knows what as he doesn't say. Is he claiming a $75 reimbursement from the state from his "contributions"?

Complainant has never seen such sketchy and suspect campaign reporting, obvious grift, and money laundering. This Board needs to order a thorough investigation into Heintzeman's campaign fund practices and as the Board has attorneys, they need to report Bostrom and LeBeau to the LPRB according to rules.

Conclusion

Heintzeman has been in office for over 12 years; he knows he is deliberately breaking the law as to not adjust his homemade signs to be legally compliant and prior violations only "corrects" his deficiencies in an effort to lie to avoid responsibility to the laws he writes; now he doesn't bother at all.

He clearly knows the disclosure laws exist and how they function and the same is in a packet distributed by the county to each candidate upon filing for office. (Minn. Stat. 211B.14) Heintzeman's actions are deliberate and with intentional disregard to statute out of convenience to himself rather than respect for the law.

His financial wizardry is appalling and clearly criminal. Worse yet, he is employing multiple attorneys who are being rewarded with financial gain to assist in his fraud. All the while, he is hiding his primary source of income from the public; Occam's Razor would conclude it is due to yet another fraud using tax funds.

This Board must investigate and severely penalize Mr. Heintzeman as his criminal mind is clearly on display with this Complaint and has clearly exhibited a pattern that will ensure his continued malfeasance if left unabated and by continually lying to this Board shows not even a scintilla of evidence of remorse.

Oath

I, Troy Scheffler, under penalty of perjury, swear or affirm that the statements I have made in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed within Crow Wing County, MN

02/11/2025

Troy Scheffler
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Merrifield, MN 56465
763-225-7702
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EXHIBIT 3

OAH 21-0320-40204

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Matthew Eric Zinda,

Complainant,

v.

Joshua Heintzeman,

Respondent.

ORDER DENYING RESPONDENT'S MOTION

This matter came before Administrative Law Judge Kimberly Middendorf upon a motion for attorney fees pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 211B.36 (Motion).

Matthew Eric Zinda (Complainant) appeared on his own behalf, without legal counsel. Reid LeBeau, Chalmers, Adams, Backer & Kaufman, LLC, appeared on behalf of Joshua Heintzeman (Respondent).

On August 8, 2024, Matthew Eric Zinda (Complainant) filed a Fair Campaign Practices complaint (Complaint) with the Office of Administrative Hearings. Although Complainant had established a prima facie violation of Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, the Judge granted Respondent's Motion to Dismiss on August 16, 2024, agreeing with Respondent that the alleged violations of Minn. Stat. § 211B.04 were within the jurisdiction of the Campaign Finance Board rather than the Office of Administrative Hearings.[1] The Judge did not determine that the Complaint was frivolous.[2]

On August 23, 2024, Respondent filed the Motion, seeking an award of attorney fees of $1750.[3] Complainant filed a response opposing the Motion on August 30, 2024.[4] Minn. Stat. § 211B.36, subd. 3, permits an award of attorney fees if a complaint is determined to be frivolous. A judge may order a complainant to pay "the respondent's reasonable attorney fees and to pay the costs of the office in the proceeding in which the complaint was dismissed."[5] Respondent's Motion defines a frivolous claim as "one that is without any reasonable basis in law or equity and could not be supported by a good faith argument for a modification or reversal of existing law."[6] Respondent does not detail how

[1] Order of Dismissal (Aug. 16, 2024).
[2] *Id.*
[3] *See* Motion.
[4] Response in Opposition to Motion for Attorney Fees (Response) (Aug. 30, 2024).
[5] Minn. Stat. § 211B.36, subd. 3 (2024).
[6] Motion (quoting *Maddox v. Department of Human Services*, 400 N.W.2d 136, 139 (Minn. Ct. App. 1987)).

the claimed attorney fees were expended and as a result has given the Judge no basis to determine those fees were reasonably incurred.[7]

In support of the Motion, Respondent points to the fact that the Complaint addresses signs that were previously considered in a case decided in 2022 by the Campaign Finance Board.[8] However, the Motion shows that the 2022 complaint was filed by someone other than Complainant. Respondent offers no basis to impute a prior complainant's knowledge to Complainant and provides no information to verify these are the same signs.[9] Indeed, this Complaint appears to address additional signage not involved in that prior case.[10] The Complainant asserts that his filing with the Office of Administrative Hearings rather than the Campaign Finance Board was a good faith error.[11] The mere existence of the prior decision is insufficient to render the Complaint in this matter frivolous.

Respondent has not established that the Complaint was frivolous, that the attorney fees he incurred were reasonable, or that an award is a reasonable exercise of discretion.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Respondent's Motion is **DENIED**.

Dated: November 27, 2024

KIMBERLY MIDDENDORF
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE

Under Minn. Stat. § 211B.36, subd. 5 (2024), this Order is the final decision in this matter and a party aggrieved by this decision may seek judicial review as provided in Minn. Stat. §§ 14.63-.69 (2024).

[7] *See* Motion at Exhibit (Ex.) D. Interestingly, Respondent's claim that he was forced to obtain counsel to defend himself seems somewhat at odds with his claim that Complainant, a pro se party, should have known the Office of Administrative Hearings lacked jurisdiction.
[8] Motion at 3-4.
[9] Motion at Ex. C.
[10] *Compare* Complaint at 2 *with* Motion at Ex. A.
[11] Response at 7-8.

EXHIBIT 4

MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

PO Box 64620
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0620
mn.gov/oah

PH (651) 361-7900

November 13, 2024

VIA EMAIL ONLY
Troy Kenneth Scheffler
26359 Shandy Tr
Merrifield, MN 56465
troyscheffler@gmail.com

VIA EMAIL ONLY
Rondell Reid LeBeau, II
Chalmers, Adams, Backer, and
Kaufman, LLC
525 Park Ste 255
Saint Paul, MN 55103
rlebeau@chalmersadams.com

Re: ***Troy Kenneth Scheffler, Complainant, vs. Joshua Heintzeman, Respondent.***
OAH 25-0320-40310

Dear Parties:

You are hereby advised that a recording of a portion of the October 15, 2024 hearing in this matter is unavailable due to technological failure or inadvertence and is therefore unable to be transcribed. The recording that is available is being provided to the parties via email under separate cover. The Office of Administrative Hearings considers the portion of the hearing for which no recording is available to be a part of proceedings for which no report was made or for which a transcript is unavailable under Minnesota Rule of Civil Appellate Procedure 110.03.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (651) 361-7857, nichole.sletten@state.mn.us, or via facsimile at (651) 539-0310.

Sincerely,

Nichole Sletten

NICHOLE SLETTEN
Legal Assistant

EXHIBIT 5

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
4/7/2025 12:57 PM

STATE OF MINNESOTA **DISTRICT COURT**

COUNTY OF CROW WING **NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Matthew Eric Zinda, Plaintiff, vs. Joshua Heintzeman, Defendant.	Court File No. 18-CV-24-2821 **DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR JUDGEMENT FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES**

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF CROW WING)

I, R. Reid LeBeau II, declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Minnesota and am the attorney of record for Defendant Joshua Heintzeman in the above-captioned matter.

2. I submit this Declaration in support of Defendant's Motion for Judgment of Attorneys' Fees pursuant to the Court's Order dated January 27, 2025.

3. I have been licensed to practice law in the State of Minnesota since 2005 and have extensive experience in civil litigation matters.

4. My hourly rate for legal services in this matter is $350 per hour, which is reasonable and comparable to rates charged by attorneys of similar experience in the Crow Wing County area.

5. I have maintained contemporaneous time records of all legal services performed in connection with this case.

6. In summary, my firm and I performed 52.95 hours of legal work in this matter.

7. The total attorneys' fees incurred in this matter amount to $18,532.50 (52.95 hours at $350 per hour). Additionally, my client incurred $595.00 in court costs in this matter.

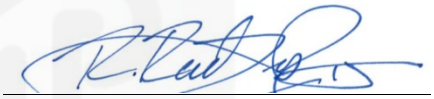
Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
4/7/2025 12:57 PM

8. These fees and costs were necessarily incurred in defending against Plaintiff's claims, which the Court dismissed with prejudice after finding they lacked merit as a matter of law.

9. The fees and costs requested are reasonable and necessary considering the time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly.

FURTHER YOUR DECLARANT SAYETH NOT.

