

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

**PRIMA FACIE  
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF REBECCA THOMPSON REGARDING WEDGE LIVE!, JOHN EDWARDS, AND TAYLOR DAHLIN

On May 5, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Rebecca Thompson. The complaint states that Ms. Thompson is a candidate for Minneapolis City Council.<sup>1</sup> The complaint expresses uncertainty regarding who is responsible for the actions described therein. However, the complaint asserts that those actions likely involved Wedge Live!, John Edwards, and Taylor Dahlin, who are thereby the respondents to the complaint. Minn. R. 4525.0100, subp. 8.

The complaint asserts that an association is campaigning against Ms. Thompson. The complaint alleges that a website was created that “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.”<sup>2</sup> The complaint includes a screenshot of the website that indicates that Ms. Thompson is running in Ward 14, which does not exist. The screenshot depicts a disclaimer stating “Prepared and paid for by Friends and Family of Becka Thompson 2024”.

The complaint asserts that during a:

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.

The complaint alleges that copies of the cards were also left on tables during an April 3 event at the Cardinal Bar in Minneapolis. The complaint includes a photograph of one of the cards, which includes the address of the deceptive website, a photograph of Ms. Thompson, and the text “BECKA THOMPSON MINNEAPOLIS WARD 14”. The cards do not appear to include a disclaimer.

The complaint asserts that “Stickers are being put on public infrastructure within Ward 12.” The complaint includes photographs of four stickers. One sticker depicts Ms. Thompson wearing a red hat with the phrase “MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN” and includes the text “Becka Thompson for Ward 14”. The complaint states that the sticker “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

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Thompson’s campaign website address is [vote4becka.com](https://vote4becka.com).

<sup>2</sup> [vote4becka.com](https://vote4becka.com)

Minneapolis.” One sticker depicts Ms. Thompson next to the text “Endorsed by the Pythagorean Theorem for Ward 14”. One sticker depicts Ms. Thompson wearing what appears to be a Batman mask and includes the text “ONLY BECKA CAN SAVE WARD 14”. One sticker includes the address of the deceptive website, a photograph of Ms. Thompson, and the text “BECKA THOMPSON MINNEAPOLIS WARD 14”. The complaint alleges that the stickers are an attempt to confuse and mislead voters. The stickers do not appear to include a disclaimer.

The complaint also includes a copy of a flyer allegedly found outside one of Ms. Thompson’s campaign events. The flyer includes photographs of Ms. Thompson and the following text:

BECKA THOMPSON GOT FIRED FROM SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR BEING  
RACIST.  
SHE IS FUNDED BY REPUBLICANS AND LANDLORDS.  
SHE OWNS A HOME IN WARD 4 AND REPRESENTS NORTH MINNEAPOLIS  
ON THE PARK BOARD.

The flyer does not appear to include a disclaimer.

The complaint alleges that:

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.

The complaint states that the association carrying out the campaign against Ms. Thompson is unknown because “no local campaign committee has been registered” and “No financial reports have been published.” The complaint says that “This may be a corporation or foreign country illegally funding this campaign, in violation of a number of state statutes.” The complaint alleges that the deceptive website was created on December 30, 2024. The complaint asserts that the association that created the website is unknown, but knowable.

The complaint states that “WedgeLIVE! is a social media company and website developer, with a footprint on nearly every social media platform.” The complaint alleges that during a “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.’”<sup>3</sup> The complaint asserts that the podcast video included “an unusual, distorted image of” Ms. Thompson that appeared on the deceptive website two weeks later. The complaint states that “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.”

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<sup>3</sup> [youtube.com/watch?v=vX1vdAilbss](https://youtube.com/watch?v=vX1vdAilbss)

The complaint alleges that the first social media post publicizing the deceptive website was made on Bluesky on December 31, 2024, by the user @taylr.bsky.social. The complaint includes a screenshot of the post, which includes the website address and the text “this is so so funny”.<sup>4</sup> The complaint alleges that the post was “The first instance of this website being public” and asserts that “There is no way Taylr could have known about [it] 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.” The complaint alleges and includes evidence that the Bluesky account that created the post belongs to Taylor Dahlin. The complaint asserts that Ms. Dahlin has been involved with a number of Wedge LIVE! projects and appeared on the Wedge LIVE! podcast on five occasions during the period from June 13 through December 6, 2024. The complaint states that:

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.

