



# MINNESOTA

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

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

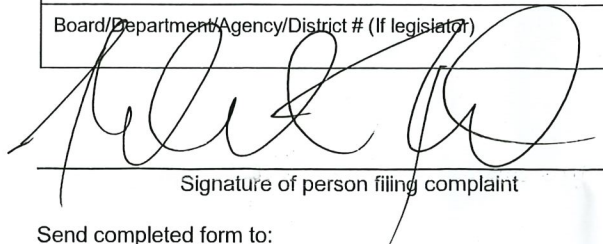
All information on this form is confidential until a decision is issued by the Board.  
A photocopy of the entire complaint, however, will be sent to the respondent.

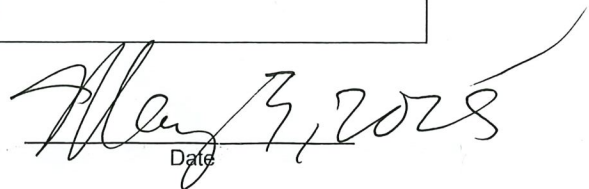
#### Information about complaint filer

Name of complaint filer	Rebecca Thompson		
Address	4251 Thomas Ave North	Email address	03-sierra-sate@icloud.com
City, state, and zip	Minneapolis MN 55412	Telephone (Daytime)	213-400-0806

#### Identify person/entity you are complaining about

Name of person/entity being complained about	Unknown
Address	
City, state, zip	
Title of respondent (If applicable)	
Board/Department/Agency/District # (If legislator)	

  
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](mailto:cf.board@state.mn.us).

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-539-1180, 800-657-3889, or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529.

Give the statutory cite to the section of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211B, or Minnesota Rules you believe has been violated:

rcial Report - 211a.05 Failure To Keep Account, Penalty - 211a.05 Failure To File Statement - 211b.075 Inte

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](http://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.

Someone is running an illegal campaign against me. It is not known who is running this campaign. They produced a website, as well as campaign literature and stickers which they are disseminating, and are showing up at my campaign events, yet no local campaign committee has been registered. No financial reports have been published. There are no legitimate disclaimers. There are false claims of support. There is deceptive information. This may be a corporation or foreign country illegally funding this campaign. I have attached details of this illegal campaign and who may be behind it.

I believe this may violate the following statutes: 211b.02 False Claim of Support, 211b.04 Campaign Material Must Include Disclaimer, 211a.02 Financial Report, 211a.06 Failure to Keep Account; Penalty, 211a.05 Failure to File Statement, 211b.075 Intimidation and Interference with the Voting Process; Penalties, 211b.15 Corporate Political Contributions.

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 60 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.

### **Information about complaint filer (Complainant)**

**Name:** Ms. Rebecca Thompson  
**Address:** 4251 Thomas Ave North  
**City, State, Zip:** Minneapolis MN 55412  
**Telephone Number:** 213-400-0806  
**Email Address:** [03-sierra-sate@icloud.com](mailto:03-sierra-sate@icloud.com)

**Provide the specific statute in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 211A (Campaign Finance Act) or Chapter 211B (Fair Campaign Practices Act) that you allege has been violated:**

- 211b.02 False Claim Of Support
- 211b.04 Campaign Material Must Include Disclaimer.
- 211a.02 Financial Report.
- 211a.06 Failure To Keep Account; Penalty.
- 211a.05 Failure To File Statement.
- 211b.075 Intimidation And Interference With The Voting Process; Penalties.
- 211b.15 Corporate Political Contributions.

### **Information about the complaint**

**Date(s) of violation(s):** 12/30/2024 and continuing through the filing of this complaint.

**Date of election or ballot question:** November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, City Council

**Elected office or ballot question involved:** City of Minneapolis Ward 12



## Complaint

### 1. A WEBSITE HAS BEEN CREATED BY UNKNOWN PERSONS THAT VIOLATES STATE STATUTES.

This website can be found here: <https://vote4becka.com>. My website is <https://voteforbecka.com>. This misleading website provides deceptive information about me and my candidacy for Ward 12 and fails to accurately disclose who is responsible for this website and associated campaign materials.

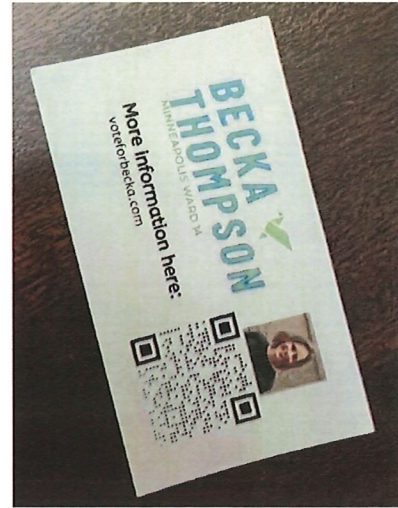
### 2. THIS IS THE FRONT PAGE OF THE WEBSITE.



