

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

**Findings In The Matter of the Acceptance of  
a Prohibited Contribution During the 2008 Legislative Session  
By the Harry Grigsby for MN House**

**Summary of the Facts**

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a), prohibits a candidate for the legislature or the candidate's principal campaign committee from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a political fund during a regular legislative session. A candidate that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

The Harry Grigsby for MN House ("the Committee") received a contribution in the amount of \$500 from the SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund on April 29, 2008. The 2008 legislative session was held from February 12 to May 19, 2008.

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board"), Frank Miskowiec, treasurer of the Committee, states "Harry Grigsby for MN House did receive a check for \$500.00 from the SEIU Minnesota State Council during the 2008 legislative session, we were under the assumption that being a non-incumbent first time candidate you could accept checks but could not deposit them until after the session... If we did break the rules we are sorry and this will never happen again."

Kristin Beckmann, treasurer, SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund, acknowledged in a letter dated October 2, 2008, a contribution was issued to the Committee during the legislative session.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on October 21, 2008. The Board's decision was based upon correspondence from Mr. Miskowiec, Ms. Beckmann and Board records.

**Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:**

**Findings Concerning Probable Cause**

1. There is probable cause to believe that the Harry Grigsby for MN House violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a), when it accepted a contribution from a political fund during the 2008 regular legislative session.
2. There is probable cause to believe that the contribution was not returned within 60 days as permitted in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
3. There is no probable cause to believe that this violation was intentional or done with the intent to circumvent the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.

**Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:**

**ORDER**

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$500, one times the amount of the prohibited contribution, on the Harry Grigsby for MN House Committee for acceptance of a contribution from a political fund during the regular session of the Minnesota Legislature in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a).
2. The Harry Grigsby for MN House Committee is directed to return \$500 to the SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund.
3. The Harry Grigsby for MN House Committee is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, and forward a copy of the check and letter used to return the prohibited contribution, within 30 days of receipt of this order.
4. If the Harry Grigsby for MN House Committee does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director may request that the Attorney General bring an action on behalf of the Board for the remedies available under Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.34.
5. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11. The matter is concluded.

Dated: October 21, 2008



Sven A. Wehrwein, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

### Relevant Statutes

1. Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1. **Contributions during legislative session.** (a) A candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not solicit or accept a contribution from a registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or from a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, during a regular session of the legislature.