

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Crow Wing County RPM (20131);

1. The Crow Wing County RPM is a political party unit. On August 28, 2025, the Board received a complaint submitted by Troy Scheffler alleging that the Crow Wing County RPM failed to display a proper disclaimer on flyers advertising an event to be held on September 6, 2024, in Crosslake,¹ and on a sign displayed at various events in 2024 titled “Why I Vote For Conservatives”². The flyers did not include a disclaimer stating who prepared and paid for the flyers. The sign included a disclaimer but the mailing address provided within the disclaimer was not the current address for the party unit.
2. Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1, provides that written campaign material must include a disclaimer stating who prepared and paid for the material along with that entity’s address. On October 15, 2025, 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 Crow Wing County RPM’s chair, Lowell Smith, stated that the September 6, 2024, event was organized by individuals who are not members of the Crow Wing County RPM. Mr. Smith said those individuals designed the flyer and provided a copy to the Crow Wing County RPM. Mr. Smith explained that no more than 60 copies were made, at the expense of a volunteer who was not reimbursed by the party unit. Mr. Smith stated that less than 60 flyers were disseminated. Mr. Smith said that the sign was displayed at seven events.
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.³
5. The Crow Wing County RPM has acknowledged the violations. They were not self-reported and came to the attention of the Board through a complaint. The sign included a disclaimer clearly stating it was prepared and paid for by the Crow Wing County RPM, and was displayed at events where an individual viewing the sign could directly contact a party unit volunteer. The flyers did not include a disclaimer, which may have caused confusion regarding who prepared and paid for those flyers. The Crow Wing County RPM registered with the Board in 1986 and has no prior violations of the disclaimer requirement. There is no evidence that the violations were willful.
6. The Crow Wing County RPM and the Board agree that the party unit inadvertently violated Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 by failing to include a disclaimer on flyers advertising an

¹ [cwgomn.com/uploads/1/2/5/2/125224629/meet_your_legislators.pdf](https://www.cwgomn.com/uploads/1/2/5/2/125224629/meet_your_legislators.pdf)

² [facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=678168797676323](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=678168797676323)

³ See [Minn. Stat. § 14.045, subd. 3.](#)

event and by displaying a sign with a disclaimer that lacked a current address. The Crow Wing County RPM agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$100. Payment is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties.

7. If the Crow Wing County RPM 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.

/s/ Lowell Smith
Lowell Smith, Chair
Crow Wing County RPM

Dated: November 20, 2025

/s/ Faris Rashid
Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: November 12, 2025