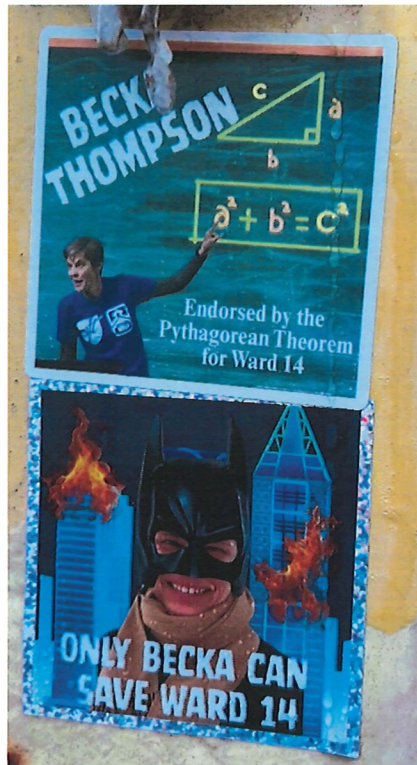


### 3. DISTRIBUTION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS DIRECTING PEOPLE TO THE MISLEADING WEBSITE AND MAKING FALSE CLAIMS

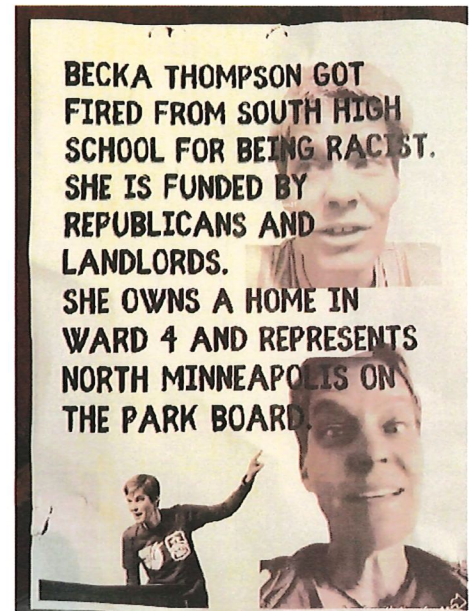
At the February 17 event at Arbiter Brewing, two unknown people went through the brewery handing out cards directing people to the misleading website while I hosted an event in a private part of the brewery. This was done in such a way to make it look like they were my supporters. This is a picture of the material handed out directing guests to this misleading website. These cards were also left on tables at both the February 17 and an April 3 event at the Cardinal Bar in Minneapolis.



Stickers are being put on public infrastructure within Ward 12. For example, this sticker with me in a MAGA hat is at 37<sup>th</sup> and Minnehaha. It is a deep fake. I have never worn a hat that says, "Make America Great Again" but it is meant to make it look like I am a MAGA supporter aligned with Republicans, despite being a long-standing Democrat. Also, it is misleading because it states that I am running for Ward 14, except there is no Ward 14 in Minneapolis. I am running for Ward 12. This is being done to confuse and mislead voters. Similar stickers are misleading, confusing and incorrect.



This flyer was outside of one of my campaign events.



#### **4. THE COST EXCEEDS \$750.**

The known costs of this campaign from unknown persons against me so far exceed \$750. This illegal campaign includes the cost of website design and development, purchase of the domain, domain registration, website hosting, payments to boost search returns so the site ranks above the correct site, printing for at least four types of stickers and printing of business cards and flyers. Unquestionably these costs exceed \$750.

#### **5. UNKNOWN PERSONS ARE CARRYING OUT THIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST MS. THOMPSON**

It is not known who is running this local campaign against me. They produced a website, as well as campaign literature and stickers which they are disseminating, and are showing up at my campaign events, yet no local campaign committee has been registered. No financial reports have been published. There are no legitimate disclaimers. There are false claims of support. There is deceptive information, i.e., there is no Ward 14 in Minneapolis. This may be a corporation or foreign country illegally funding this campaign, in violation of a number of state statutes.



## 6. THE PERSONS WHO REGISTERED THE WEBSITE DOMAIN ARE HIDDEN BUT KNOWABLE

It is not known who is doing this campaign against me. This domain, the website name, is registered with GoDaddy, a web host, but the client information is hidden by GoDaddy. GoDaddy is concealing who organized this campaign committee and is therefore participating in the violation of state laws. They also know to whom they sold this domain registration.

