

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

**PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF QUENTIN WATHUM-OCAMA REGARDING ALEXANDER MINN AND THE BULL MOOSE PARTY

On June 7, 2021, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Quentin Wathum-Ocama regarding Alexander Minn and an entity known as the Bull Moose Party. The complaint alleges that the Bull Moose Party failed to register with the Board as required by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1. Principal campaign committees (committees formed by a candidate), political committees, political funds, and political party units are generally required to register with the Board within 14 days after receiving contributions or making expenditures in excess of \$750 within a calendar year.

In support of the assertion that the Bull Moose Party was required to register with the Board, the complaint provides screen shots of a Facebook page titled The Bull Moose Party and Facebook advertisements run via that page that support Minneapolis city council candidate Michael Moore and oppose Minneapolis city council candidate Jason Chavez. The complaint includes a screenshot showing that some of the advertisements have a disclaimer stating that they were paid for by Alexander Jerome Minn. The complaint also states that the Bull Moose Party has not registered with Hennepin County as a political committee, political fund, or candidate committee as provided in Minnesota Statutes section 383B.046, subdivision 1.

Determination

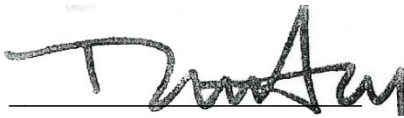
Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1, provides that the “treasurer of a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit must register with the board by filing a registration statement.” Generally, the registration must occur within 14 days of receiving contributions or making expenditures to influence the nomination or election of candidates for state-level office, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 10.¹ The complaint does not specify whether the Bull Moose Party should be registered as a political committee, political fund, party unit, or candidate committee, but in all cases, the requirement to register with the Board is contingent on raising, or spending, sufficient funds to influence the election of state-level candidates.

The complaint only alleges and provides documentation that the Bull Moose Party made expenditures to influence the election of individuals seeking municipal office. The complaint therefore does not state a prima facie violation of the requirement to register with the Board provided in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1.

¹ A political committee or political fund may also need to register with the Board if it is organized to promote or defeat a constitutional amendment, which is not alleged in this complaint.

The Board notes that 2021 Minnesota Laws, chapter 31, article 4, provides that beginning January 1, 2022, a political committee, political fund, or political party unit that raises or spends the threshold amount to influence the nomination or election of a Minneapolis city council candidate will be required to register with and report to the Board.² However, as of the date of this prima facie determination, registration and reporting for expenditures related to the election of Minneapolis city council members is regulated by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 383B, which the Board does not administer.³

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. Based on the above analysis, the undersigned Board member concludes that the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Chapter 10A or of those sections of Chapter 211B under the Board's jurisdiction. The complaint is dismissed without prejudice.



Daniel N. Rosen, Member
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: June 16, 2021

² Minneapolis city council candidates will file financial reports with the City of Minneapolis.

³ Under current law a political committee or political fund that is required to register with Hennepin County has the option to instead register with the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 383B.046, subdivision 1.