Dated: April 7, 2025



R. Reid LeBeau II (MN# 347504)
Chalmers, Adams, Backer, and Kaufman
525 Park St. Suite 255
St. Paul, MN 55103
(651) 397-0089
rlebeau@chalmersadams.com

Attorney for Defendant

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXHIBIT 6

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

MINNESOTA COURT RECORDS ONLINE (MCRO)

Case Details (Register of Actions)

Search executed on 05/23/2025 08:11 PM

Case Information

Case Number: 18-CV-22-3881
Case Title: Troy Kenneth Scheffler vs Rosemary R. Franzen, Joshua M Heintzeman, Keri E Heintzeman, Lowell A Smith
Case Type: Civil Other/Misc.
Date Filed: 10/21/2022
Case Location: Crow Wing County
Judicial Officer: Aanes, Patricia A.
Case Status: Open

Party Information

Plaintiff
Scheffler, Troy Kenneth
Merrifield, MN 56465

Self-Represented Litigant

Defendant
Franzen, Rosemary R.
Baxter, MN 56425

Attorneys Inactive
- LEBEAU, RONDELL REID, II
- PACHITO, BENJAMIN NASHOBA

Defendant
Heintzeman, Joshua M
Nisswa, MN 56468

Attorneys Active
- **BOSTROM, AARON MARK - Lead Attorney**
- DIEHL, SAMUEL WALTER
- NISKA, HARRY NATHANAEL

Attorneys Inactive
- NISKA, HARRY NATHANAEL

Self-Represented Litigant - Inactive

Defendant
Heintzeman, Keri E
nisswa, MN 56468

Attorneys Active
- **BOSTROM, AARON MARK - Lead Attorney**
- DIEHL, SAMUEL WALTER
- NISKA, HARRY NATHANAEL

Attorneys Inactive
- NISKA, HARRY NATHANAEL

Self-Represented Litigant - Inactive

Defendant
Smith, Lowell A
Baxter, MN 56425

Self-Represented Litigant

Case Assignments

Current Case Assignment

Judicial Assignment: Aanes, Patricia A.
Date of Assignment: 01/06/2023

Prior Case Assignments

Judicial Assignment: Halverson, Charles D.
Date of Assignment: 12/22/2022
Reassignment Reason: Reassigned

Judicial Assignment: DeMay, Kristine R.
Date of Assignment: 12/22/2022
Reassignment Reason: Judicial Officer Recused

Judicial Assignment: Askegaard, Erik J
Date of Assignment: 12/22/2022
Reassignment Reason: Judicial Officer Recused

Judicial Assignment: Mallie, Matthew
Date of Assignment: 10/21/2022
Reassignment Reason: Judicial Officer Recused

Case Events

05/12/2025 Proof of Service

02/16/2023 **02:45 PM**	Motion Hearing Judicial Officer: Askegaard, Erik J Location: Courtroom 6 Cancelled; Other
12/19/2022 **09:45 AM**	Scheduling Conference Judicial Officer: Mallie, Matthew Location: Courtroom 3 Cancelled; Other

Dispositions

11/02/2023

Dismissed - not all parties

Party:
Party Names: Franzen, Rosemary R.

Financial Information

Plaintiff - Scheffler, Troy Kenneth

Fines and Fees	$	445.00
Total Payments and Credits	- $	445.00
Current Balance as of 05/23/2025	**$**	**0.00**

Transaction Details

12/18/2023	Credit-IFP/Fee Waiver		- $	75.00
12/18/2023	Charge		$	75.00
12/18/2023	Credit-IFP/Fee Waiver		- $	75.00
12/18/2023	Charge		$	75.00
12/18/2023	Credit-IFP/Fee Waiver		- $	295.00
12/18/2023	Charge		$	295.00

Defendant - Franzen, Rosemary R.

Fines and Fees	$	520.00
Total Payments and Credits	- $	520.00
Current Balance as of 05/23/2025	**$**	**0.00**

Transaction Details

08/15/2023	E-File Electronic Payment	Receipt # EF18-2023-01795	- $	75.00
08/15/2023	Charge		$	75.00

06/05/2023	E-File Electronic Payment	Receipt # EF18-2023-01255	- $	75.00
06/05/2023	Charge		$	75.00
12/19/2022	E-File Electronic Payment	Receipt # EF18-2022-02846	- $	75.00
12/19/2022	Charge		$	75.00
10/21/2022	E-File Electronic Payment	Receipt # EF18-2022-02408	- $	295.00
10/21/2022	Charge		$	295.00

Defendant - Heintzeman, Joshua M

Fines and Fees	$	445.00
Total Payments and Credits	- $	445.00
Current Balance as of 05/23/2025	**$**	**0.00**

Transaction Details

09/24/2024	Counter Payment	Receipt # 0018-2024-02298	- $	75.00
09/23/2024	Charge		$	75.00
09/03/2024	Phone Payment	Receipt # 0018-2024-02101	- $	295.00
09/03/2024	Charge		$	295.00
08/26/2024	Counter Payment	Receipt # 0018-2024-02030	- $	75.00
08/26/2024	Charge		$	75.00

Defendant - Smith, Lowell A

Fines and Fees	$	370.00
Total Payments and Credits	- $	370.00
Current Balance as of 05/23/2025	**$**	**0.00**

Transaction Details

09/11/2024	Counter Payment	Receipt # 0018-2024-02198	- $	75.00
09/11/2024	Charge		$	75.00
11/01/2023	Phone Payment	Receipt # 0018-2023-02795	- $	295.00
11/01/2023	Charge		$	295.00

Search executed on 05/23/2025 08:11 PM

EXHIBIT 7

Case Details (Register of Actions)

Search executed on 05/15/2025 01:57 AM

Upcoming Hearing:
Motion Hearing on **06/09/2025** at **10:00 AM**

Case Information

Case Number: 18-CV-24-2821
Case Title: MATTHEW ERIC ZINDA vs Joshua Heintzeman
Case Type: Personal Injury
Date Filed: **08/08/2024**
Case Location: Crow Wing County
Judicial Officer: DeMay, Kristine R.
Case Status: Closed

Party Information

Plaintiff
ZINDA, MATTHEW ERIC
DOB: 06/30/1979
Brainerd, MN 56401

Self-Represented Litigant

Defendant
Heintzeman, Joshua
DOB: 12/05/1977
Nisswa, MN 56468

Self-Represented Litigant
Attorneys Active
- **LEBEAU, RONDELL REID, II - Lead Attorney**

Case Assignments

Current Case Assignment

Judicial Assignment: DeMay, Kristine R.
Date of Assignment: 08/27/2024

Prior Case Assignment

Judicial Assignment: Aanes, Patricia A.
Date of Assignment: 08/08/2024
Reassignment Reason: Judicial Officer Removed

Case Events

05/14/2025	Appellate Notice of Case Filing Index #102	*1 page*
05/12/2025	Notice of Filing of Order Party: Plaintiff ZINDA, MATTHEW ERIC Index #101	*1 page*
05/12/2025	Order Denying Fee Waiver Party: Plaintiff ZINDA, MATTHEW ERIC Index #100	*3 pages*
05/08/2025	Notice of Hearing Party: Attorney LEBEAU, RONDELL REID, II; Plaintiff ZINDA, MATTHEW ERIC Index #99	*1 page*
05/07/2025	Appellate Court Order Index #98	*2 pages*
05/06/2025	Appellate Court Order Index #97	*2 pages*
05/05/2025	Affidavit to Request Fee Waiver Party: Plaintiff ZINDA, MATTHEW ERIC	

	Index #4	*1 page*
08/08/2024	Complaint-Civil Index #3	*14 pages*
08/08/2024	Summons Index #2	*2 pages*
08/08/2024	Affidavit to Request Fee Waiver Party: Plaintiff ZINDA, MATTHEW ERIC Index #1	

Hearings

Upcoming Hearings

06/09/2025
10:00 AM

Motion Hearing
Judicial Officer: DeMay, Kristine R.