### WHOIS search results

#### Domain Information

Name	VOTEFORBECKA.COM
Registry Domain ID	2946608056_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registered On	2024-12-31T02:14:18Z
Expires On	2025-12-31T02:14:18Z
Updated On	2024-12-31T02:14:18Z
Domain Status	client delete prohibited client renew prohibited client transfer prohibited client update prohibited
Name Servers	NS69.DOMAINCONTROL.COM NS70.DOMAINCONTROL.COM

## 7. THE PERSONS WHO PURCHASED THE WEBSITE DOMAIN NAME ARE HIDDEN BUT KNOWABLE.

I don't know who is running this campaign against me. The domain, "voteforbecka.com" was sold by Domains By Proxy to the undisclosed campaign committee. Domains By Proxy is concealing who organized this campaign committee and is therefore participating in the violation of state laws. They also know who they sold this domain to but are unwilling to disclose it voluntarily.



DomainTools

PROFILE • CONNECT • MONITOR • SUPPORT

Whois Lookup







```
Domain Name: voteforbecka.com
Registry Domain ID: 2946608056_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.godaddy.com
Registrar URL: https://www.godaddy.com
Updated Date: 2024-12-30T21:14:18Z
Creation Date: 2024-12-30T21:14:18Z
Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2025-12-30T21:14:18Z
Registrar: GoDaddy.com, LLC
Registrar IANA ID: 146
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: abuse@godaddy.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.4806242505
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited
Domain Status: clientUpdateProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientUpdateProhibited
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited
Registry Registrant ID: Not Available From Registry
Registrant Name: Registration Private
Registrant Organization: Domains By Proxy, LLC
Registrant Street: DomainsByProxy.com
Registrant Street: 180 S. Mill Ave, Suite 1600
Registrant City: Tempe
Registrant State/Province: Arizona
Registrant Postal Code: 85281
Registrant Country: US
Registrant Phone: +1.4806242599
Registrant Phone Ext:
Registrant Fax:
Registrant Fax Ext:
Registrant Email: Select Contact Domain Holder link at
https://www.godaddy.com/whois/results.aspx?domain=voteforbecka.com
Registry Tech ID: Not Available From Registry
Tech Name: Registration Private
Tech Organization: Domains By Proxy, LLC
Tech Street: DomainsByProxy.com
```



## 8. THIS WEBSITE WAS SET UP ON 12-30-2024.

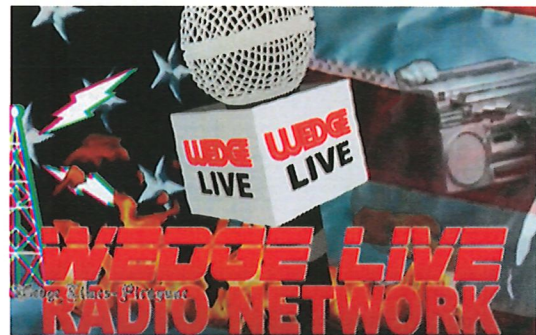
This website was created on 12-30-2024, according to hosting checker software.

<https://hostingchecker.com/>

Who is hosting voteforbecka.com?	
 <b>Hosting Provider:</b> Cloudflare London	 <b>IP Address:</b> 103.169.142.0
<b>Nameservers:</b> ns69.domaincontrol.com ns70.domaincontrol.com	 <b>Owner Details:</b> <a href="#">Whois Record</a> 
<b>Autonomous System Number:</b> 209242	<b>Autonomous System Organization:</b> Cloudflare London, LLC
<b>Organization:</b> Cloudflare London	<b>Continent:</b> Oceania
<b>Country:</b> Australia	<b>Registered Country:</b> Australia
<b>Location:</b> Australia/Sydney	

## 9. WEDGELIVE IS A SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANY AND WEB DEVELOPER

WedgeLIVE! is WedgeLIVE! is a social media company and website developer, with a footprint on nearly every social media platform. On the front page of its website, <https://wedgelive.com/> you can see links to BlueSky, Twitter, YouTube, Spotify, Instagram, and Etsy. It does web development and also produces a podcast. All this material can be found at <https://wedgelive.com/>.

