

Minnesota

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
9:30 A.M.
Room 2000 (Skjegstad Conference Room)
Stassen Building

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

- 1. Approval of minutes**
 - A. February 13, 2025
- 2. Chair's report**
 - A. Meeting schedule
 - B. Vice Chair election
- 3. Executive director's report**
- 4. Enforcement report**
- 5. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024**
- 6. Prima facie determinations**
 - A. Complaint of Jodi Paulsen regarding "Concerned citizens of our tax dollars"
- 7. Legal report**
- 8. Other business**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Immediately following regular session

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

.....
Thursday, February 13, 2025

9:30 A.M.

**Room 2000 (Skjegstad Conference Room)
Stassen Building**

.....
REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rashid.

Members present: Asp, Flynn (remote), Rashid (remote), Soule, Swanson

Others present: Sigurdson, Engelhardt, Johnson, Olson, staff; Nathan Hartshorn (remote), counsel

MINUTES (January 13, 2025)

The following motion was made:

Member Flynn's motion: To approve the January 13, 2025, minutes as drafted.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sigurdson and members discussed changing the date of the March 2025 meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a memorandum that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson updated the Board on the reports due in January, which include the 2024 Annual Statements of Economic Interest, campaign finance reports, and lobbyist reports. He also discussed current legislation and the Board's budget. Lastly, Mr. Sigurdson presented information on the Report on Public Subsidy Programs in the United States published by the United States Government Accountability Office.

Member Asp asked about the Board member vacancy. Mr. Sigurdson stated the application period is open, but no action has been taken by the Governor's office.

ADVISORY OPINION 466

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a memorandum that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson described the draft advisory opinion regarding a public request from Jake Loesch, on behalf of the Citizens League.

The following motion was made:

Member Soule's motion: To approve the advisory opinion as drafted.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

ADVISORY OPINION 467

Mr. Sigurdson presented members with a memorandum, the public version of which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson described the draft advisory opinion regarding a nonpublic request concerning members of the House of Representatives. Member Swanson suggested adding the text “, as stated in the request” at the end of the first paragraph on page 1 under the heading “FACTS.”

The following motion was made:

Member Swanson's motion: To approve the advisory opinion as drafted with Member Swason's suggested change.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT

A. Discussion Items

1. Address waiver request - Eric Meittunen

Deputy Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Eric Meittunen, requests a waiver to exclude the address of a second property from his economic interest statement. Citing the nature of his work, Mr. Meittunen states that he has faced threats related to his job duties and other concerns that could endanger himself and his family. Given these risks, Mr. Meittunen is seeking an exemption from disclosing the address of his secondary residence under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.09, subdivision 9. While Mr. Meittunen's request also refers to his primary residence, homestead property is not required to be disclosed within a statement of economic interest. Board members asked for more information and the request will be reconsidered at the next Board meeting.

2. Administrative termination of lobbyist Jonathan Weinhagen

Mike Logan, Interim President and CEO of the Minneapolis Chamber, requests the administrative termination of lobbyist Jonathan Weinhagen (3036). Weinhagen served as CEO until June 27, 2024. To the best of Logan's knowledge, and based on information from others in the organization at that time, Weinhagen did not engage in any lobbying activities from June 1 to June 27. Also, Weinhagen filed a lobbyist report stating he did not engage in any lobbying during the period from June 1 through December 31, 2024. The Chamber is not in direct contact with him due to legal reasons, but it can confirm that he is no longer an employee. If approved, the termination will be backdated to June 27, 2024.

The following motion was made:

Member Asp's motion: To approve the administrative termination.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

3. Balance adjustment for Heather Edelson for House (17902)

The Heather Edelson for House committee is requesting a balance adjustment to their 2024 beginning cash balance. The Edelson committee wishes to terminate the committee but cannot resolve a cash balance discrepancy. The treasurer and the candidate have spent significant time attempting to resolve the issue but were unable to find the discrepancy. The 2023 ending cash balance was \$3,233.94, however, the bank balance was \$4,080.51, a difference of \$846.57. The Edelson committee is requesting an upward adjustment to their 2024 beginning cash balance to \$4,080.51. The committee will then file an amended 2024 year-end report as a termination report to close the committee.