The complaint alleges that Wedge LIVE! is a business, is not registered with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, and is owned by John Edwards. The complaint includes a copy of a Racket article regarding Mr. Edwards and Wedge LIVE! published in 2023.<sup>5</sup> The complaint states:

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.

The Racket article states that Mr. Edwards “splits his time between graphic design work and Wedge LIVE!” and says that Ms. Dahlin is “a frequent guest on the Wedge LIVE! podcast.” The Racket article also quotes Mr. Edwards stating that Wedge LIVE! is “not lucrative at all”.

The complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211A.02, subdivision 1:

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.

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<sup>4</sup> [bsky.app/profile/taylr.bsky.social/post/3lemevmi7q22f](https://bsky.app/profile/taylr.bsky.social/post/3lemevmi7q22f)

<sup>5</sup> [racketmn.com/wedge-live-minneapolis-john-edwards](https://racketmn.com/wedge-live-minneapolis-john-edwards)

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.

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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.

The complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211A.05, subdivision 1. The complaint states that "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."

The complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 2:

The "www.voteforbecka.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.

The complaint alleges a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2 or 3:

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.

The complaint states:

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.

The complaint also alleges violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 211A.06 (failure to keep account), 211B.02 (false claim of support), and 211B.075 (intimidation and interference with the voting process).

## **Determination**

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, authorizes the Board to investigate alleged or potential violations of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A, and of Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.04, 211B.12, and 211B.15 “by or related to a candidate, treasurer, principal campaign committee, political committee, political fund, or party unit, as those terms are defined in” Chapter 10A. “A prima facie determination is a determination that a complaint filed under section 10A.022, subdivision 3, is sufficient to allege a violation of” Chapter 10A “or of those sections of chapter 211B listed in section 10A.022, subdivision 3.” Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 32a. The Board does not have jurisdiction over Minnesota Statutes sections 211A.02, 211A.05, 211A.06, 211B.02, or 211B.075.

## **Definitions**

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 1, provides that for purposes of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A, “the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.” Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01 defines the terms “association,” “expenditure,” “local candidate,” “contribution,” “expressly advocating,” “independent expenditure,” “independent expenditure political committee,” “independent expenditure political fund,” “person,” “political committee,” and “political fund,” in relevant part, as follows:

Subd. 6. Association. "Association" means a group of two or more persons, who are not all members of an immediate family, acting in concert.

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Subd. 9. Campaign expenditure. "Campaign expenditure" or "expenditure" means a purchase or payment of money or anything of value, or an advance of credit, made or incurred for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate or a local candidate or for the purpose of promoting or defeating a ballot question.

...

An expenditure made for the purpose of defeating a candidate or a local candidate is considered made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of that candidate or local candidate or any opponent of that candidate or local candidate.

Except as provided in clause (1), "expenditure" includes the dollar value of a donation in kind.

"Expenditure" does not include:

(1) noncampaign disbursements as defined in subdivision 26;

(2) services provided without compensation by an individual volunteering personal time on behalf of a candidate or a local candidate, ballot question, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit;

(3) the publishing or broadcasting of news items or editorial comments by the news media; or

(4) an individual's unreimbursed personal use of an automobile owned by the individual and used by the individual while volunteering personal time.

. . .

Subd. 10d. Local candidate. "Local candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination or election to a county, city, school district, township, or special district office.

. . .

Subd. 11. Contribution. (a) "Contribution" means money, a negotiable instrument, or a donation in kind that is given to a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, local candidate, or party unit. An allocation by an association of general treasury money to be used for activities that must be or are reported through the association's political fund is considered to be a contribution for the purposes of disclosure required by this chapter.

. . .

(c) "Contribution" does not include services provided without compensation by an individual volunteering personal time on behalf of a candidate, local candidate, ballot question, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit; the publishing or broadcasting of news items or editorial comments by the news media; or an individual's unreimbursed personal use of an automobile owned by the individual while volunteering personal time.

. . .

