

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

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

In the matter of Simon (Steve) for Secretary of State (17653);

1. Simon (Steve) for Secretary of State is the principal campaign committee of Secretary of State Steve Simon. The Simon committee's 2021 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed a contribution of \$500 received January 5, 2021, from James Erickson, who is a lobbyist 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 registered lobbyist during a regular session of the legislature and the legislature was in regular session on the date the contribution was received.
2. The committee's treasurer, Patrick Sellner, explained that the contribution was mistakenly not flagged or returned in accordance with the committee's regular screening process. 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 Simon committee accepted a contribution from a registered lobbyist 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 restrictions on contributions during the legislative session.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees that it:
  - a. 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 and will return any unallowable contributions within 90 days; and
  - b. Will not accept contributions from lobbyists, political committees, political funds, or unregistered associations during the legislative session.
5. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$500, the amount of the contribution, for accepting a contribution prohibited by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1. 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, 2025. If Simon (Steve) for Secretary of State violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1, before January 1, 2025, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1, before January 1, 2025, 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 \$500 has been refunded to Mr. Erickson.

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/ Steve Simon  
Secretary of State Steve Simon  
Simon for Secretary of State

Dated: August 29, 2022

/s/ Faris Rashid  
Faris Rashid, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: August 15, 2022