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# COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE & PUBLIC DISCLOSURE ACT

All information on this form is private and confidential until a finding is issued by the Board.

## Information about complaint filer

Name of complaint filer		James Carson	
Address			
3425 McKnight Rd N			
City, state, zip		Daytime telephone no.	
White Bear Lake MN 55110		651-773-0488	

## Identify person/entity you are complaining about

Name of person/entity being complained about		Susan Kent for Senate	
Address			
3820 Hazel Trail, Unit D			
City, state, zip		Woodbury MN 55129	
Title of respondent (if applicable)			
State Senator Candidate			
Board/Department/Agency/District # (if legislator)			
SD 53			

James B. Carson  
Signature of person filing complaint

March 13, 2015  
Date

Send completed form to: Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board  
Suite 190, Centennial Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

If you have questions call: 651/296-1721; 800/657-3889; or  
for TTY/TDD communication contact us through the Minn. Relay Service at 800/627-3529  
Board staff may also be reached by e-mail at: [cf.board@state.mn.us](mailto:cf.board@state.mn.us).

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651/296-5148; 800/657-3889; or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800/627-3529.

Give the statute cite of the portion of Chapter 10A, or Minn. Rules you believe has been violated.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10A.20 Subd. 3 (j)

You will find the complete text of Minn. Stat. §10A and Minn. Rules Chapters 4501 - 4525 on the Board's website at [www.cfboard.state.mn.us](http://www.cfboard.state.mn.us).

**Nature of complaint**

Explain in detail why you believe the respondent has violated Chapter 10A, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act. Attach an extra sheet of paper if necessary. Attach any documents, materials, minutes, resolutions or other evidence to support your allegations.

See Attached.

Summary: Susan Kent for Senate failed to pay or properly account for a 2012 campaign debt of approximately \$35,000.

Minn. Stat. 10A.02, subd 11 - Violations; enforcement.

The board shall investigate any alleged violation filed in writing with the board. For an alleged violation of sections 10A.25 (expenditure limits) or 10A.27 (additional limits) the board shall either enter into a conciliation agreement or make a public finding of whether or not there is probable cause, within 60 days of the filing of the complaint. For alleged violations of all other sections, the board shall within 30 days after the filing of the complaint make a public finding of whether or not there is probable cause to believe a violation has occurred.

The deadline for action may be extended by a majority vote of the board. Within a reasonable time after beginning an investigation of an individual or association, the board shall notify that individual or association of the fact of the investigation. The board shall make no finding without notifying the individual or association of the nature of the allegations and affording an opportunity to answer those allegations.

Any hearing or action of the board concerning a complaint or investigation shall be confidential until the board makes a public finding concerning probable cause or enters into a conciliation agreement.

Except as provided in section 10A.28, after the board makes a public finding of probable cause the board shall report that finding to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

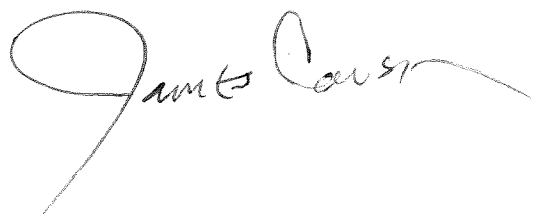
I, James Carson, as a Minnesota resident and in my official capacity as the Chair of the Fourth District Republican Party of Minnesota, hereby file a complaint against the Susan Kent for Senate Committee for violating Minnesota Statute 10A.20 Subd. 3 (j). This complaint alleges the Susan Kent for Senate Committee either failed to report that a \$35,000 payment was made to a vendor in 2013 for a past due amount, or the vendor forgave the debt and the committee failed to report it as an in kind contribution. If the vendor did forgive the debt, it would constitute an illegal contribution because a) it is from a corporation; and b) because it is \$34,000 over the contribution limit.

Minnesota Statute 10A.20 Subd. 3 (j) states: "The report must disclose the amount and nature of an advance of credit incurred by the reporting entity, continuously reported until paid or forgiven. If an advance of credit incurred by the principal campaign committee of a candidate is forgiven by the creditor or paid by an entity other than that principal campaign committee, it must be reported as a donation in kind for the year in which the advance of credit was made."

- The Susan Kent for Senate Committee reported on their 2012 year-end report an unpaid expenditure of \$37,278.59 to Graphics Inc. at 51050 Rush Lake Way, Rush City, MN 55069.
- The committee reported total debt of \$38,836.78 on their year-end 2012 report.
- The committee reported two payments to Graphics Inc on their 2013 year-end report. A payment of \$1,278.59 on February 1, 2013 for Prior Year Unpaid Bill: Lit Pieces 5,000, and a payment of \$1,000 on August 19, 2013 for: Prior Year Unpaid Bill: Lit Pieces.
- The committee reported total debt of \$3151.42 on their year-end 2013 report.
- There is no accounting for the other \$35,000 listed as outstanding debt to Graphics Inc on the 2013 report or on the subsequent 2014 report.

Minnesota Statute 10A.025 Subdivision 2 states that reports must be accurate and false statements may not be signed and certified as true. The Susan Kent for Senate Committee has violated this Statute and the penalty should be enforced.

Our campaign finance system relies on candidates to fully disclose where they are receiving and spending their money. An unpaid bill for \$35,000 cannot disappear from a report without any accounting of whether or how it was paid. Minnesota corporations cannot simply forgive a debt to a 10A committee without violating the law. This is not the first time Susan Kent has violated Minnesota campaign finance law. During the 2012 election cycle, she was cited by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board for illegal coordination with the DFL Senate Caucus Campaign Committee. The DFL Senate Campaign Committee was fined \$100,000, the largest fine in the history of the state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Carson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".