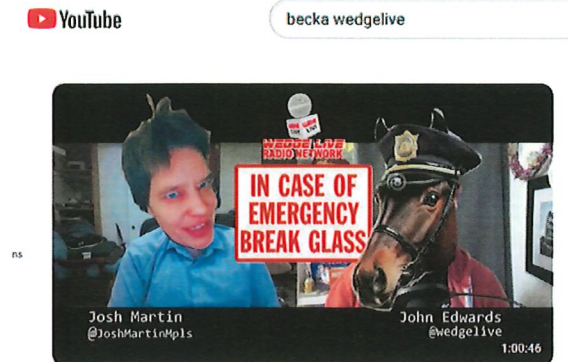


## 10. WEDGELIVE PRODUCED NEGATIVE SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT ABOUT MS. THOMPSON TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE DECEPTIVE WEBSITE

On the December 16, 2024, WedgeLIVE! podcast, John Edwards, the host of the WedgeLIVE! podcast, and the owner of WedgeLIVE!, called Ms. Thompson, “a maniac”, “a performer”, and the “weirdest, worst member of the Park Board.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vX1vdAilbss>

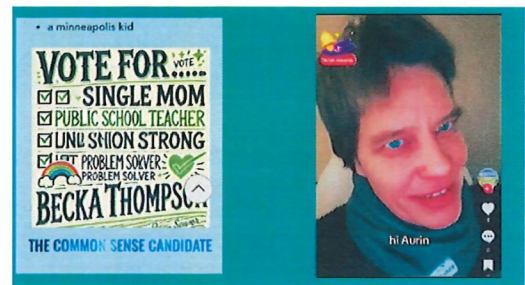
## 11. WEDGELIVE! PRODUCED VIDEO WITH THE SAME DISTORTED IMAGE OF MS. THOMPSON USED ON THE VOTEFORBECKA WEBSITE TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE WEBSITE WAS CREATED

On December 16, 2024, two weeks prior to the website being registered, WedgeLIVE! produced a podcast video that included an unusual, distorted image of me. This video can be found: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vX1vdAilbss>



This same distorted image shows up two weeks later on the deceptive and illegal website, [www.voteforbecka.com](http://www.voteforbecka.com).

The most plausible explanation for how this unusual identical image could appear in both places is that someone working for WedgeLIVE! created the distorted content and produced both the WedgeLIVE! broadcast and the [www.voteforbecka.com](http://www.voteforbecka.com) website that violates state law.



## 12. THE FIRST SOCIAL MEDIA POST PUBLICIZING THE WEBSITE WAS MADE ONE DAY LATER AFTER THE SITE WAS REGISTERED, ON 12-31-2024 ON THE "TAYLR" BLUESKY ACCOUNT.

The domain for the website was registered with GoDaddy on 12-30-2024. The following day, on 12-31-2024, Taylr.bsky.social posted about the website on BlueSky at <https://bsky.app/profile/taylr.bsky.social>

There are no other social media posts about the website before Taylr posted it. This is the first instance of this website being public. There is no way Taylr could have known about other than @taylr.bsky.social made it, or someone they know made it and shared it with them so they could post it at @taylr.bsky.social to their 3,500 followers.





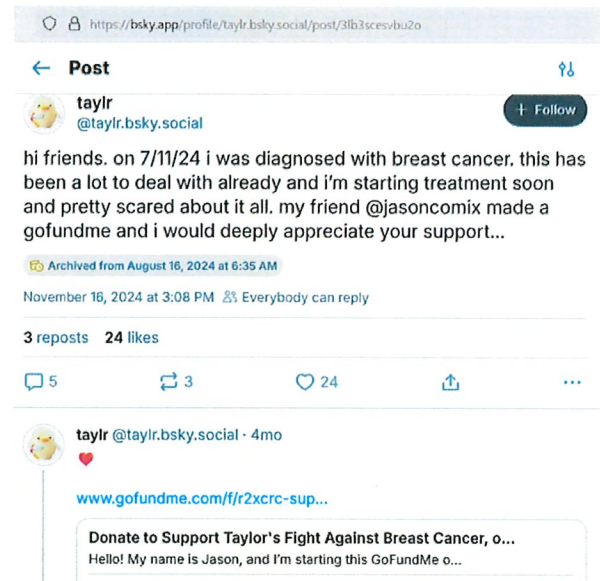
### 13. TAYLOR DAHLIN OWNS THE @taylr.bsky.social ACCOUNT

The @taylr.bsky.social account is owned by Taylor Dahlin. This is known because @taylr.bsky.social asked people on BlueSky to donate to her through a GoFundMe page. Here you can see her request for donations to her GoFundMe account created by @jasoncomix.

