

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

**PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF PARISA ROUZEGAR REGARDING THE ANGELINE (ANDERSON)
FOR MINNESOTA COMMITTEE

On July 24, 2024, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Parisa Rouzegar regarding Angeline Anderson, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 56B. Angeline (Anderson) for Minnesota is the principal campaign committee of Angeline Anderson.

The complaint alleges violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, which regulates the use of disclaimers on campaign material. The complaint asserts that Ms. Anderson violated the disclaimer requirement “by failing to prominently display the correct disclaimer on most of her campaign materials and platforms” including on her committee’s website,¹ Facebook page,² X page,³ Instagram page,⁴ and lawn signs, as well as on a specific piece of printed “door knocking literature.” The complaint includes seven screenshots, each apparently captured using a mobile phone or tablet, depicting portions of the Anderson committee’s website, social media pages, lawn signs, t-shirts, and printed campaign literature. Several of the screenshots attached to the complaint appear to depict disclaimers. The complaint does not state any reason why the disclaimers that are visible are a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.

The complaint includes a screenshot of the committee’s website showing that the website’s home page contains a disclaimer stating “Prepared and Paid for by Angeline for Minnesota, PO Box #133, Rosemount, MN 55068.” The complaint does not state any reason why the disclaimer is deficient.

The complaint includes screenshots of the committee’s Instagram page, including a home page that contains the candidate’s name, office sought, website address, and several images. One of those images is a document soliciting contributions titled “Have you donated?” Another image is a document soliciting contributions titled “HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE MN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION REFUND PROGRAM?” Although they are difficult to read due to the size of the images within the screenshot attached to the complaint, the bottom of each document contains a disclaimer. The complaint does not state why the disclaimers are deficient.

Screenshots of the committee’s Instagram page also appear to depict photographs of the committee’s lawn signs and t-shirts, as well as a specific piece of printed campaign literature.

¹ angelineforminnesota.com

² facebook.com/angelineformn

³ x.com/angelineformn

⁴ instagram.com/angelineformn

The photographs appear to show that each lawn sign contains a disclaimer at the bottom of the sign. Due to the size of the images within the screenshots attached to the complaint, the text appearing at the bottom of each lawn sign is illegible. The complaint does not state any reason why the disclaimer printed on each lawn sign is deficient.

With respect to the printed campaign literature, only one side of the literature is depicted, and the literature occupies a small portion of a photograph within a screenshot of an Instagram post, making it impossible to discern whether the literature contains a disclaimer or not. The complaint does not include any allegations or evidence regarding what text, if any, appears on the reverse side of the literature.

The complaint includes a screenshot of the committee's X page showing that the home page contains a disclaimer stating "Prepared and Paid for by the Angeline for Minnesota Committee, www.angelineforminnesota.com." The complaint does not state why the disclaimer is deficient.

The complaint includes two screenshots of the committee's Facebook page depicting the page's Posts section and About section. The screenshots show that the Facebook page contains the candidate's name, office sought, website address, email address, phone number, and mailing address. However, the screenshots do not depict a disclaimer in the form specified within Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1.

The committee's Facebook, X, and Instagram pages each appear to contain a link to the committee's website. One of the screenshots attached to the complaint depicts the committee's website, which contains a disclaimer including the committee's mailing address.

Determination

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 generally requires principal campaign committees to include on their campaign material a disclaimer substantially in the form provided in Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1. With the exception of broadcast media, campaign material must include a disclaimer in the following format: Prepared and paid for by the [committee name], [address]. "The address must be either the committee's mailing address or the committee's website, if the website includes the committee's mailing address." Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subd. 1. The disclaimer requirement is "satisfied for an entire website or social media page" if the required disclaimer "appears once on the home page of the site." Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subd. 4. Although written campaign material generally must include a disclaimer "printed in 8-point font or larger," that requirement does not apply to "an outdoor sign, website, or social media page." Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subd. 5. Also, certain types of campaign material are exempted from the disclaimer requirement, including "wearing apparel" and "online banner ads and similar electronic communications that link directly to an online page that includes the disclaimer." Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subd. 3.

Based on the screenshots attached to the complaint, the home pages of the committee's website, X page, and Instagram page each appear to include a disclaimer substantially in the

form provided in Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1. The complaint does not state a reason why those disclaimers are deficient. Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 as to those materials.

The lawn signs depicted in the complaint appear to include a disclaimer, and while the text of the disclaimer is illegible due to the size of the screenshots attached to the complaint, the complaint does not explain why, or provide evidence demonstrating why, the disclaimers are deficient. Therefore, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 as to the lawn signs. To the extent that the complaint alleges that t-shirts depicted within screenshots of the committee's Instagram page lack a valid disclaimer, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 as to those t-shirts because the disclaimer requirement does not apply to wearing apparel under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 3.

The complaint includes a screenshot that contains a photograph of printed campaign literature, but the reverse side of the campaign literature is not depicted, so it is impossible to discern whether the literature contains a disclaimer or not. Two-sided campaign literature is not required to include a disclaimer on each side, and speculation regarding what appears on the reverse side of the literature depicted would be necessary to reach the conclusion that the literature lacks a valid disclaimer. Because the allegation in the complaint regarding the printed campaign literature is based on speculation rather than evidence, the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 as to that literature.

The screenshots of the committee's Facebook page attached to the complaint do not depict a disclaimer, and therefore provide evidence that the page does not include a disclaimer substantially in the form provided in Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1. The chair therefore concludes that the complaint states a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 regarding the committee's Facebook page.

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. This prima facie determination does not mean that the Board has commenced, or will commence an investigation or has made any determination of a violation by any of the individuals or entities named in the complaint.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3 (d), within 60 days of the date of this determination, the Board will make findings and conclusions as to whether probable cause exists to believe that a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 has occurred and warrants a formal investigation. The complainant and the respondent named in this prima facie determination will be given an opportunity to be heard by the Board prior to any decision on probable cause.

Until the Board makes a public finding or enters into a conciliation agreement, this matter is subject to the confidentiality requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 5.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Asp", written over a horizontal line.

David Asp, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: August 7, 2024