The following motion was made:

Member Flynn's motion: To approve the balance adjustment request.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

B. Waiver Requests

1. Wagenius (Peter) Volunteer Committee - 19194						Board Action
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	
Large contribution notice	1/8/25	1/9/25	\$50	No.	Waive.	Member Flynn moved to approve requests 1-4.
The late fee pertains to a large contribution notice disclosing a \$600 contribution that was filed one day late. Treasurer Dwight Wagenius states that due to the short campaign period for the Senate District 60 special election and its timing around the end-of-year holidays, experienced campaign organizers were unavailable. As a result, there was insufficient time to recruit an experienced campaign chair, form committees, or conduct typical campaign organizing. The campaign operated on an extremely abbreviated timeline, focusing on essential activities such as fundraising, setting up a bank account, producing and distributing literature, direct voter contact through door-knocking and mailings, and placing lawn signs. Team members had to take on multiple roles due to limited specialization. Wagenius states that although he had prior involvement in elections with standard multi-month timelines, he had no experience as a campaign treasurer. The committee filed several other large contributions notices in a timely manner. Ending cash balance as of 12/31/24: \$11,352.						Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

2. Mohamed Jama for Minnesota Senate - 19202						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
Large contribution notices	1/6/25	1/7/25	\$600 (12X\$50)	No.	Waive.	Member Flynn moved to approve requests 1-4.
<p>The late fees pertain to 12 large contributions notices that were filed one day late. Jama was a candidate in the Senate District 60 special election. Treasurer Mohamed Elmi states that the committee experienced significant delays because the IRS website was down for maintenance. This outage prevented them from obtaining an EIN and opening a bank account until January 3, 2025. The committee submitted a registration form to the Board on Sunday, January 5, the committee gained access to Campaign Finance Reporter Online late in the day on Monday, January 6, and the large contribution notices were filed the following day. Once they gained access to the filing platform they immediately reported all large contributions. Given the unexpected challenges caused by the IRS maintenance, the nature of the rushed special election, and the proactive steps they took to resolve the registration issues as quickly as possible, they are respectfully requesting a waiver.</p>						<p>Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.</p>

3. Craig Andresen - 39						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
2024 LAR	1/15/25	1/24/25	\$150	No.	Waive.	Member Flynn moved to approve requests 1-4.
<p>Andresen failed to submit the lobbyist report on time, mistakenly believing that it had already been sent. After receiving a message from Board staff indicating that the report was late, he reached out for assistance and promptly filed the report. Andresen states he and other members of Friends of the Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas Program board are volunteers. He is considering dropping his registration but feels that it adds credibility to their efforts. If he maintains his lobby status, Andresen plans to avoid online submissions in the future. Andresen has been a registered lobbyist since 2018 and has no history of filing reports late.</p>						<p>Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.</p>

4. Abigail Wolters Campaign Committee - 19195						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
Large contribution notice	1/8/25	1/12/25	\$100	No.	Waive.	Member Flynn moved to approve requests 1-4.
<p>Wolters was a candidate in the Senate District 60 special election. On January 7, 2025, the Wolters House committee, which is now terminated, transferred its remaining balance of \$3,287.51 to the Wolters Senate committee. A large contribution notice should have been filed on January 8, 2025, but the notice was not filed until January 12, 2025. Treasurer Tim Kirk explained that since the funds were transferred from one committee to another committee of the same candidate, he believed the transfer should not be classified as a large contribution. He also stated that the Board should consider providing some leniency due to the tight timeline surrounding the special election. Ending cash balance as of 1/14/25: \$11,526.75</p>						<p>Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.</p>

5. David Benson-Staebler - 5122						Board Action
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	
2024 LAR	1/15/25	1/17/25	\$100 (2x\$50)	No.		No action was taken.
Benson-Staebler requests a waiver for two lobbyist reports related to his work with Education Standards of America and SAVE. He states he did not receive a reminder email, which are sent as a courtesy. For SAVE, only a late notice was sent to an email address that Benson-Staebler claims is not actively monitored. Benson-Staebler is willing to provide technical evidence regarding the email delivery issue and is requesting forgiveness for the two late filings, noting that he has not previously requested a waiver for late submissions.						