Previous Hearings

03/31/2025
01:30 PM

Motion Hearing
Judicial Officer: DeMay, Kristine R.
Location: Courtroom 2

Date Updated: 03/27/2025
Reset by Court to 03/31/2025 01:30 PM - Other

Original Hearing Date: 03/27/2025 04:00 PM

Result: Held On the Record

10/29/2024
01:30 PM

Motion Hearing
Judicial Officer: DeMay, Kristine R.
Location: Courtroom 6

Date Updated: 10/04/2024
Reset by Court to 10/29/2024 01:30 PM - Judge Unavailable

Original Hearing Date: 10/07/2024 04:00 PM

Result: Held On the Record

09/30/2024 **04:00 PM**	Motion Hearing Judicial Officer: DeMay, Kristine R. Location: Courtroom 3 Cancelled; Other

Dispositions

01/27/2025	**Dismissal With Prejudice - Judgment** Judicial Officer: DeMay, Kristine R.

Financial Information

Plaintiff - ZINDA, MATTHEW ERIC

Fines and Fees	$	295.00
Total Payments and Credits	- $	295.00
Current Balance as of 05/15/2025	**$**	**0.00**

Transaction Details

09/03/2024	Credit-IFP/Fee Waiver	- $	295.00
09/03/2024	Charge	$	295.00

Defendant - Heintzeman, Joshua

Fines and Fees	$	670.00
Total Payments and Credits	- $	670.00
Current Balance as of 05/15/2025	**$**	**0.00**

Transaction Details

04/07/2025	E-File Electronic Payment	Receipt # EF18-2025-01018	- $	75.00
04/07/2025	Charge		$	75.00
02/28/2025	E-File Electronic Payment	Receipt # EF18-2025-00587	- $	75.00
02/28/2025	Charge		$	75.00
10/02/2024	E-File Electronic Payment	Receipt # EF18-2024-02524	- $	75.00
10/02/2024	Charge		$	75.00
08/29/2024	E-File Electronic Payment	Receipt # EF18-2024-02152	- $	445.00
08/29/2024	Charge		$	445.00

Search executed on 05/15/2025 01:57 AM

EXHIBIT 8
Video of David Asp Acknowledging his Relationship with LeBeau (Placeholder)

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF TROY SCHEFFLER REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA HEINTZEMAN AND THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JOSH HEINTZEMAN

On July 21, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Troy Scheffler regarding Representative Joshua Heintzeman, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 6B. The Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman is the principal campaign committee of Representative Heintzeman.[1]

The complaint states "I reallege and reincorporate the 2/11/2025 Complaint" and includes a copy of that complaint.[2] The current complaint references and objects to a probable cause determination that the Board issued on April 8, 2025, regarding the complaint filed in February 2025.[3] The current complaint also references and objects to the decision to close a staff review prompted by the complaint filed in February 2025, which is documented within a memorandum issued by the Board's executive director on May 9, 2025.[4] The complaint cites Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34, and 211B.12, and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900.

The complaint expresses disagreement with the decision to close the staff review on the basis that an amended 2024 year-end report of receipts and expenditures that the Heintzeman committee filed with the Board on May 5, 2025, remedied any violation of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3. The complainant appears to believe that because the Heintzeman committee retained legal counsel to represent the committee and Representative Heintzeman, and defend against multiple complaints filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) and the Board, the Heintzeman committee was required to include separate noncampaign disbursements for each matter within its campaign finance reports covering 2024.

The complaint argues that a $10,000 noncampaign disbursement for legal services related to a First Amendment lawsuit involving Representative Heintzeman amounts to "fraud and extortion". The complaint argues that the amount is too high, while simultaneously stating that Representative Heintzeman sought an award of $18,532.50 in attorneys' fees in that lawsuit.

The complaint notes that the amended 2024 year-end report that the Heintzeman committee filed with the Board on May 5, 2025, referenced the wrong case in explaining the purpose of an in-kind noncampaign disbursement resulting from an in-kind contribution made by a party unit, the HRCC. That error was corrected when the Heintzeman committee filed another amended 2024-year-end report on May 22, 2025.

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[1] cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/viewers/campaign-finance/candidates/17782/
[2] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Complaint.pdf
[3] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Probable_Cause_Determination.pdf
[4] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Closing_Memo.pdf

The complaint also alleges that when the Heintzeman committee filed amended 2024 year-end reports, it referenced the wrong case in explaining the purpose of three noncampaign disbursements totaling $445 paid to the district court in Crow Wing County. The complaint alleges that the fees were related to a defamation lawsuit captioned *Scheffler v. Franzen, et al.*, 18-CV-22-3881, rather than a First Amendment lawsuit captioned *Zinda v. Heintzeman*, 18-CV-24-2821. The complaint asserts that "This is no doubt a coverup to avoid Minn. Stat 211B.12 and 10A.34."

The remainder of the complaint is largely comprised of *ad hominem* attacks, criticism of the Board and various other entities, and argument regarding issues over which the Board lacks jurisdiction.

Determination

Reporting, noncampaign disbursements, and false certification

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3, paragraph (m), requires campaign finance reports filed with the Board to include:

> the name, address, and registration number if registered with the board of each individual or association to whom noncampaign disbursements have been made that aggregate in excess of $200 within the year by or on behalf of the reporting entity and the amount, date, and purpose of each noncampaign disbursement, including an explanation of how the expenditure was used.

Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, provides that "Itemization of an expense which is classified as a noncampaign disbursement must include sufficient information to justify the classification."

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.025, subdivision 2, provides that "An individual shall not sign and certify to be true a report or statement knowing it contains false information or knowing it omits required information." Minnesota Statutes section 10A.025, subdivision 4, provides that "Material changes in information previously submitted and corrections to a report or statement must be reported in writing to the board within ten days following the date of the event prompting the change or the date upon which the person filing became aware of the inaccuracy."

All but one of the reporting issues raised in the complaint have already been considered by the Board. The complaint asserts that the Heintzeman committee referenced the wrong case in explaining the purpose of three noncampaign disbursements totaling $445 paid to the district court in Crow Wing County. As explained in more detail below, that assertion appears to be correct. Board staff will notify the Heintzeman committee, and if the assertion is correct, the Heintzeman committee will be required to file another amended 2024 year-end report to correct that error pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.025, subdivision 4.

The complaint does not provide a basis to believe that the Heintzeman committee's treasurer, Senator Keri Heintzeman, knowingly filed a false report. As stated within the probable cause determination issued on April 8, 2025, Senator Heintzeman signed a sworn affidavit on April 1, 2025, stating that "The court fees paid to Crow Wing County Court Administration were for case# 18-CV-22-38811." The affidavit was filed with the Board in response to the complaint Mr. Scheffler filed in February 2025. In this case, based on the context and evidence available, the filing of conflicting documents with the Board indicates an error, not malfeasance. Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.025, subdivision 2.

Despite appearing to reference the wrong case with respect to $445 in noncampaign disbursements, the Heintzeman committee's amended 2024 year-end report includes sufficient information to justify the classification of those disbursements as noncampaign disbursements, and accurately identifies the vendor that was paid and the general purpose of the disbursements, namely court fees. Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, or Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3.

Use of money collected for political purposes and section 10A.34

The complaint argues that the alleged reference to the wrong case is "a coverup to avoid Minn. Stat 211B.12 and 10A.34." Minnesota Statutes section 10A.34 generally describes the legal remedies available when enforcing Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A. It is not possible for the Heintzeman committee or Representative Heintzeman to violate that statute because it does not govern the conduct of any entities other than the Board, county attorneys, and the judiciary. The Board previously determined that the Heintzeman committee was permitted to use campaign funds to pay for legal services related to the defamation lawsuit captioned *Scheffler v. Franzen, et al.*, 18-CV-22-3881, and the First Amendment lawsuit captioned *Zinda v. Heintzeman*, 18-CV-24-2821, consistent with Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.12 and 10A.01, subdivision 26, paragraph (a), clause (1). Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.34 or 211B.12.

Previously dismissed allegations

To the extent that the complaint reasserts allegations that were dismissed within the prima facie determination issued on February 21, 2025,[5] including alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.18 and 211B.12, those allegations are again dismissed for the reasons stated therein. To the extent that the current complaint reasserts allegations that were dismissed within the probable cause determination issued on April 8, 2025, including alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12, those allegations are again dismissed for the reasons stated therein. To the extent that the current complaint alleges violations of Minnesota

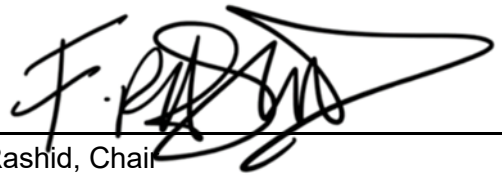
[5] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Prima_Facie_Determination.pdf

Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, that were determined to have been remedied by the filing of an amended 2024 year-end report within the memorandum issued on May 9, 2025, those allegations are dismissed for the reasons stated therein.