Subd. 16a. Expressly advocating. "Expressly advocating" means that a communication:

(1) clearly identifies a candidate or a local candidate and uses words or phrases of express advocacy; or

(2) when taken as a whole and with limited reference to external events, such as the proximity to the election, could only be interpreted by a reasonable person as

containing advocacy of the election or defeat of one or more clearly identified candidates because:

(i) the electoral portion of the communication is unmistakable, unambiguous, and suggestive of only one meaning; and

(ii) reasonable minds could not differ as to whether the communication encourages actions to elect or defeat one or more clearly identified candidates or encourages some other kind of action.

...

Subd. 18. Independent expenditure. "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or local candidate, if the expenditure is made without the express or implied consent, authorization, or cooperation of, and not in concert with or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or any candidate's principal campaign committee or agent or any local candidate or local candidate's agent. An independent expenditure is not a contribution to that candidate or local candidate.

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Subd. 18a. Independent expenditure political committee. "Independent expenditure political committee" means a political committee that makes only independent expenditures and disbursements permitted under section 10A.121, subdivision 1.

Subd. 18b. Independent expenditure political fund. "Independent expenditure political fund" means a political fund that makes only independent expenditures and disbursements permitted under section 10A.121, subdivision 1.

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Subd. 26a. Person. "Person" means an individual, an association, a political subdivision, or a public higher education system.

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Subd. 27. Political committee. "Political committee" means an association whose major purpose is to influence the nomination or election of one or more candidates or local candidates or to promote or defeat a ballot question, other than a principal campaign committee, local candidate, or a political party unit.

Subd. 28. Political fund. "Political fund" means an accumulation of dues or voluntary contributions by an association other than a political committee, principal campaign committee, or party unit, if the accumulation is collected or expended to influence the nomination or election of one or more candidates or local candidates or to promote or defeat a ballot question. The term political fund as used in this chapter may also refer to the association acting through its political fund.

A political committee or fund that is not an independent expenditure or ballot question political committee or fund is commonly described by the Board as a general purpose political committee or fund. Both general purpose and independent expenditure political committees and funds may make independent expenditures. General purpose political committees and funds are prohibited from accepting corporate contributions because they may make contributions to candidates and local candidates. Independent expenditure political committee and funds may accept corporate contributions and are prohibited from making contributions to candidates and local candidates.

### Registration and reporting

Minnesota Statutes sections 211A.02, 10A.14, and 10A.20 similarly require entities to begin disclosing information regarding political campaigns after raising or spending a threshold amount. Minnesota Statutes sections 211A.02 and 211A.05 apply to candidates and their committees, as those terms are defined by Minnesota Statutes section 211A.01, subdivisions 3 and 4a. As used within Minnesota Statutes Chapter 211A, the term candidate means “an individual who seeks nomination or election to a county, municipal, school district, or other political subdivision office.” Minn. Stat. § 211A.01, subd. 3. Within Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A, those candidates are defined as local candidates. Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 10d. Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A applies to political committees and political funds, including those seeking to influence the nomination or election of one or more local candidates.

Under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1, a general purpose political committee or fund must register with the Board within 14 days after it “has made a contribution, received contributions, or made expenditures in excess of \$750.” Under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1a, an independent expenditure political committee or fund must register with the Board within 14 days after it has “received aggregate contributions for independent expenditures” or “made aggregate independent expenditures” of “more than \$1,500 in a calendar year.” The complaint does not specify whether the association that allegedly made expenditures regarding Ms. Thompson is a general purpose or an independent expenditure political committee or fund. The complaint asserts that it costs “about \$1,500 to put up even a simple website,” states that the association “undoubtedly” spent over \$750, and provides evidence that the association created and disseminated a website, printed cards, four types of stickers, and a flyer. The complaint asserts that the deceptive website was published in December 2024 and the printed cards were disseminated at a February 17, 2025, campaign event. The complaint does not specify whether the stickers were disseminated in 2024 or 2025, and the complaint does not state whether the flyer was displayed outside a campaign event that occurred in 2024 or in 2025.

Each of the materials referenced in the complaint contain the name, and an image, of Ms. Thompson. The screenshot of the deceptive website included in the complaint contains the text “Becka Thompson for Minneapolis City Council” and the printed cards and stickers imply that she is a candidate for Minneapolis City Council by listing a fictitious Minneapolis ward



number. The deceptive website currently includes text asking individuals to “VOTE FOR . . . BECKA THOMPSON”.