This page is at:

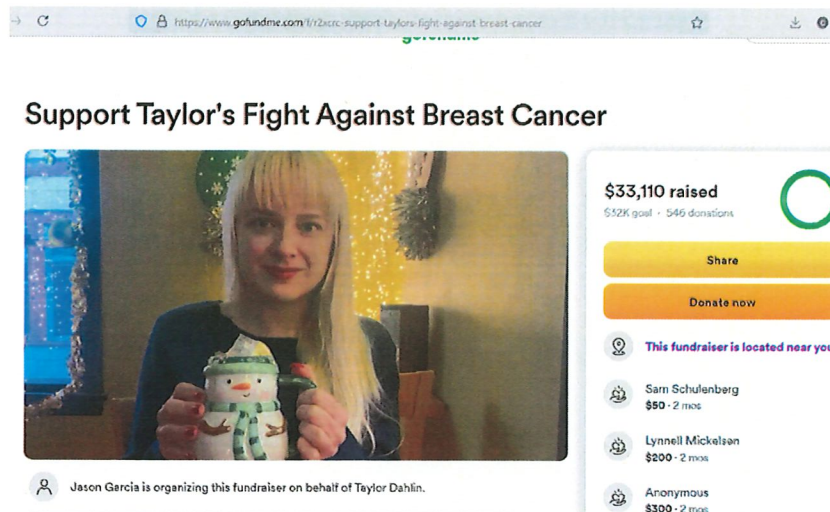
<https://bsky.app/profile/taylr.bsky.social/post/3lb3scesvbu2o>

The full link to the GoFundMe site on this page is: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/r2xcrc-support-taylors-fight-against-breast-cancer>



### 14. TAYLOR DAHLIN'S GOFUNDME PAGE SHOWS WHO @taylr.bsky.social IS

The link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/r2xcrc-support-taylors-fight-against-breast-cancer> goes to a GoFundMe page, which identifies @taylr.bsky.social as Taylor Dahlin. Her identity is needed so people can donate money to her.



### 15. TAYLOR DAHLIN IS A KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF WEDGELIVE

Wedge Live! Produces a video podcast. This video podcast is available on Spotify here: <https://creators.spotify.com/pod/profile/wedgelive/> She has also been involved with a number of other WedgeLIVE! projects. In the last six months of 2024, Taylor Dahlin appeared on the WedgeLIVE! podcast five times, on:



- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- (no podcasts were produced in September)
- November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

I don't know at this time if she is an employee, contractor, or is otherwise paid by WedgeLIVE! for these services or if she is associated in some other way.

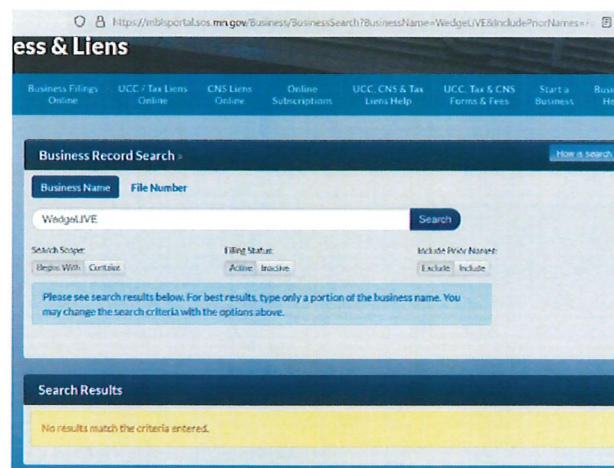
## 17. TAYLOR DAHLIN MOST LIKELY GOT THE LINK FOR THE ILLEGAL WEBSITE FROM WEDGELIVE

Taylor Dahlin, an associate of WedgeLIVE!, promoted this false website the day after it was registered, when only those aware of its origination would be aware that the deceptive website existed. The only plausible way Dahlin could have gotten information about this website was from its creator. Given she is either an employee or close associate of WedgeLIVE!, it is most likely that WedgeLIVE! produced the content, then gave the link to Dahlin to disseminate to her large number of followers on BlueSky and other social media platforms.

## 18. THE WEDGELIVE BUSINESS IS NOT A LEGAL ENTITY

It is likely that WedgeLIVE! is the business that produced the misleading website. The business, "WedgeLIVE!" is not registered with the Secretary of State. It doesn't legally exist. The picture of the Minnesota Secretary of State's business records search shows no business named "WedgeLIVE!" registered with the state.

Despite functioning like a business, it is not registered with the Secretary of State as a business. This is consistent with people wanting to hide their identity.



The screenshot shows the Minnesota Secretary of State's Business Record Search page. The search criteria are as follows:

Business Name	File Number
WedgeLIVE	

Search Results: No results match the criteria entered.