C. Informational Items

Payments

1. Return of public subsidy payment

CindyAhofofor13A - \$3,990.91
 Bolstad (Dusty) for 13B House - \$7,081.22
 Whitson (Teresa) for MN House - \$56.32

2. Payment of excess carryforward amount

Acomb (Patty) for House Committee - \$23.99

3. Civil penalty for corporate contribution

Gary Steuart for Minnesota - \$200
 Steuart Properties LLC - \$200

4. Late filing fee for 2022 Pre-Primary Report

22nd Senate District DFL - \$50
 Le Sueur / Scott (22) County DFL - \$50

5. Late filing fee for 2022 Pre-General Report

22nd Senate District DFL - \$750
 Le Sueur / Scott (22) County DFL - \$900

6. Late filing fee for 2023 Year-End Report

22nd Senate District DFL - \$150
 Le Sueur / Scott (22) County DFL - \$325

7. Late filing fee for 2024 Pre-Primary large contribution notice

Minnesota Police PAC - \$250
Kari (Rehrauer) for Minnesota - \$150
Gary Steuart for Minnesota - \$250

8. Late filing fee for 2024 Pre-General large contribution notice

Lorrie Janatopoulos for House - \$50

9. Late filing fee for 2024 Pre-General Report

22nd Senate District DFL - \$700
Le Sueur / Scott (22) County DFL - \$1,000
Lion Dale Johnson 4 MN - \$50
Somali American Women Political Action Committee - \$200

10. Civil Penalty for 2024 Pre-General Report

Le Sueur / Scott (22) County DFL - \$1,000

11. Late filing fee for 2023 June Lobbyist Report

Cristine Almeida - \$25

12. Late filing fee for 2024 January Lobbyist Report

Cristine Almeida - \$25

13. Late filing fee for 2024 June Lobbyist Report

Samantha Diaz - \$550
Shannon Full - \$400
Katherine Grindberg - \$400
Mark Jones - \$25
Hannah Pallmeyer - \$50
Paul Verrette - \$950

RULEMAKING UPDATE

Mr. Olson presented members with a memorandum that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Olson stated that the Board's adopted administrative rules will take effect on February 25, 2025.

PRIMA FACIE DETERMINATIONS

Ms. Engelhardt presented members with a memorandum that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. On January 13, 2025, the Board received a complaint from Salina Amery regarding TakeAction Minnesota. The complaint was dismissed by Chair Rashid.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Hartshorn provided members with a legal report that is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Hartshorn stated that former Representative Mariani attended a default judgment hearing and did not contest the entry of default judgment in the action involving him and his principal campaign committee. Mr. Hartshorn also stated that Mr. Mariani has filed all outstanding reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Rashid recessed the regular session of the meeting and called to order the executive session. Upon adjournment of the executive session, Member Asp had nothing to report into the regular session. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Member Asp.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Sigurdson
Executive Director

- Attachments:
- Executive director's report
 - Memo and attachments regarding Advisory Opinion 466
 - Public memo and attachment regarding Advisory Opinion 467
 - Rulemaking update memo
 - Prima facie determinations memo and attachment
 - Legal report



MINNESOTA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2025

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM, unless otherwise noted.

2025

Wednesday, May 7

Wednesday, June 4

Wednesday, July 2

Wednesday, August 6

Wednesday, September 3

Wednesday, October 1

Wednesday, November 5

Wednesday, December 3



MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: April 1, 2025

To: Board Members

From: Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director

Telephone: 651-539-1189

Re: Executive Director's Report – Board Operations

Lobbyist Principal Report

The Annual Principal Report, which disclosed total expenditures on lobbying during 2024, was due on March 17, 2025. As of the date of this memo, reports have been received from 1,655 of the 1,697 principals required to file. The reports filed so far disclose that **\$97,082,625** was spent in 2024 to lobby in Minnesota. This is the highest amount of disbursements for lobbying in Minnesota ever reported. This amount includes the compensation paid to lobbyists, and costs incurred to support lobbying. Principals report the amount spent in the following four categories.