Conclusion

A person aggrieved by a decision of the Board regarding a complaint is generally entitled to judicial review under Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. The complainant has sought judicial review of decisions regarding the complaint filed with the Board in February 2025.[6] When a complainant disagrees with determinations made by the Board and has standing to seek judicial review, the proper forum for that review is the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, this prima facie determination is made by a single Board member and not by any vote of the entire Board. The complaint is dismissed without prejudice.



Date: July 29, 2025

Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

[6] The Court of Appeals case number is A25-0853.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD
AUGUST 2025

ACTIVE FILES

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Filing Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
	African Community Economic Development/Abdulkadir Y. Hussein, CEO	2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/22/2025				Referred to AGO
	JADT Development Group LLC	2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/22/2025				Referred to AGO
Omar Jamal, Lobbyist	Omar Jamal, Lobbyist Principal and Association	2023 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/21/2025				Referred to AGO
		2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF	7/21/2025				
		Lobbyist Disbursement Report 1/1//2024 to 5/31/2024	$1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/21/2025				
		Lobbyist Activity report 1/15/2025	$250 LFF	7/21/2025				

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Filing Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
	Ka Joog Nonprofit Organization	Late filing of 2019 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$475 LFF	7/21/2025				Referred to AGO
		Late filing of 2021 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$25 LFF	7/21/2025				
		Late filing of 2023 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$125 LFF	7/21/2025				
		2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/21/2025				
	Kyros	2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/21/2025				Referred to AGO
	Minnesota Gun Rights	2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal		7/22/2025				On hold – federal litigation pending
	Minnesota Right to Life	2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal		7/22/2025				On hold – federal litigation pending
	Newby Norris Co. d/b/a Cultivated CBD	2023 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1000 CP	7/18/2025				Referred to AGO
		2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF	7/18/2025				

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Filing Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
	Safety Triage and Mental Health Providers	Late filing of 2020 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$50 LFF	7/18/2025				Referred to AGO
		Late filing of 2021 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$25 LFF	7/18/2025				
		Late filing of 2022 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$50 LFF	7/18/2025				
		2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/18/2025				
	Tremco CPG	2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/21/2025				Referred to AGO
	Twin Cities Health Services/Gulad Mohamoud, CEO	2023 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1000 CP	7/21/2025				Referred to AGO
		2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF	7/21/2025				
	Twin Cities Therapy Services Inc./Gulad Mohamoud, CEO	2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$1,000 LFF $1000 CP	7/21/2025				Referred to AGO
		Late filing of 2024 of Lobbyist Principal Report	$1,000 LFF	7/21/2025				

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Filing Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
	US Steel Corp.	Late filing of 2023 of the Lobbyist Principal Report 2024 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal	$950 LFF $1,000 LFF $1,000 CP	7/21/2025 7/21/2025				Referred to AGO

#6137510

MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: August 4, 2025

To: Board members
Nathan Hartshorn, counsel

From: Andrew Olson, Legal/Management Analyst **Telephone:** 651-539-1190

Re: Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis - Court of Appeals Case No. A25-1234

On July 21, 2025, the Board received a complaint submitted by Troy Scheffler regarding Representative Joshua Heintzeman, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 6B.[1] The Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman is the principal campaign committee of Representative Heintzeman.[2] Mr. Scheffler previously filed complaints with the Board in September 2024[3] and February 2025[4] regarding Representative Heintzeman and the Heintzeman committee. Determinations made by the Board regarding those complaints have been appealed by Mr. Scheffler to the Court of Appeals under Minnesota Statutes section 14.63.[5]

The complaint filed in July 2025 explicitly reasserted and incorporated the complaint filed in February 2025, and was based on the same underlying facts. The only statute or rule cited in the July 2025 complaint that was not considered by the Board in addressing the February 2025 complaint is Minnesota Statutes section 10A.34, which describes the legal remedies available when enforcing Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A and cannot possibly be violated by Representative Heintzeman or his campaign committee.

The July 2025 complaint accurately asserted that the Heintzeman committee's amended 2024 year-end reports referenced the wrong court case within the explanation provided for three noncampaign disbursements totaling $445 paid to the district court in Crow Wing County. However, the reports accurately identified the vendor, the dates, the amounts, and the general purpose of the expenses, which were court fees. The Heintzeman committee's treasurer, Senator Keri Heintzeman, contacted Board staff on August 1, 2025, and attempted to file an another amended 2024 year-end report to reference the correct court case, but the amended report received by the Board continues to reference the wrong case.

On July 29, 2025, Chair Rashid determined that the new complaint did not state a prima facie violation.[6] The prima facie determination noted that Mr. Scheffler has sought judicial review of

[1] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1725_Complaint.pdf
[2] cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/viewers/campaign-finance/candidates/17782/
[3] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1701_Complaint.pdf
[4] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Complaint.pdf
[5] The Court of Appeals case numbers are A25-0632 and A25-0853.
[6] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1725_Prima_Facie_Determination.pdf

determinations made regarding the February 2025 complaint, and stated that "When a complainant disagrees with determinations made by the Board and has standing to seek judicial review, the proper forum for that review is the Minnesota Court of Appeals."

On July 30, 2025, Mr. Scheffler filed a petition for a writ of certiorari with the Court of Appeals seeking judicial review of the July 29, 2025, prima facie determination under Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. The Court of Appeals issued a writ of certiorari on July 31, 2025. The petition and statement of the case each state that Mr. Scheffler "seeks review of literally everything in the Prima Facie Determination", and assert that the Board "erroneously dismissed claims under" Minnesota Statues sections "10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34 and 211B.12."

Mr. Scheffler also served the Board with the attached motion and affidavit seeking to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP) in the Court of Appeals. IFP status affords a litigant the ability to proceed "without payment of fees, costs, and security for costs" they would otherwise be required to pay. When the decision being appealed was issued by a state agency, the state agency is responsible for ruling on the IFP motion.

IFP status is granted, under Minnesota Statutes section 563.01, subdivision 3, when an "appeal is not of a frivolous nature" and the appeal is brought by an individual who files an affidavit stating they are entitled to redress and are "financially unable to pay the fees, costs and security for costs." Under paragraph (b) of that subdivision, an individual is presumed to be unable to pay fees and costs if they are "receiving public assistance described in section 550.37, subdivision 14," and that statute includes "payment of Medicare part B premiums" within its description of public assistance. Under Minnesota law, "an appeal is frivolous in the context of a fee-waiver request if the appeal is 'without any reasonable basis in law or equity and could not be supported by a good faith argument for a modification or reversal of existing law.'"[7]

Board staff believes that Mr. Scheffler's latest appeal is frivolous. First, the appeal seeks to litigate issues that Mr. Scheffler is already litigating in the Court of Appeals by appealing determinations made regarding the February 2025 complaint. When a complainant is dissatisfied with a decision made by the Board and has standing to appeal, the proper means of appeal is to seek judicial review by the Court of Appeals, rather than file another complaint with the Board collaterally attacking determinations made regarding a previous complaint. Second, Mr. Scheffler appears to be asserting that Representative Heintzeman or the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.18 and 10A.34, which is not possible. The attached draft order would deny Mr. Scheffler's motion for IFP status.

Attachments:
IFP motion and affidavit
Scheffler statement of the case
Scheffler petition for a writ of certiorari
Draft IFP order

[7] Nelson v. Arroyo Ins. Servs., Inc., No. A25-0230, 2025 WL 1550755, at *2 (Minn. Ct. App. June 2, 2025) (quoting Maddox v. Dep't of Hum. Servs., 400 N.W.2d 136, 139 (Minn. Ct. App. 1987)).

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

In the Matter of the Complaint of Troy Scheffler Regarding the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman	**Motion and Affidavit for Proceeding In Forma Pauperis in the Court of Appeals** CFB CASE FILED: 07/21/2025 DATE OF DECISION: **07/29/2025**

State of Minnesota)
) SS
County of Crow Wing)

1. I believe that I have valid reasons for pursuing this Court of Appeals action and I move for an order granting me the following relief: Waiving appellate court filing fees and cost bond.