**19. JOHN EDWARDS IS THE OWNER OF WEDGELIVE! AND WOULD KNOW IF IT PRODUCED MATERIALS FOR THIS CAMPAIGN OR IS BEHIND THE CAMPAIGN**

The owner of WedgeLIVE! is a man named John Edwards. This article explains how he runs WedgeLIVE! <https://racketmn.com/wedge-live-minneapolis-john-edwards> He is the host of their podcasts, is seen live-tweeting community events under the WedgeLIVE! name, produces web content, creates videos, and handles the other work of running this business. If WedgeLIVE! produced this campaign, paid for these costs, donated time, or produced materials for it, John Edwards would know.

This article also mentions Taylor Dahlin. This article calls Taylor Dahlin, "a frequent guest on the Wedge LIVE! podcast."

The full article is Exhibit 1.

## **LAWS VIOLATED**

### **1. 211B.02 FALSE CLAIM OF SUPPORT.**

*"A person or candidate may not knowingly make, directly or indirectly, a false claim stating or implying that a candidate or ballot question has the support or endorsement of a major political party or party unit or of an organization. A person or candidate may not state in written campaign material that the candidate or ballot question has the support or endorsement of an individual without first getting written permission from the individual to do so."*

This website claim that this website was "Prepared and Paid for by Friends of Becka Thompson." None of Rebecca Thompson's friends prepared or paid for this website. That is a false claim of support.

### **211B.04, subd. 2 CAMPAIGN MATERIAL MUST INCLUDE DISCLAIMER.**

*"(a) The required form of the disclaimer on a written independent expenditure is: "This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by ..... (name of entity participating in the expenditure), ..... (address). It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it." The address must be either the entity's mailing address or the entity's website, if the website includes the entity's mailing address. When a written independent expenditure is produced and disseminated without cost, the words "and paid for" may be omitted from the disclaimer.*

*(b) The required form of the disclaimer on a broadcast independent expenditure is: "This independent expenditure is paid for by ..... (name of entity participating in the expenditure). It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it." When a broadcast independent expenditure is produced and disseminated without cost, the following disclaimer may be used: "..... (name of entity participating in the expenditure) is responsible for the contents of this independent expenditure. It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it.""*

The "www.voteformecka.com" website claims that this website was "Prepared and Paid for by Friends of Becka Thompson." No mailing address is provided on the material or on the website. The disclaimer and associated materials do not disclose who actually paid for this website with an actual mailing address. This failure to disclose who is behind these attacks violates the requirement that campaign materials must disclose who is producing campaign materials.



## **211A.02 FINANCIAL REPORT.**

*"211A.02 FINANCIAL REPORT.*

*Subdivision 1. When and where filed by committees or candidates.*

*(a) A committee or a candidate who receives contributions or makes disbursements of more than \$750 in a calendar year shall submit an initial report to the filing officer within 14 days after the candidate or committee receives or makes disbursements of more than \$750 and must continue to make the reports required by this subdivision until a final report is filed."*

This statute requires that any committee that has either received or spent \$750 must report their spending. This means they have to both register as a committee and also disclose their funding. There is no campaign committee that has registered for this campaign.

Have they spent over \$750? Undoubtedly, yes. They not only have the cost of labor for website creation, website hosting, domain registration, boosting of search results, and domain hosting, they are printing materials to disseminate the website. Typically, it is about \$1,500 to put up even a simple website, between design costs, image creation, hosting costs, domain registration, and other costs.

Printing 250 stickers on a roll would cost over \$100 each and they have printed at least four sets of stickers that are known.

[Sticker Printing – Print Custom Stickers in Any Shapes & Sizes | UPrinting](#)

Business cards would cost about \$25 for 250. Printing of flyers varies depending on how many were printed.

There may be additional expenditures about which I have no knowledge.

## **211A.06 FAILURE TO KEEP ACCOUNT; PENALTY.**

*"A candidate, treasurer, or other individual who receives money for a committee is guilty of a misdemeanor if the individual:*

*(1) fails to keep a correct account as required by law;*

*(2) mutilates, defaces, or destroys an account record; or*

*(3) in the case of a committee, refuses upon request to provide financial information to a candidate; and*

*(4) does any of these things with the intent to conceal receipts or disbursements, the purpose of receipts or disbursements, or the existence or amount of an unpaid debt or the identity of the person to whom it is owed."*

The committee behind this website has not registered so it can conceal receipts and disbursements and the purpose of the receipts and disbursements.

