

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

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the Minnesotans for Julie Blaha committee (18218);

1. Minnesotans for Julie Blaha is the principal campaign committee of State Auditor Julie Blaha. The Blaha committee's 2020 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received on February 19, 2020, from the Local 59 Political Fund, which is a political fund registered with the Board. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1, prohibits the principal campaign committee of a candidate for constitutional office from accepting a contribution from a political fund during a regular session of the legislature and the legislature was in regular session on the date the contribution was received.
  
2. The Blaha committee's treasurer, Cynthia Isaacson, explained that the contribution check initially was not deposited because the check was dated within the regular legislative session, but the check was retained by the committee and inadvertently deposited in January 2021. The contribution was not entered in the software used by the committee to file its periodic reports until the committee began preparing its 2020 year-end report. The Local 59 Political Fund's treasurer provided documentation showing that the fund deposited a payment from the Blaha committee refunding the \$1,000 contribution in June 2021. The contribution was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
  
3. The parties agree that the Blaha committee accepted a contribution from a political fund during a regular session of the legislature in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1. This is the committee's first violation of the statute.
  
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees that it:
  - a. will destroy or return to its source any contribution check that is received but has not been deposited within the time period specified by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3, which generally is 10 business days; and
  
  - b. will ensure that contributions are reviewed and entered in the software used by the committee to file its periodic reports within 30 days of receipt.
  
5. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$1,000, one times the amount of the violation, for accepting a contribution from a political fund during a regular session of the legislature. Of this amount, \$250 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$750 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does

not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

6. If the committee does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Julie Blaha  
Julie Blaha  
Minnesotans for Julie Blaha

Dated: September 10, 2021

/s/ Stephen Swanson  
Stephen Swanson, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: September 1, 2021