

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

**PRIMA FACIE  
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF CHRIS EVANS REGARDING THE DENNIS SMITH FOR STATE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

On October 2, 2018, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Chris Evans regarding the report of receipts and expenditures filed July 30, 2018, by the Dennis Smith for State House committee. Dennis Smith for State House is the principal campaign committee of Rep. Dennis Smith, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 34B.

The complaint states that the report does not include any campaign expenditures or contributions for the time period covered by the report, which was January 1, 2018, through July 23, 2018. The complaint alleges that Rep. Smith marched in the Maple Grove Days parade on July 12, 2018. The complaint includes a photo from Rep. Smith's Twitter page depicting him wearing a shirt promoting his candidacy, with a caption indicating that Rep. Smith marched in the parade. The complaint alleges that the organizer of the parade, the Maple Grove Community Organization, charges political candidates an entry fee to participate. Based on those alleged facts, the complaint argues that the committee failed to disclose an expenditure for the parade's entry fee on the report filed July 30, 2018, in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20.

**Determination**

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20 requires principal campaign committees to file reports of receipts and expenditures. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 3, those reports must contain itemized and summary information on contributions received and expenditures made during the reporting period.

The complaint provides evidence that the Smith committee participated in the Maple Grove Days parade. Because the committee's report filed July 30, 2018, does not include any campaign expenditures or in-kind contributions that would account for payment of the entry fee for the Maple Grove Days parade, the chair concludes that the complaint against the Dennis Smith for State House committee states a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20.

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. This prima facie determination does not mean that the Board has commenced, or will commence, an investigation or has made any determination of a violation by any of the individuals or entities named in the complaint.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, within 45 days of the date of this determination, the Board will make findings and conclusions as to whether probable cause exists to believe the violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20 alleged in the complaint warrants a formal investigation. The complainant and the respondent named in this prima facie determination will be given an opportunity to be heard by the Board prior to any decision on probable cause.

Until the Board makes a public finding or enters into a conciliation agreement, this matter is subject to the confidentiality requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 5.

/s/ Carolyn Flynn  
Carolyn Flynn, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: October 9, 2018