

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Raines (Brian) for 34A committee (18503);

1. Raines (Brian) for 34A is the principal campaign committee of Brian Raines. Mr. Raines was a candidate for state representative in 2020. The aggregate political party unit and terminating principal campaign committee contribution limit was \$10,000 for a candidate for state representative during the 2019-2020 election cycle. The committee's 2020 year-end report of receipts and expenditures included a total of \$10,200 in contributions from those sources. The excess amount was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. The committee's treasurer, Laurie Aho, explained that the committee miscalculated how much it had accepted in contributions from those sources in 2020 and the error was not discovered until she prepared to file the committee's 2020 year-end report. Ms. Aho stated that the committee has since refunded \$200 to a party unit that made a contribution to the committee in 2020.
3. The parties agree that the committee inadvertently accepted excessive contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, during the 2019-2020 election cycle. This is the committee's first violation of the limit on contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees that it:
 - a. Will ensure that the committee's treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 30 days of receipt; and
 - b. Will not accept a contribution from a party unit or a terminating principal campaign committee without first calculating the total amount of contributions accepted from those sources over the course of the current two-year election cycle segment.
5. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$200, one times the amount of the violation, for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2. Of this amount, \$100 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$100 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

6. The committee also agrees to provide to the Board, within 60 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of a deposited check or other documentation showing that \$200 has been refunded to a party unit that made a contribution to the committee in 2020.

7. 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/ Brian Raines
Brian Raines
Raines (Brian) for 34A

Dated: December 2, 2021

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

Dated: October 6, 2021