2. I am a party in this action and in good faith I request an Order to proceed In Forma Pauperis. I have attached a copy of my statement of the case or petition being filed in the appellate court, showing the proposed issues on appeal.

3. I am receiving public assistance under one or more of the following programs: Medicare Part B reimbursement, see MN Stat. 256B .057 subd.4. (Attached)

By signing this Affidavit, I am certifying that these statements are true under penalty of perjury. I understand that if I provide false information on the form it may lead to criminal charges. I understand that if I provide information or requested records may result in denial of my motion to proceed In Forma Pauperis. I am authorizing that the facts contained in this Affidavit may be verified by any means required.

/s/ Troy Scheffler 07/29/2025

Troy Scheffler
26359 Shandy Trl.
Merrifield, MN 56465
763-225-7702
troyscheffler@gmail.com

CROW WING COUNTY, BRAINERD, MN 56401	**PAGE:** 1 OF 1	**EFT NUMBER:** [redacted]	
INVOICE DATE	**INVOICE NUMBER**	**DESCRIPTION**	**INVOICE AMOUNT**
07/01/2025	11-Jul	MED PART B HS Service Date: HS Desc:	$185.00

Vendor No.	Vendor Name	EFT No.	EFT Date	EFT Amount
[redacted]	TROY K SCHEFFLER	[redacted]	07/11/2025	$185.00

Crow Wing County Community Services
PO Box 686
Brainerd, MN 56401
PH. (218) 824-1047

Vendor Number	EFT Date	EFT Number
[redacted]	07/11/2025	[redacted]

$185.00

Pay One Hundred Eighty-five Dollars and 00 Cents

To the Order Of
TROY K SCHEFFLER
26359 SHANDY TRAIL
MERRIFIELD, MN 56465

EFT FILE COPY
NON-NEGOTIABLE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of the Complaint of Troy Scheffler Regarding the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman	**STATEMENT OF THE CASE OF RELATOR** CFB CASE FILED: 07/21/2025 DATE OF DECISION: **07/29/2025**

1. **Agency where case originated**: Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

   Name of presiding judge or hearing officer: Chair, Faris Rashid

2. **Jurisdictional statement for a certiorari appeal:** MN Stat: 14.63, 14.64

   Authority fixing time limit and date of event triggering appeal time; emailing notice of final order 07/30/2025: MN Stat. 14.63, 14.64

3. **Type of litigation and any statutes at issue:**

   Respondent violated Campaign Law Minn. Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, Minn. Stat. 211B.12, 10A.025, 10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34, and 211B.12.

4. **Brief description of issues that were raised before the administrative or agency decision maker, and how the administrative or agency decision maker decided those issues:**

   The Board failed to address the chronic intentional or reckless misrepresentations in Respondents financial reports.

   The Board ignored the clear money laundering the Respondent has been doing through his attorney.

   The Board disregarded any meaningful explanation of dismissed claims by ambiguously asserting that Relator based them upon "ad hominem" or erroneously claiming they had already been disposed of in a prior complaint.

   The Board erred in asserting that Respondent using his campaign funds to defend himself and his wife in a defamation suit that had nothing to do with his campaign, but rather Realtor's is not an allowable expenditure.

That the Board erred in disregarding the latest amendment by the Respondent's clearly erroneous 4503.0900 amendments after continuing the lack of clarity in which they previously found other Respondent's lacked under the same circumstances.

The Board failed to use general statute financial reporting in relation to Board requirements in reporting financials.

The Board admitted a prima facie violation of 10A.025 and erroneously and prematurely dismissed the complaint by stating that the Board would notify the Respondent of the error in speculation that it was unintentional and hopes that the Respondent would remedy the error in the future. This is entirely inappropriate procedurally and speculating intent is fundamentally anathema during a prima facie determination.

That the Board erroneously dismissed claims under 10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34 and 211B.12.

Realtor seeks review of literally everything in the Prima Facie Determination that resulted in a complete dismissal.

5. **Short description of issues you are raising in this appeal:**

The Board failed to address the chronic intentional or reckless misrepresentations in Respondents financial reports.

The Board ignored the clear money laundering the Respondent has been doing through his attorney.

The Board disregarded any meaningful explanation of dismissed claims by ambiguously asserting that Relator based them upon "ad hominem" or erroneously claiming they had already been disposed of in a prior complaint.

The Board erred in asserting that Respondent using his campaign funds to defend himself and his wife in a defamation suit that had nothing to do with his campaign, but rather Realtor's is not an allowable expenditure.

That the Board erred in disregarding the latest amendment by the Respondent's clearly erroneous 4503.0900 amendments after continuing the lack of clarity in which they previously found other Respondent's lacked under the same circumstances.

The Board failed to use general statute financial reporting in relation to Board requirements in reporting financials.

The Board admitted a prima facie violation of 10A.025 and erroneously and prematurely dismissed the complaint by stating that the Board would notify the Respondent of the error in speculation that it was unintentional and hopes that the Respondent would remedy the error in the future. This is entirely inappropriate procedurally and speculating intent is fundamentally anathema during a prima facie determination.

That the Board erroneously dismissed claims under 10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34 and 211B.12.

Realtor seeks review of literally everything in the Prima Facie Determination and dismissal.

6. **Related appeals:**

a. List any prior or pending appeals arising from the same agency case as this appeal: A25-0632, A25-0853

b. List any pending appeals arising from different agency cases that raise similar issues to this appeal: None known.

7. **Contents of record:**

a. Is a transcript necessary to review the issues on appeal? No.

b. If yes, is it a full transcript of the hearing(s) before the administrative decision-maker, or a partial transcript? N/A

c. Has the transcript been ordered from the court reporter? N/A.

d. If a transcript is unavailable, is a statement of the proceedings under Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure 110.03 necessary? N/A.

e. In lieu of the record as defined in Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure 110.01, have the parties agreed to prepare a statement of the record pursuant to Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure 110.04? No.

8. **Oral argument:**

a. If you have an attorney, is oral argument requested? No.

b. N/A

9. **Type of Brief to be filed:**

Informal Brief under Rule 128.01, subd. 1.

10. **Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of relator and respondents:**

Relator:

/s/ Troy Scheffler 07/30/2025

Troy Kenneth Scheffler
26359 Shandy Trl, Merrifield, MN 56465
troyscheffler@gmail.com
763-225-7702

Respondent's Attorney:
Rondell Reid LeBeau II (MN#347504)
525 Park St. Ste #255, St. Paul, MN 55103
rlebeau@chalmersadams.com
651-397-0089

For Respondent Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board:
Nathan J. Hartshorn, Assistant Attorney General (MN#0320602)
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2134
(651) 757-1252

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of the Complaint of Troy Scheffler Regarding the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman	**PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI** APPELLATE CASE #: CFB CASE FILED: 07/21/2025 DATE OF DECISION: **07/29/2025**

TO: The Court of Appeals of the State of Minnesota:

Troy Scheffler hereby petitions the Court of Appeals for a Writ of Certiorari pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 14.63, § 14.64 to review a decision of the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board issued on the date noted above, upon the grounds that:

With regard to its 07/28/2025 Prima Facie Determination and dismissal:

The Board failed to address the chronic intentional or reckless misrepresentations in Respondents financial reports.

The Board ignored the clear money laundering the Respondent has been doing through his attorney.

The Board disregarded any meaningful explanation of dismissed claims by ambiguously asserting that Relator based them upon "ad hominem" or erroneously claiming they had already been disposed of in a prior complaint.

The Board erred in asserting that Respondent using his campaign funds to defend himself and his wife in a defamation suit that had nothing to do with his campaign, but rather Realtor's is not an allowable expenditure.

That the Board erred in disregarding the latest amendment by the Respondent's clearly erroneous 4503.0900 amendments after continuing the lack of clarity in which they previously found other Respondent's lacked under the same circumstances.

The Board failed to use general statute financial reporting in relation to Board requirements in reporting financials.

The Board admitted a prima facie violation of 10A.025 and erroneously and prematurely dismissed the complaint by stating that the Board would notify the Respondent of the error in speculation that it was unintentional and hopes that the Respondent would remedy the error in the future. This is entirely inappropriate procedurally and speculating intent is fundamentally anathema during a prima facie determination.

That the Board erroneously dismissed claims under 10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34 and 211B.12.

