STATE OF MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman (17782);

- 1. The Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman is the principal campaign committee of Representative Joshua Heintzeman, a candidate for House District 6B. On September 16, 2024, the Board received a complaint submitted by Jakob Ingalls alleging that the Heintzeman committee failed to display a proper disclaimer on a Facebook page. At the time the complaint was filed the page contained a disclaimer stating "Prepared and paid for by the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman Candidate for State Representative." The disclaimer did not include the Heintzeman committee's address.
- 2. Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1, provides that written campaign material must include a disclaimer that includes the address of the committee that prepared or paid for the material. On December 4, 2024, the Board found that there was probable cause to believe that a violation occurred and directed the Board's executive director to open a staff review.
- 3. The Heintzeman committee's attorney, R. Reid LeBeau II, stated that the committee's old Facebook page was removed and replaced by a new page, and in the process of recreating the page the committee did its best to comply with the disclaimer requirement but inadvertently omitted its address. Mr. LeBeau asserted that there could be no confusion as to who prepared the Facebook page. The Facebook page was updated shortly after the Heintzeman committee was notified of the complaint to include its address within the disclaimer.
- 4. In determining the appropriate penalty for a violation of the disclaimer requirement the Board considers multiple factors such as whether it was clear who was responsible for the campaign material and how to contact them, whether the violation has been remedied, whether there were prior violations of the disclaimer requirement, the cost of the campaign material and how widely it was disseminated, whether the violation was self-reported, and whether the violation was willful.²
- 5. The Heintzeman committee has acknowledged the violation. The violation was not self-reported and came to the attention of the Board through a complaint. The Facebook page included a disclaimer clearly stating it was prepared and paid for by the Heintzeman committee, and the content of the Facebook page made it clear who was responsible for the page. The committee registered with the Board in 2014. There is no evidence that the violation was willful.
- 6. The Heintzeman committee and the Board agree that the committee inadvertently violated Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 by failing to include its address within the disclaimer displayed on its Facebook page. The Heintzeman committee agrees to the imposition of a civil

¹ facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563070770280

² See Minn. Stat. § 14.045, subd. 3.

penalty of \$100. Payment is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties.

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.

Representative Joshua Heintzeman

Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman

Dated: January 13, 2025

Dated: February 12, 2025

Faris Rashid, Chair

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board