- The amount spent to influence actions by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in cases of rate setting, power plant and power line siting, and granting of certificates of need. PUC commissioners cannot participate in ex parte communications (they cannot meet privately with lobbyists on an issue before the commission), so the amount reported for lobbying is the cost of participating in public hearings held by or for the PUC. Lobbyist principals reported spending **\$9,939,239** to influence the actions of the PUC.
- The amount spent to influence legislative action, which includes attempts to influence the Governor or other constitutional officers to support or oppose legislation, is currently reported as **\$83,053,145**.
- Principals reported they spent **\$1,614,496** to influence administrative action. Administrative action is when a state agency adopts, repeals, or modifies administrative rules. Attempting to influence the application of existing administrative rules by a state agency is not considered lobbying.
- Principals reported that **\$2,475,744** was spent to influence the actions of Metropolitan Governmental Units (MGU). MGU includes the seven counties in the metropolitan area around the Twin Cities, a city with a population of over 50,000 located in those seven counties, a regional railroad authority within those seven counties, the Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Airport Commission, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, and the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Authority.

Below is a table showing the total spending reported on the Annual Principal Reports for the last ten years. Currently a principal is permitted, but not required, to round the amount reported to the nearest \$5,000. In prior years principals could round to the nearest \$20,000.

Year	Total Amount of Spending Reported by Lobbyist Principals
2024	\$97,082,625
2023	\$96,371,501
2022	\$83,328,467
2021	\$74,318,599
2020	\$68,023,406
2019	\$76,173,174
2018	\$78,797,705
2017	\$75,670,665
2016	\$68,362,572
2015	\$69,216,718

Board Appointments

Member Swanson appeared before the Senate Elections Committee for a hearing on his reappointment to the Board. The Committee moved the appointment to general orders with the recommendation that Member Swanson be confirmed. As of the date of this memo the Senate has not acted on the confirmation.

I will be working with the House to schedule a committee hearing in April. Appointments to the Board need to be confirmed by both bodies either by the 45th legislative day, or by adjournment sine die, which ever occurs first. However, the legislature changed the definition of “legislative day” from a day when either body is in session, to a day when either house of the legislature gives any bill a third reading, adopts a rule of procedure or organization, elects a university regent, confirms a gubernatorial appointment, or votes to override a gubernatorial veto. As a result of this new definition, March 27 was only the 15th legislative day.

I have met with staff from the Governor’s office to remind them that the Board is already short one member, and that Member Soule may only serve until July 1st. I believe the Governor’s office is actively working on filling the vacancies.

Legislative Action – Budget Forecast

The first and second legislative deadline is April 4, 2025. By that date committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin *and* committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other body. The third deadline, by which time committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills, is April 11, 2025. Neither the Senate or House Election committees have released policy or finance omnibus bills.

The Governor’s revised budget recommendation to meet the expected budget deficit does not reduce the recommended funding for Board operations. The Governor’s recommendation does include defunding the political contribution refund program.

As of today, there have been fifty-two bills introduced that would modify Chapter 10A, or provisions under the Board’s jurisdiction in Chapter 211B. Frankly, most of these bills have no

real prospect of moving forward this year. However, I am closely tracking the following legislation.

[HF 2792](#) Author, Rep. Niska, and [SF 3109](#) Author, Sen. Kreun. Appropriates \$900,000 to the Board to pay fees and expenses related to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce v. Choi case. The Board must pay all fees and expenses awarded to the plaintiff on behalf of all defendants, so Ramsey County would not be responsible for any of the costs. The bill will be heard in the House Elections Finance and Government Operations committee on April 2.