Realtor seeks review of literally everything in the Prima Facie Determination.

/s/ Troy Scheffler 07/30/2025

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Court of Appeals Case No. A25-1234

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

ORDER ON MOTION TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF TROY SCHEFFLER REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA HEINTZEMAN AND THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JOSH HEINTZEMAN

On July 21, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Troy Scheffler regarding Representative Joshua Heintzeman, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 6B.[1] The Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman is the principal campaign committee of Representative Heintzeman.[2] Mr. Scheffler was one of Representative Heintzeman's opponents in the 2024 general election.

The complaint restated allegations made by Mr. Scheffler in a complaint filed with the Board on February 11, 2025,[3] some of which were dismissed by the Board's chair within a prima facie determination made on February 21, 2025.[4] The July 2025 complaint explicitly stated that Mr. Scheffler sought to "reallege and reincorporate the 2/11/2025 Complaint", included a copy of the February 2025 complaint, and otherwise alleged that Representative Heintzeman or the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman violated statutes or rules under the Board's jurisdiction in a manner that had already been considered by the Board as a result of the February 2025 complaint. Those issues were addressed by the Board within a probable cause determination made on April 8, 2025,[5] and within a memorandum issued by the Board's executive director on May 9, 2025.[6]

The July 2025 complaint referenced and expressed disagreement with the prima facie determination and probable cause determination made regarding the February 2025 complaint. The July 2025 complaint objected to the decision to close a type of investigation known as a staff review, regarding the Heintzeman committee's compliance with Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3. The staff review was closed after the Heintzeman committee filed an amended 2024 year-end report of receipts and expenditures that included information sufficient to justify the classification of various expenses as noncampaign disbursements.

The July 2025 complaint alleged that the Heintzeman committee referenced the wrong case within its amended 2024 year-end reports in describing the purpose of $445 in court fees paid to

[1] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1725_Complaint.pdf
[2] cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/viewers/campaign-finance/candidates/17782/
[3] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Complaint.pdf
[4] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Prima_Facie_Determination.pdf
[5] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Probable_Cause_Determination.pdf
[6] cfb.mn.gov/pdf/bdactions/1711_Closing_Memo.pdf

the district court in Crow Wing County. The complaint alleged that the fees in question were related to a defamation lawsuit, *Scheffler v. Franzen*, 18-CV-22-3881, rather than a First Amendment lawsuit, *Zinda v. Heintzeman*, 18-CV-24-2821. The complaint also alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.34.

When the Board receives a complaint that satisfies the requirements of Minnesota Rules 4525.0200, subparts 1-2, the Board chair or their designee must "promptly make a determination as to whether the complaint alleges a prima facie violation." Minn. Stat. § 10A.022, subd. 3. "A prima facie determination is a determination that a complaint filed under section 10A.022, subdivision 3, is sufficient to allege a violation of this chapter or of those sections of chapter 211B listed in section 10A.022, subdivision 3." Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 32a.

On July 29, 2025, the Board's chair determined that the complaint did not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.025, subdivision 2, 10A.20, subdivision 3, 10A.34, or 211B.12, or Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3. The Board's chair dismissed allegations that had previously been considered as a result of the February 2025 complaint. Because it did not state a prima facie violation of statute or rule under the Board's jurisdiction, the July 2025 complaint was dismissed.

On July 30, 2025, Mr. Scheffler filed a petition for a writ of certiorari with the Court of Appeals seeking judicial review of the July 29, 2025, prima facie determination under Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. The Board received the petition, a statement of the case, and Mr. Scheffler's Motion and Affidavit for Proceeding In Forma Pauperis in the Court of Appeals (IFP motion). The IFP motion states that Mr. Scheffler is receiving public assistance, consisting of "Medicare Part B reimbursement". The IFP motion includes a document indicating that Mr. Scheffler received a $185 reimbursement on July 11, 2025, from Crow Wing County Community Services, related to Medicare Part B. In 2025 the standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B insurance is $185.[7]

If an "appeal is not of a frivolous nature," an individual seeking to proceed *in forma pauperis* is generally presumed to qualify if they receive "public assistance described in section 550.37, subdivision 14. . . ." Minn. Stat. § 563.01, subd. 3. "For the purposes of" Minnesota Statutes chapter 550, "government assistance based on need includes but is not limited to . . . payment of Medicare part B premiums. . . ." Minn. Stat. § 550.37, subd. 14.

The petition and statement of the case each state that Mr. Scheffler "seeks review of literally everything in the Prima Facie Determination", and assert that the Board "erroneously dismissed claims under" Minnesota Statues sections "10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34 and 211B.12."

When an IFP motion is filed with the required affidavit and statement of the case pertaining to a proceeding in the Court of Appeals, "The trial court shall grant the motion if the court finds that

[7] cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles

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the party is indigent and that the appeal is not frivolous." Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 109.02. As used in Rule 109.02, the term "trial court" "means the court or agency whose decision is sought to be reviewed." Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 101.02, subd. 4.

On two prior occasions in 2025, the Board granted IFP motions filed by Mr. Scheffler on the basis that he receives public assistance in the form of payment of Medicare Part B premiums and that those appeals were not frivolous.[8] Under Minnesota law, "an appeal is frivolous in the context of a fee-waiver request if the appeal is 'without any reasonable basis in law or equity and could not be supported by a good faith argument for a modification or reversal of existing law.'" *Nelson v. Arroyo Ins. Servs., Inc.*, No. A25-0230, 2025 WL 1550755, at *2 (Minn. Ct. App. June 2, 2025) (quoting *Maddox v. Dep't of Hum. Servs.*, 400 N.W.2d 136, 139 (Minn. Ct. App. 1987)).

Based on the above background and the record in this matter, the Board makes the following:

Findings of Fact

1. On February 11, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint filed by Troy Scheffler regarding Representative Joshua Heintzeman, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 6B, and his principal campaign committee, the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman.

2. The February 2025 complaint alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 regarding a single campaign sign.

3. The February 2025 complaint alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.09 regarding a statement of economic interest filed by Representative Heintzeman.

4. The February 2025 complaint alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 regarding legal expenses incurred by the Heintzeman committee.

5. The February 2025 complaint alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211A.07, which is outside the jurisdiction of the Board.

6. The February 2025 complaint alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.29 on the basis that a political party unit, the HRCC, received contributions from principal campaign committees, including the Heintzeman committee, and allegedly used the money to "issue kickbacks to the same house reps, buy endorsements, fund pet projects, and primary out anyone with enough ethical fortitude to challenge their clique".

[8] The IFP motions pertained to Court of Appeals case numbers A25-0632 and A25-0853.

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7. The February 2025 complaint alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.16 on the basis that Representative Heintzeman solicited contributions to the HRCC while stating that those contributions would be used to support endorsed Republican candidates, and the HRCC subsequently made contributions to non-endorsed candidates and paid compensation to Representative Heintzeman's son for services provided in 2022.

8. The February 2025 complaint alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.07 without clearly describing actions that Representative Heintzeman took in the discharge of his official duties as a state representative, or how any such actions may have affected Representative Heintzeman's financial interests.

9. The February 2025 complaint alleged "comingling" and "unlawful appropriation" on the basis that Representative Heintzeman received payments from the Heintzeman committee, despite the fact that the Heintzeman committee's campaign finance reports show that the payments were for the repayment of loans made by Representative Heintzeman to the Heintzeman committee.

10. The February 2025 complaint alleged that Representative Heintzeman could "benefit himself financially if funneling campaign expenditures through personal credit cards with rewards attached, etc." without affirmatively alleging or providing evidence that the contemplated conduct occurred.

11. The February 2025 complaint alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211A.02, which is outside the jurisdiction of the Board, apparently on the basis that the Heintzeman committee did not disclose the purpose of loans made by Representative Heintzeman to the Heintzeman committee.

12. The February 2025 complaint disputed the accuracy of various expenses within the Heintzeman committee's campaign finance reports, particularly the amounts of certain expenses itemized within the 2024 year-end report of receipts and expenditures.

13. The February 2025 complaint included 26 pages of text and 221 pages of exhibits. Much of the complaint consisted of assertions regarding matters that are not under the Board's jurisdiction and commentary that was only tangentially related, if at all, to the statutes and rules that are under the Board's jurisdiction.