The complaint alleges that at least two individuals are involved in the campaign against Ms. Thompson, and specifically asserts that two people distributed the printed cards at the February 17 campaign event. The complaint alleges and includes evidence that the association campaigning against Ms. Thompson is either a political committee or a political fund, that the association made expenditures, at least some of which may have been independent expenditures, and that the association made expenditures in excess of the applicable registration threshold. Therefore, the complaint states a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14.

If the association exceeded the applicable registration threshold in December 2024, it was required to register with the Board within 14 days, and was required to file a 2024 year-end report of receipts and expenditures with the Board by January 31, 2025, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivisions 1 and 2. If the association exceeded the applicable registration threshold in 2024 or during the first three months of 2025, and spent more than \$200 to influence the nomination or election of local candidates during the first three months of 2025, it was required to file a 2025 1st quarter report with the Board by April 14, 2025, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivisions 1 and 2a. The complaint appears to allege that the association was required to register with the Board in late 2024 or early 2025. Therefore, the complaint states a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, subdivision 2 or 2a.

#### Disclaimers

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 generally requires political committees and funds to include a disclaimer on their campaign material, which is defined to mean “any literature, publication, or material that is disseminated for the purpose of influencing voting at a primary or other election, except for news items or editorial comments by the news media.” Minn. Stat. § 211B.01, subd. 2. The required format for the disclaimer varies depending on whether the material is an independent expenditure. Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subds. 1 and 2. All non-broadcast campaign material that requires a disclaimer, including websites and printed materials, must include a disclaimer with the address of the entity that paid for the material. The address must be either a mailing address, or a website address if the website includes a mailing address. Independent expenditures must include a disclaimer that identifies the expenditure as an independent expenditure that was not coordinated with or approved by any candidate. The disclaimer requirement “does not apply to an individual or association that is not required to register or report under chapter 10A or 211A.” Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subd. 3.

The complaint includes a screenshot of the deceptive website displaying a disclaimer that lacks an address, does not identify the website as an independent expenditure, and states that the website was paid for by a campaign committee that does not appear to exist. The deceptive website currently does not appear to include a disclaimer. The complaint also includes

photographs of printed cards, stickers, and a flyer that do not appear to include a disclaimer. The complaint alleges that those materials are campaign material and that the association that produced or disseminated those materials was required to register and file campaign finance reports. Therefore, the complaint states a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.

### Corporate contributions

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15 generally prohibits corporations, including limited liability companies and nonprofit corporations, from making a contribution “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,” unless the recipient is an independent expenditure or ballot question political committee or fund. Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 1, defines the term corporation to mean “(1) a corporation organized for profit that does business in this state; (2) a nonprofit corporation that carries out activities in this state; or (3) a limited liability company formed under chapter 322C, or under similar laws of another state, that does business in this state.”

Although the complaint states and provides evidence that Wedge Live! is operated by Mr. Edwards as a business, the complaint does not include further evidence indicating that Wedge Live! is a corporation.<sup>6</sup> The complaint does not identify any other entity that allegedly made a prohibited corporate contribution.<sup>7</sup> Also, corporations may make independent expenditures, and may provide goods or services in exchange for payment, which does not result in a prohibited contribution.

Speculation regarding whether Wedge LIVE! is a corporation, whether it produced campaign material in exchange for payment, as an independent expenditure, or as a contribution, and if there was a contribution, who received the contribution, would be necessary to conclude that the complaint states that Wedge LIVE! made a prohibited corporation contribution. The complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15 because the complaint does not identify any alleged corporation other than Wedge LIVE! and the allegation that Wedge LIVE! made a prohibited corporate contribution is based on speculation unsupported by evidence.

### Conclusion

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

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<sup>6</sup> Sole proprietorships and partnerships comprised of individuals are two types of businesses that are not defined as corporations under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15. See generally, [Advisory Opinion 248 \(Sept. 26, 1996\)](#) and [Advisory Opinion 462 \(May 1, 2024\)](#).

<sup>7</sup> See [Minn. R. 4525.0200, subp. 2](#) (requiring complaints filed with the Board to “list the alleged violator”).

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, paragraph (d), the Board will make findings and conclusions as to whether probable cause exists to believe that a violation of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.14, 10A.20, or 211B.04 has occurred and warrants a formal investigation. The complainant and the respondents 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.

  
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Faris Rashid, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: May 20, 2025