

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Minnesotans for Justice Paul Thissen committee (18450);

1. Minnesotans for Justice Paul Thissen is the principal campaign committee of Justice Paul Thissen. The committee's 2019 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed a \$500 contribution received from an individual. The committee's 2020 year-end report included additional contributions of \$2,000 and \$500 received from the same individual in 2020. The total amount received exceeded the individual contribution limit during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment, which for a candidate for judicial office was \$2,500. The amount that the committee received in excess of the limit 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, Martin Costello, stated that exceeding the limit "was a single instance of contribution records from one calendar year (2019) in the election cycle not being rolled over into the next calendar year (2020), due to the cycle being biannual and the reporting being annual."
3. The parties agree that the committee accepted contributions in excess of the individual contribution limit in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. This is the committee's first violation of the individual contribution limit.
4. To avoid similar violations in the future, the Thissen committee agrees to ensure that the committee's installation of the Campaign Finance Reporter software contains all data entered into the software for both the odd-numbered and even-numbered year that comprise the current election cycle segment.
5. The Thissen committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$500, the amount of the violation, for accepting contributions in excess of the individual contribution limit. Of this amount, \$125 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$375 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 1, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, 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 the deposited check or other documentation showing that \$500 has been refunded to the individual who gave a total of \$3,000 during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment.

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/ Paul Thissen
Justice Paul Thissen
Minnesotans for Justice Paul Thissen

Dated: April 9, 2021

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

Dated: April 9, 2021