14. On February 21, 2025, the Board's chair determined that the February 2025 complaint stated prima facie violations of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.09, subdivision 5, paragraph (a), clauses (3)-(4); Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12, only with respect to paid noncampaign disbursements totaling $445 for court fees and a $20,000 unpaid noncampaign disbursement for legal services, itemized within the 2024 year-end report; and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, only with respect to the paid noncampaign disbursements totaling $445 for court fees, the $20,000 unpaid noncampaign disbursement, and a $6,000 in-kind noncampaign disbursement for legal services, itemized within the 2024

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year-end report. The Board's chair determined that the complaint did not otherwise state a prima facie violation of a statute or rule under the Board's jurisdiction.

15. On April 8, 2025, the Board determined that there was not probable cause to believe that Representative Heintzeman violated Minnesota Statutes section 10A.09, or that the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. The Board determined that there was probable cause "to believe that the Heintzeman committee reported insufficient information to justify the classification of five expenses as noncampaign disbursements in violation of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3," and ordered a type of informal investigation known as a staff review.

16. On May 5, 2025, the Heintzeman committee filed an amended 2024 year-end report to address issues raised within the Board's probable cause determination. The amended report replaced a single $20,000 unpaid noncampaign disbursement with two unpaid noncampaign disbursements for $5,000 each, and one unpaid noncampaign disbursement for $10,000, each for legal services. The amended report altered the dates for some noncampaign disbursements, each for legal services. The amended report also included more detailed explanations of the purposes of the Heintzeman committee's legal expenses.

17. On May 9, 2025, the Board's executive director closed the staff review and determined that the amended report remedied any violation of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.

18. On May 22, 2025, the Heintzeman committee filed a second amended 2024 year-end report to reference the correct legal matter in describing the purpose of the $6,000 in-kind noncampaign disbursement for legal services.

19. On May 23, 2025, Mr. Scheffler filed a petition for a writ of certiorari with the Court of Appeals seeking judicial review of actions taken regarding the February 2025 complaint under Minnesota Statutes section 14.63.[9] The Board received the petition, a statement of the case, and Mr. Scheffler's Motion and Affidavit for Proceeding In Forma Pauperis in the Court of Appeals (IFP motion). The statement of the case indicated that Mr. Scheffler was appealing determinations made regarding alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.04 and 211B.12 and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.

20. On June 16, 2025, the Board determined, based on Mr. Scheffler's statement of the case, that the appeal was not frivolous and granted Mr. Scheffler's IFP motion concerning the appeal of actions taken regarding the February 2025 complaint.

21. On July 21, 2025, the Board received another complaint filed by Mr. Scheffler regarding Representative Heintzeman and the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman.

[9] The Court of Appeals case number is A25-0853.

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22. The July 2025 complaint stated “I reallege and reincorporate the 2/11/2025 Complaint” and included a copy of the February 2025 complaint as an exhibit.

23. The July 2025 complaint contained a heading describing a portion of the complaint as alleging “FRAUD/MONEY LAUNDERING” and stated “You guys figure out the applicable laws Sua Sponte”. Neither Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A, nor the Board’s administrative rules, contain the term “fraud” or “money laundering”.

24. The July 2025 complaint expressed disagreement with the prima facie determination made regarding the February 2025 complaint, which is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025. The complaint referenced a $9,000 noncampaign disbursement that was unpaid as of the end of 2024, and a $6,000 in-kind noncampaign disbursement that resulted from an in-kind contribution made by a party unit, the HRCC, each of which were for legal services related to a petition that sought to have Representative Heintzeman’s name removed from the ballot in 2024. The February 21, 2025, prima facie determination concluded that the February 2025 complaint did “not provide evidence of a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 with respect to the $9,000 and $6,000 expenses for legal services included within the Heintzeman committee’s 2024 year-end report.”

25. The July 2025 complaint expressed disagreement with the probable cause determination made regarding the February 2025 complaint, which is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025. The complaint referenced two separate $5,000 noncampaign disbursements that were unpaid as of the end of 2024, which were for legal services related to defending against complaints filed with the Board and the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) involving Representative Heintzeman or the Heintzeman committee. The April 8, 2025, probable cause determination concluded that each of the OAH “complaints were directly related to the candidates’ campaigns for House District 6B, including that of Representative Heintzeman”, and that each of the complaints filed with the Board were “directly related to Representative Heintzeman’s campaign for House District 6B.” The complaint also referenced a $10,000 noncampaign disbursement that was unpaid as of the end of 2024, for legal services related to a First Amendment lawsuit filed by another 2024 candidate for House District 6B, Matthew Zinda, against Representative Heintzeman. The April 8, 2025, probable cause determination concluded that the lawsuit was “directly related to Facebook pages operated by Representative Heintzeman and the Heintzeman committee concerning both Representative Heintzeman’s campaign for House District 6B and status as an incumbent state representative.” On that basis, the probable cause determination concluded that there was not probable cause to believe that the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12.

26. The July 2025 complaint expressed disagreement with the decision to close a staff review prompted by the February 2025 complaint, which is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025.

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27. The July 2025 complaint appears to have argued that the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Statutes section 10A.18 by not paying expenses within a certain period of time. According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, that issue is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025, despite not being referenced within Mr. Scheffler's statement of the case. The complaint also asserted that the Board must consider Minnesota Statutes section 10A.18 "in considering the accuracy in financials when making their determinations", despite the fact that Minnesota Statutes section 10A.18 does not impose any reporting requirements on the Heintzeman committee or on any other entity registered with the Board.

28. The July 2025 complaint argued that a $10,000 noncampaign disbursement for legal services related to a First Amendment lawsuit involving Representative Heintzeman that was unpaid as of the end of 2024 amounted to "fraud and extortion". According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, that issue is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025.

29. The July 2025 complaint alleged that Representative Heintzeman "failed to disclose any income or real property related to 'Short Term Rentals'" within statements of economic interest filed with the Board under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.09. According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, that issue is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025, despite not being referenced within Mr. Scheffler's statement of the case.

30. The July 2025 complaint noted that the amended 2024 year-end report that the Heintzeman committee filed with the Board on May 5, 2025, referenced the wrong case in explaining the purpose of a $6,000 in-kind noncampaign disbursement that resulted from an in-kind contribution made by a party unit, the HRCC. That error was corrected when the Heintzeman committee filed a second amended 2024 year-end report on May 22, 2025. According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, that issue is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025.

31. The July 2025 complaint alleged that when the Heintzeman committee filed amended 2024 year-end reports, it referenced the wrong case in explaining the purpose of three noncampaign disbursements totaling $445 for court fees paid to the district court in Crow Wing County. The complaint alleged that the fees were related to a defamation lawsuit captioned *Scheffler v. Franzen*, 18-CV-22-3881, rather than a First Amendment lawsuit captioned *Zinda v. Heintzeman*, 18-CV-24-2821. The complaint asserted that "This is no doubt a coverup to avoid Minn. Stat 211B.12 and 10A.34." Despite referencing the wrong court case, the Heintzeman committee's first and second amended 2024 year-end reports accurately identified the dates and amounts paid, the vendor that was paid, and the general purpose of the disbursements, namely court fees. The fact that campaign finance reports filed with the Board will sometimes contain errors is contemplated by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.025, subdivision 4, which requires a treasurer to file an amended report correcting an error within 10 days after becoming aware of the error. On July 29, 2025,

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Board staff notified the Heintzeman committee that its 2024 year-end report appeared to reference the wrong court case in explaining the purpose of the $445 in court fees. According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, the error within the Heintzeman committee's first and second amended 2024 year-end reports, and whether the Heintzeman committee could legally use campaign funds to pay for the court fees, are subjects of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025.

32. The July 2025 complaint appears to have argued that the Heintzeman committee's second amended 2024 year-end report, filed on May 22, 2025, is inaccurate because it includes both a $9,000 noncampaign disbursement that remained unpaid as of the end of 2024, and a $6,000 in-kind noncampaign disbursement that resulted from an in-kind contribution made by a party unit, the HRCC, each of which related to legal services regarding the same legal action. Mr. Scheffler appears to believe that the cost of the legal services in question could not have exceeded $9,000, and $9,000 minus $6,000 equals $3,000, so the amount that was unpaid as of the end of 2024 should have been no more than $3,000. Mr. Scheffler does not appear to realize that the Heintzeman committee's amended 2024 year-end report reflects that the cost of the legal services provided regarding the petition to have Representative Heintzeman's name removed from the ballot totaled $15,000, $6,000 of which was paid by the HRCC in July 2024, leaving a balance of $9,000 owed by the Heintzeman committee to the law firm that provided those services. According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, that issue is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025.