#### **211A.05, Subd. 1. FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT.**

*"A candidate who intentionally fails to file a report required by section 211A.02 or a certification required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. The treasurer of a committee who intentionally fails to file a report required by section 211A.02 or a certification required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each candidate or treasurer of a committee must certify to the filing officer that all reports required by section 211A.02 have been submitted to the filing officer or that the candidate or committee has not received contributions or made disbursements exceeding \$750 in the calendar year. The certification must be submitted to the filing officer no later than seven days after the general or special election. The secretary of state must prepare blanks for this certification. An officer who issues a certificate of election to a candidate who has not certified that all reports required by section 211A.02 have been filed is guilty of a misdemeanor."*

This statute requires that a committee file a statement if it raised or disbursed \$750. Clearly this unregistered committee has raised at least this amount but have not filed a statement.

If this is being done by the business WedgeLIVE!, then it would be a private business illegally interfering in elections.

#### **211B.075 INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE WITH THE VOTING PROCESS; PENALTIES.**

*Subd. 2. Deceptive practices.*

*(a) No person may, within 60 days of an election, cause information to be transmitted by any means that the person:*

*(1) intends to impede or prevent another person from exercising the right to vote; and*

*(2) knows to be materially false.*



*(b) The prohibition in this subdivision includes but is not limited to information regarding the time, place, or manner of holding an election; the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility at an election; and threats to physical safety associated with casting a ballot.*

*Subd. 3. Interference with registration or voting.*

*No person may intentionally hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person in casting a ballot or registering to vote.*

This website claims that there is a Ward 14 and that I, Rebecca Thompson, am running for it. If you lived in Ward 12, the Ward I am actually running for, this would be deceptive and confusing.

This information is being put out within 60 days of caucusing, when there will be voting for endorsements.

#### **211B.075, Subd. 4. INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE WITH THE VOTING PROCESS; PENALTIES.**

*"A person may be held vicariously liable for any damages resulting from the violation of this section and may be identified in an order restraining violations of this section if that person:*

*(1) intentionally aids, advises, hires, counsels, abets, incites, compels, or coerces a person to violate any provision of this section or attempts to aid, advise, hire, counsel, abet, incite, compel, or coerce a person to violate any provision of this section; or*

*(2) conspires, combines, agrees, or arranges with another to either commit a violation of this section or aid, advise, hire, counsel, abet, incite, compel, or coerce a third person to violate any provision of this section."*

I do not know who these persons are at this time. But I know that this is not just one person who decided to put up a website but includes multiple persons. It would appear that at least Edwards and Dahlin were involved in the creation and dissemination of the website. At least two people were seen handing out fake campaign literature and putting up stickers. This makes these people part of a conspiracy to violate campaign law. If it was done by the business WedgeLIVE! or if someone was hired to do this work, it would include other individuals and thus be a conspiracy.



## **211B.15 Subd. 2.Prohibited contributions.**

*(a) A corporation may not make a contribution or offer or agree to make a contribution directly or indirectly, of any money, property, free service of its officers, employees, or members, or thing of monetary value to a political party, organization, committee, or individual to promote or defeat the candidacy of an individual for nomination, election, or appointment to a political office.*

*(b) A political party, organization, committee, or individual may not accept a contribution or an offer or agreement to make a contribution that a corporation is prohibited from making under paragraph*

*(c) For the purpose of this subdivision, "contribution" includes an expenditure to promote or defeat the election or nomination of a candidate to a political office that is made with the authorization or expressed or implied consent of, or in cooperation or in concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate or committee established to support or oppose a candidate but does not include an independent expenditure authorized by subdivision 3.*

### *Subd. 3.Independent expenditures.*

*A corporation may not make an expenditure or offer or agree to make an expenditure to promote or defeat the candidacy of an individual for nomination, election, or appointment to a political office, unless the expenditure is an independent expenditure. For the purpose of this subdivision, "independent expenditure" has the meaning given in section 10A.01, subdivision 18.*

Because this conspiracy of individuals behind this false campaign have not filed a campaign finance report, I do not know whether they are being funded by corporations, by foreign nationals, or other prohibited groups.

I do not know who is funding WedgeLIVE!. It is likely that corporations or individuals representing corporations have provided funding to WedgeLIVE! through its Patreon account. This would mean that they are violating state law if they are behind this.

## EXHIBIT 1: RACKET ARTICLE ON JOHN EDWARDS

This is the article from the Racket that describes John Edward's relationship to the business WedgeLIVE!. It can be found at:

<https://racketmn.com/wedge-live-minneapolis-john-edwards>





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Eleven years ago, when John Edwards decided to bolt from his hometown of Boca Raton, Florida, he scrolled through endless walkability and affordability lists online, eventually picking out Minneapolis's Wedge neighborhood on a literal map. A Google Map, one that demonstrated sufficient grocery stores, bike lanes, and bus stops in the area.