[HF 2284](#) Author, Rep. Coulter, and [SF 2562](#) Author, Sen. Westlin, carry the Board's legislative recommendations on lobbying. Both bills have been heard in committee and laid over for possible inclusion in a policy omnibus bill.

[HF 2105](#) Author, Rep. Nash. This bill contains modifications to various statutes on lobbying. Generally, the language in the bill would put in place changes that the Board did not recommend in its report to the legislature. The bill would add a 10-hour threshold of lobbying activity before registration as a lobbyist is required, it would adopt certain provisions of the federal standards for lobbyist registration, it would take a different approach with an exception for expert witnesses, and it would limit lobbying to policy and budgetary decisions and exclude the application of statutes, rules, or ordinances by a political subdivision as lobbying. The bill was passed by the House Elections Finance and Government Operations committee, and referred to the State Government Finance and Policy committee, which Rep. Nash chairs.

[SF 2412](#) Author Sen. Cwodzinski. This bill would require all elected and appointed local officials to file an economic interest statement with their local political subdivision (except county commissioners and soil and water district supervisors, who would continue to file with the Board). Additionally, all candidates for local office would file an economic interest statement when they file for office. I note that as of today the version of the bill on the legislative site does not include significant amendments adopted in committee. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the policy omnibus bill.



MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: April 1, 2025

To: Board members
Counsel Hartshorn

From: Greta Johnson, Legal/Management Analyst **Telephone:** 651-539-1183

Subject: Enforcement report for consideration at the April 8, 2025, Board meeting

A. Consent Items

1. Administrative termination of lobbyist Steven Pettersen (4831)

Mr. Pettersen, who lobbied on behalf of the MN Mechanical Contractors Assn (1255), passed away in December 2024. His lobbying activity was reported by the principal's designated lobbyist, so there are no outstanding reports. The principal is requesting termination of Mr. Petterson's lobbyist registration.

2. Administrative termination of public official Lee Thor (Minnesota State Retirement System)

Executive Director Erin Leonard states that in March 2024, Lee Thor was elected by members to serve on the Minnesota State Retirement System's Board of Directors (MSRS Board). His election was confirmed at the May 2024 MSRS Board meeting, which he was unable to attend. Since that meeting, there has been no communication with Mr. Thor, and he has neither attended any subsequent MSRS Board meetings nor participated in any votes. It was later reported that, following his election, he suffered from a debilitating illness that prevented him from serving. As a result, on January 16, 2025, the MSRS Board terminated his membership. Mr. Thor has not filed an economic interest statement (EIS). Given that he never actively served as an MSRS Board member, a request has been made for the administrative termination of his role as a public official, which would be retroactive and would nullify the requirement to file an EIS.

B. Discussion Items

1. Administrative termination of lobbyist Cari-Ana Garcia Luna (5892)

The designated lobbyist of principal MN Association of Charter Schools (5009), Joseph Cienian, states that they have been unable to reach Ms. Garcia Luna and would like her lobbyist registration on behalf of the principal to be terminated. Ms. Garcia Luna registered as a lobbyist in October 2024 and filed a lobbyist report covering the second half of 2024. She is not registered on behalf of any other principal.

2. Address waiver request - Eric Meittunen (carry over from February 13)

Deputy Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Eric Meittunen, requests a waiver to exclude the address of a second property from his economic interest statement. Citing the nature of his work, Mr. Meittunen states that he has faced threats related to his job duties and other concerns that could endanger himself and his family. Given these risks, Mr. Meittunen is seeking an exemption from disclosing the address of his secondary residence under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.09, subdivision 9. While Mr. Meittunen’s request also refers to his primary residence, homestead property is not required to be disclosed within a statement of economic interest.

C. Waiver Requests

1. Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 (30074)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
2024 year-end	1/31/25	3/18/25	\$775	Yes. \$100 in 2011 due to software issues and report being sent to wrong email address; \$150 in 2012 due to software issues; and \$750 in 2019 due to not understanding 24-hour notice requirement.	Waive.
President David Stiggers explains that the filing responsibilities were previously handled by the union’s financial secretary, who was hospitalized in November and passed away in January. Mr. Stiggers assumed the role of treasurer, entered two contributions made to candidates in November 2024 of \$750 each, and thought that he had filed the 2024 year-end report on time, but was unfamiliar with CFRO and did not actually file the report until March. Stiggers requests understanding as their office is currently struggling to manage responsibilities during this challenging time. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$2,997.					

