

## Complaint for Violation of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act

All information on this form is confidential until a decision is issued by the Board. A photocopy of the entire complaint, however, will be sent to the respondent.

## Information about complaint filer

Name of complaint filer	Luke Mielke		
Address	PO Box 50081	Email address united61Aneighbors@gmail.com	
City, state, and zip	Minneapolis, MN 55403	Telephone (612) 314-3872	

## Identify person/entity you are complaining about

Name of person/entity being complained about Stancil (	Will) Neighborhood Action Committee	
Address PO Box 50278		
City, state, zip	Minneapolis, MN 55403	
Title of respondent (If applicable)	Candidate	
Board/Department/Agency/District # (If legis	19075	

Luke Mielke	Digitally signed by Luke Mielke Date: 2024.08.08 09:56:11 -05'00'	8/824
Signature of person filing complaint		Date

Send completed form to:

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board 190 Centennial Office Building 658 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55155

If you have questions call 651-539-1189, 800-657-3889, or for TTY/TDD communication contact us via the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529. Board staff may be reached by email at cf.board@state.mn.us.

Give the statutory cit	e to the section of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211E	3,
or Minnesota Rules	you believe has been violated:	

211B.04

You will find links to the complete text of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211B, and Minnesota Rules chapters 4501 - 4525 on the Board's website at cfb.mn.gov.

## **Nature of complaint**

Explain in detail why you believe the respondent has violated the campaign finance and public disclosure laws. Attach extra sheet(s) of paper if necessary. Attach any documents, photographs, or other evidence needed to support your allegations. Electronic files may be provided to the Board by email or via a file transfer service.

The August edition of newspaper Hill and Lake Press included an ad by the campaign of candidate Will Stancil. This advertisement states "I'm asking for your vote on August 13" and clearly should be considered campaign material as defined in Minnesota Statute 211B.01 Subdivision 2.

This advertisement does not include the required of disclaimer "Prepared and paid for by the ....... committee, ....... (address)" outlined in Minnesota Statute 211B.04 Subdivision 1 (b). A link to a website alone does not meet the requirements outlined in Minnesota Statute 211B.04 Subdivision 1 (b). A print newspaper ad does not fall under the alternative disclaimers for broadcast media in 211B.04 Subdivision 1 (c) or the materials that don't require disclaimers in 211B.04 Subdivision 3.

See attached document with a copy of the advertisement.

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4525 describe the procedures required for investigating complaints. A full description of the complaint process is available on the Board's website. Briefly, the Board will notify you when it has received your complaint. The Board must send a copy of the complaint to the respondent. Complaints and investigations are confidential. Board members and staff cannot talk about an investigation except as required to carry out the investigation or to take action in the matter. After the Board issues a decision, the record of the investigation is public.

The law requires a complaint to go through two stages before the Board can begin an investigation: a prima facie determination and a probable cause decision. If the complaint does not pass one of the stages, it must be dismissed. The Board chair or their designee has 10 business days after receiving your complaint to determine whether the complaint alleges a prima facie violation. If the complaint alleges a prima facie violation, the Board has 45 days to decide whether probable cause exists to believe a violation that warrants a formal investigation has occurred. Both you and the respondent have the right to be heard on the issue of probable cause before the Board makes this decision. The Board will notify you if the complaint moves to the probable cause stage.

If the Board determines that probable cause does not exist, the Board will dismiss the complaint. If the Board determines that probable cause exists, the Board may start an investigation. In some cases the Board will issue findings, conclusions, and an order as its decision. In other cases the Board will instead enter into a conciliation agreement with the respondent. The Board's final decision will be posted on the Board's website.

Minnesota Statute 211B.04 Subdivision 1 (b) outlines the requirements for disclosures by political campaigns on campaign materials.

(b) Except in cases covered by paragraph (c), the required form of disclaimer is: "Prepared and paid for by the ....... committee, ....... (address)" for material prepared and paid for by a principal campaign committee, or "Prepared and paid for by the ...... committee, ...... (address)" for material prepared and paid for by a person or committee other than a principal campaign committee. The address must be either the committee's mailing address or the committee's website, if the website includes the committee's mailing address. If the material is produced and disseminated without cost, the words "paid for" may be omitted from the disclaimer.

The <u>August edition of Hill and Lake Press</u> newspaper included an ad by the campaign of candidate Will Stancil, which is included below:



Hill & Lake Press

This advertisement states "I'm asking for your vote on August 13" and clearly should be considered campaign material as defined in Minnesota Statute 211B.01 Subdivision 2.

This advertisement does not include the required form of disclaimer "Prepared and paid for by the ....... committee, ....... (address)" outlined in Minnesota Statute 211B.04 Subdivision 1 (b). A link to a website alone does not meet the requirements outlined in Minnesota Statute 211B.04 Subdivision 1 (b). A print newspaper ad does not fall under the alternative disclaimers for broadcast media in 211B.04 Subdivision 1 (c) or the materials that don't require disclaimers in 211B.04 Subdivision 3.