"It always comes back to cars," Edwards says. "I wanted to live some place where I'd be able to not drive, but was also affordable. Ended up here."

He and his partner didn't know anyone when they arrived in 2012, but the social stereotypes of Minnesotans—that we're icy and insular around transplants—didn't ring true for Edwards. He dove right in to local political meetings, made friends via Twitter, and generally found the community welcoming.

But, in 2014, his adopted city "deeply" pissed him off. Edwards had decided to enter "the ultimate Minneapolis local political venue"—neighborhood association meetings. And the amount of pushback around the development of a parking lot at Franklin & Lyndale inspired the density-loving resident to start tweeting about hyper-local political sausage-making. Wary of boring his personal followers, he created the [Wedge LIVE!](#) account to broadcast his on-the-ground gripes and observations.

"It was not an overnight success, if it is a success," says Edwards, who these days splits his time between graphic design work and Wedge LIVE! "I'm just a normal person experiencing this, reacting to it. I made it accessible, and I kept coming back to more meetings."

"Very slowly and without a plan," the scope of Wedge LIVE! would broaden beyond neighborhood to-dos and expand to political issues all over Minneapolis. A website popped up, [a podcast launched](#), and a tongue-in-cheek annual cat walking tour even [demanded the attention of the Star Tribune](#). (The cat tour is meant as a meta-critique of historical architecture tours that fetishize single-family properties, Edwards explains, plus: "People like cat photos on Twitter.")

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"John has a way of digging deep into local politics that can normally be mundane, but he does it with a sense of humor and attention to detail that keeps it interesting to watch," says Taylor Dahlin, a frequent guest on the Wedge LIVE! podcast. "Wedge LIVE! was my gateway into following city politics... Without his work, I think there would be less interest in city politics *and* we wouldn't have a cat tour."

That accessibility element is central to the Wedge LIVE! experience. As newsrooms wither across the U.S., journalism proponents bemoan the resulting lack of scrutiny applied to institutions like city councils and neighborhood groups. Unstated, of course, is how boring that genre of pro-forma newspaper reporting can be to general audiences. When Edwards documents blow-by-blow accounts of councilmembers clashing to his 16,000 Twitter followers, the typically dry churn of civic politics takes on a kinetic, thread-scrolling appeal. Woven into all of it are off-the-cuff celebrations of Minneapolis culture, whether it's [photos of an arty bus shelter](#) or [videos of the MayDay parade](#).

Edwards says the podcast, which launched in 2021, has pushed him out of his comfort zone. Over the course of 120+ episodes, guests have included likeminded politicians like Minneapolis City Council Member Aisha Chughtai and Saint Paul City Council Member Mitra Jalali, and topics that range from wonky 2040 Plan analysis to media criticism to debating the best urban beaches. Dream pod guests include potential sparring partners like Minneapolis City Council Members Linea Palmisano and Andrea Jenkins, though Edwards says they've declined invitations.

Edwards has yet to extend an invite to vocal anti-bike zealot Carol Becker, who's perhaps the top villain in the Wedge LIVE! universe. "I don't know if there's anyone as mad at me as Carol Becker," Edwards says with a chuckle. When Becker was serving on the Board of Estimate and Taxation, she tried to trademark "Wedge Live" for herself, and Edwards sued, saying she was trying to silence him. [According to a Strib story at the time](#), "Becker said she planned to use it as the name of a national political podcast on wedge issues, and it had nothing to do



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[According to a Strib story at the time](#), "Becker said she planned to use it as the name of a national political podcast on wedge issues, and it had nothing to do with Edwards' blog." They eventually reached a settlement, with Becker abandoning her claims on the name.

Edwards says Wedge LIVE! is "not lucrative at all," and he encourages fans and followers to check out [the Patreon pledge page](#). The modest Floridian is willing to accept some credit for helping expand awareness of local politics. When asked about the mission statement of Wedge LIVE!, he pauses briefly and then answers with purpose.

"To get more people involved thinking about local government, especially when national politics can feel so useless. Send an email, attend a meeting, tell your friends to do the same," he says. "What I dread is that we're structurally unable to throw off the control of the Chamber of Commerce, that we're so distracted by police and crime politics. What makes me hopeful? The people. This sounds like a very political answer. This is a great community, and there are a lot of people who care a ton about the future."