2. MFC Action Fund (30658)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
2024 year-end	1/31/25	2/7/25	\$125	Yes. \$750 in 2017 due to missing a 24-hour notice requirement and \$175 in 2024 due to challenges using CFRO.	Waive.
Treasurer John Helmberger states that their bookkeeper was dealing with serious health issues in January and early February, then had difficulty using CFRO and contacted Board staff for assistance. It took a couple days for Board staff to respond, and after receiving assistance from Board staff the report was promptly filed. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$1,634.					

3. North Fourth Minneapolis Media LLC (8298)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
2024 LPR	3/17/25	3/28/25	\$200	No.	Waive.
Principal Toby Brill stated that there was miscommunication between the Board office and theirs. She did not receive a reminder letter, and the Board had the wrong email address for communication. Additionally, Board staff initially thought that this principal was the same as North Fourth Minneapolis LLC, which caused delays in properly setting up the principal and registered lobbyists.					

4. Swedzinski (Chris) for House (17075)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Pre-general large contribution notice	10/29/24	1/30/25	\$1,000	Yes. \$750 in 2017 for 24-hour notice that was accidentally missed and \$50 in 2024 due to issue with treasurer's internet service.	Waive
The committee received contributions of \$1,250 and \$500 on 10/28/24 and 10/30/24 from a party unit. Rep. Swedenski stated that the campaign treasurer faced medical issues, which is why a large contribution notice was not filed on time. Swedenski emphasized that no malice was intended and respects the importance of due dates. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$11,265.					

5. Lobbyist Hannah Wind (5248)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Jan. 2025 LRs	1/15/25	1/16/25	\$150 (\$25x6)	No.	Waive.
Wind states that she and her colleague submitted all of their lobbyist reports together on January 15. While her colleague's reports and most of Wind's reports were recorded as submitted on time, six of Wind's reports were recorded as having been received January 16. Board IT staff checked the submission record and reports they were filed on January 16, 2025.					

6. Ampian4MNHouse (Josiah) (19116)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
2024 year-end	1/31/25	2/13/25	\$225	No.	Waive.
Josiah Ampian requests a waiver due to the committee's treasurer being a first-time treasurer. When contacted about the report being late, Mr. Ampian stated he believed the treasurer had already filed the report, but when he realized that was not the case, he then proceeded to complete and file the report himself. Mr. Ampian was a first-time candidate, his committee's registration with the Board has been terminated. ,					

7. Minnesota Future PSC (41308)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
2024 April report	4/15/24	4/19/24	\$200	No	
2024 June report	6/14/24	7/7/24	\$650		
2024 Sept report	9/24/24	9/26/24	\$100		
			Total: \$950		
Former chair/treasurer Paul Jackson states that after the 2022 election cycle, the committee closed its bank accounts and has been dormant since. Mr. Jackson attempted to terminate the committee using CFRO and states he had difficulty doing so, but he did not contact Board staff for assistance and he filed a termination report in October 2024. Mr. Jackson complained that he did not receive reminder emails, which was due to him failing to provide an updated email address. The committee registered in 2022 and did not report making any expenditures aside from \$1,526 for web hosting, and an unpaid bill of \$5,452 for legal services, in 2023. The committee had a 2023 ending cash balance of \$84, and therefore could have filed a termination report at that time and avoided having to file any reports covering 2024.					

8. Campaign for Thomas J Sexton (19096)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Pre-primary large contribution notice	8/9/24	12/30/24	\$1,000	No.	Reduce to \$250. Which is consistent with other waivers for a first time violation of the large contribution notice.
Rep. Sexton states as a first-time candidate in the final days of a closely contested primary election, he decided to expend his personal funds on text messages. The charges were applied to a personal credit card, and at the time, Rep. Sexton did not realize the purchase would exceed \$500. In-kind contributions of \$600 on 8/8/24 and \$400 on 8/12/24, from the candidate, consisting of the charges for the text messages, were first disclosed within the pre-general report filed 10/24/24. The committee timely filed several other large contribution notices. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$4,210.					

