

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

**PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF SVITLANA KARATSUBA REGARDING TAUNYA KOLBINGER

On September 11, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Svitlana Karatsuba regarding Taunya Kolbinger, a school board candidate for the Minnetonka school district. The complaint states that Ms. Kolbinger's Facebook account uses the Minnetonka Public Schools logo as one of her cover pictures. The complaint alleges that Minnetonka Public Schools has not endorsed her so using their logo is a false claim of support in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.02. The complaint also states that Ms. Kolbinger's website does not list an address in the disclaimer. The complaint alleges that the disclaimer on Ms. Kolbinger's website only states, "prepared and paid for by The Campaign Fund for Taunya Kolbinger" in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.

Determination

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, authorizes the Board to investigate alleged or potential violations of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A in addition to Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.04, 211B.12, and 211B.15 regarding state-level candidates. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 10, defines the term "candidate" to mean "an individual who seeks nomination or election as a state constitutional officer, legislator, or judge." The Board does not have investigative authority with respect to alleged violations by candidates for local office, such as school board candidates. Because the individual named in the complaint is not a candidate within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A and the Board does not have jurisdiction over alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.02, the Board does not have investigative authority with respect to the violations alleged in the complaint. Therefore, the chair concludes that the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Chapter 10A or of those sections of Chapter 211B under the Board's jurisdiction.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, this prima facie determination is made by the Board chair and not by any vote of the entire Board. The complaint is dismissed without prejudice.



Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: September 15, 2025