33. The July 2025 complaint referred to "211A.04 and How it Conveniently Exempts State Legislators that Apparently have a Good for thee, but not for me legislative style." Mr. Scheffler presumably intended to cite Minnesota Statutes section 211A.07, as the complaint suggested that the Board "should take heed" of an order and memorandum dismissing a complaint filed with the OAH by Matthew Zinda alleging a violation of that statute by Representative Heintzeman.[10] Based on the OAH memorandum, the complaint that Mr. Zinda filed appears to have alleged the same reporting issues that Mr. Scheffler raised within the February 2025 complaint filed with the Board. According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, and his statement of the case, those issues are subjects of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025.

34. The July 2025 complaint generally alleged that the Heintzeman committee's 2024 year-end report is inaccurate in the same manner as did the February 2025 complaint. According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, and his statement of the case, the reporting issues raised by Mr. Scheffler within the February 2025 complaint are a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025.

[10] *See* Zinda v. Heintzeman, OAH Docket No. 21-0320-40985, Order for Dismissal (July 16, 2025).

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35. The July 2025 complaint included 15 pages of text and 60 pages of exhibits. Much of the complaint consisted of *ad hominem* attacks, criticism of the Board and various other entities, and argument regarding issues over which the Board lacks jurisdiction.

36. On July 29, 2025, the Board's chair determined that the July 2025 complaint did not state a prima facie violation of a statute or rule on the Board's jurisdiction. The prima facie determination concluded that while the July 2025 complaint alleged that the Heintzeman committee's 2024 year-end reports contained errors, all but one of which were corrected by amended reports filed prior to the July 2025 complaint being filed with the Board, the complaint did not provide a basis to believe that the Heintzeman committee's treasurer knowingly filed a false report, which is prohibited by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.025, subdivision 2. Specifically with respect to three noncampaign disbursements totaling $445 in court fees paid to the district court in Crow Wing County, the prima facie determination concluded that the complaint was likely correct in asserting that the Heintzeman committee referenced the wrong case, when describing the purpose of those expenses. The Heintzeman committee's first and second amended 2024 year-end reports stated that the court fees were related to the First Amendment lawsuit captioned *Zinda v. Heintzeman*, 18-CV-24-2821, rather than the defamation lawsuit captioned *Scheffler v. Franzen, et al.*, 18-CV-22-3881. The prima facie determination nonetheless concluded that:

> the Heintzeman committee's amended 2024 year-end report includes sufficient information to justify the classification of those disbursements as noncampaign disbursements, and accurately identifies the vendor that was paid and the general purpose of the disbursements, namely court fees. Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, or Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3.

The prima facie determination noted that the Board had previously concluded, in the probable cause determination regarding the February 2025 complaint:

> that the Heintzeman committee was permitted to use campaign funds to pay for legal services related to the defamation lawsuit captioned *Scheffler v. Franzen, et al.*, 18-CV-22-3881, and the First Amendment lawsuit captioned *Zinda v. Heintzeman*, 18-CV-24-2821, consistent with Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.12 and 10A.01, subdivision 26, paragraph (a), clause (1). Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.34 or 211B.12.

The prima facie determination stated:

> To the extent that the complaint reasserts allegations that were dismissed within the prima facie determination issued on February 21, 2025,5 including alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.18 and 211B.12, those allegations are again dismissed for the reasons stated therein. To the extent that the current complaint reasserts allegations that were dismissed within the probable cause determination issued on April 8, 2025, including alleged

violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12, those allegations are again dismissed for the reasons stated therein. To the extent that the current complaint alleges violations of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, that were determined to have been remedied by the filing of an amended 2024 year-end report within the memorandum issued on May 9, 2025, those allegations are dismissed for the reasons stated therein.

37. On July 30, 2025, Mr. Scheffler filed a petition for a writ of certiorari with the Court of Appeals seeking judicial review of the July 29, 2025, prima facie determination under Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. The Board received the petition, a statement of the case, and Mr. Scheffler's Motion and Affidavit for Proceeding In Forma Pauperis in the Court of Appeals (IFP motion). The petition and statement of the case each state that Mr. Scheffler "seeks review of literally everything in the Prima Facie Determination", and assert that the Board "erroneously dismissed claims under" Minnesota Statues sections "10A.18, 10A.20, 10A.34 and 211B.12."

38. The IFP motion states, and contains evidence, that Mr. Scheffler receives public assistance in the form of payment of Medicare Part B premiums.

Based on the above findings of fact, the Board makes the following:

Conclusions of Law

1. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.18 requires vendors to render bills within 60 days to entities that register and file reports with the Board, including principal campaign committees. It does not require payment of bills within a certain period of time, nor is it possible for the Representative Heintzeman or the Heintzeman committee to have violated the statute unless they served as vendors to another entity registered with the Board. There is no reasonable basis to believe that the February 2025 complaint or the July 2025 complaint asserted the requisite facts to support an alleged violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.18, and Mr. Scheffler's interpretation of the statute to mean something fundamentally different than what the text of the statute says is not a good faith argument for modification of the statute. Moreover, the July 2025 complaint alleged that Representative Heintzeman or the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Statutes section 10A.18 in the same manner that the February 2025 complaint alleged that Representative Heintzeman or the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Statutes section 211A.07, and the Board's chair determined that the February 2025 complaint did not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.18. That issue is a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025. There is no reasonable basis to believe that the proper means of appealing a determination of the Board's chair is to file another complaint with the Board collaterally attacking that determination, while simultaneously appealing the determination to the Court of Appeals under to Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. Therefore, this appeal is frivolous to the extent it challenges determinations made regarding Minnesota Statutes section 10A.18.

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2. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.34 generally describes the legal remedies available when enforcing Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A. It is not possible for the Heintzeman committee or Representative Heintzeman to have violated that statute because it does not govern the conduct of any entities other than the Board, county attorneys, and the judiciary. There is no reasonable basis to believe that the Heintzeman committee or Representative Heintzeman could violate or did violate the statute, and Mr. Scheffler's interpretation of the statute to mean something different than what the text of the statute says is not a good faith argument for modification of the statute. Therefore, this appeal is frivolous to the extent it challenges determinations made regarding Minnesota Statutes section 10A.34.

3. The violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 alleged within the July 2025 complaint are a subject of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025. There is no reasonable basis to believe that the proper means of appealing a determination of the Board or its chair is to file another complaint with the Board collaterally attacking that determination, while simultaneously appealing the determination to the Court of Appeals under to Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. Therefore, this appeal is frivolous to the extent it challenges determinations made regarding Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12.

4. The violations of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3, and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, alleged within the July 2025 complaint are subjects of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025. There is no reasonable basis to believe that the proper means of appealing a determination of the Board, its chair, or its executive director is to file another complaint with the Board collaterally attacking that determination, while simultaneously appealing the determination to the Court of Appeals under to Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. Therefore, this appeal is frivolous to the extent it challenges determinations made regarding Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3, and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.

5. The July 2025 complaint explicitly realleged and incorporated the February 2025 complaint. According to a brief filed by Mr. Scheffler on July 23, 2025, with the Court of Appeals, issues asserted within the February 2025 complaint, including some that were not identified within Mr. Scheffler's statement of the case for the May 2025 appeal such as alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.09 and 10A.18, are subjects of the appeal brought by Mr. Scheffler in May 2025. Those issues include, but are not limited to, alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.07, 10A.09, 10A.11, subdivision 5, 10A.16, 10A.18, 10A.29, 211A.02, 211A.07, 211B.04, and 211B.12, and of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3. There is no reasonable basis to believe that the proper means of appealing a determination of the Board or its chair is to file another complaint with the Board, that incorporates and includes a copy of the previously dismissed complaint, while simultaneously appealing the determination to the Court of Appeals under to Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. Therefore, this appeal is frivolous to the extent it challenges determinations made regarding issues raised within, or as a result of, the February 2025 complaint.

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6. This appeal is frivolous.

Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Board issues the following:

Order

1. The Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis is denied.

_____ Date: _____

David Asp, Vice Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

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