9. The People for Sencer-Mura (Samantha) (18768)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Pre-general large contribution notice	11/5/24	1/21/25	\$1,000	No.	Reduce to \$250. Which is consistent with other waivers for a first time violation of the large contribution notice.
Treasurer Laura Smith states that while preparing the 2024 year-end report in January, she discovered that the committee received a \$1,000 contribution 11/4/24, which was the last day of the pre-general large contribution notice period. The committee communicated with Board staff to determine the appropriate next steps. Smith acknowledged that, as a first-time campaign treasurer, she should have exercised greater vigilance in maintaining regular communication with the candidate during such a busy period. Moving forward, both the candidate and the treasurer will pay close attention to large contribution notice periods. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$2,592.					

10. Jim Nash for Minnesota (17709)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Pre-general large contribution notice	10/28/24	1/31/25	\$1,000	No.	Reduce to \$250. Which is consistent with other waivers for a first time violation of the large contribution notice.
Treasurer Mike McKeever states that while preparing the 2024 year-end report due in January, he discovered that the committee received a \$1,000 contribution 10/25/24, which was during the pre-general large contribution notice period. This was his first election year filing CFB reports. The contribution was not reflected in the bank printouts the treasurer used to prepare the pre-general report. A separate \$1,000 contribution deposited on October 28, 2024, was reported on time. McKeever emphasizes that the omission was unintentional and takes full responsibility for the error. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$3,409.					

11. Josh Jungling for State Representative (19047)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Pre-general large contribution notices (2)	10/23/24	10/31/24	\$600	No.	Reduce to \$250. Which is consistent with other waivers for a first time violation of the large contribution notice.
The large contribution notices disclosed a joint contribution totaling \$2,000 made by married spouses. Treasurer John Wittek states the delay was due to the time required to obtain necessary filing details, including occupation/employer information for both contributors, and the spouse's name, which were not collected at the fundraising event. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$6,863.					

12. Hudson (Walter) for Minnesota (18797)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Pre-general large contribution notice	10/31/24	1/31/25	\$1,000	No.	Reduce to \$250. Which is consistent with other waivers for a first time violation of the large contribution notice.
Rep. Hudson states that the \$1,000 contribution was received unexpectedly through a digital vendor and was not noticed right away. This oversight was unintentional and was only discovered later while preparing the end-of-year report. Rep. Hudson states this incident will prompt stricter monitoring of transactions during the pre-election period. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$5,259.					

13. NRA Political Victory Fund (70035)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Pre-general large contribution notice	10/31/24	1/29/25	\$1,000	No.	Reduce to \$250.
Committee failed to file the large contribution notice in a timely manner due to a misunderstanding of the applicable rules for the specific contribution. NRA PVF was under the assumption that the notice was not required since the contribution was a transfer of funds from the Federal account of NRA PVF and not from an outside source. However, upon clarification that the notice would still be required in this instance, the notice was filed immediately. NRA PVF has procedures in place to prevent any further late filings. Cash balance as of 12/31/24 was \$5,029.					

14. Neighbors for Carlos Mariani (12353) and Carlos Mariani (state representative)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
2018 pre-primary	7/30/18	9/11/18	\$847.70	No.	
2018 pre-general	10/29/18	10/30/20	\$2,000		
2018 annual EIS	1/28/19	6/24/19	\$1,100		
2018 year-end	1/31/19	3/4/19	\$525		
2020 pre-primary	7/27/20	10/26/20	\$2,000		
2020 pre-general					
24-hour notice	10/30/20	2/1/21	\$1,000		
2022 annual EIS					
2022 year-end	1/30/23	2/12/24	\$1,100		
2023 year-end	1/31/23	4/1/24	\$2,000		
	1/31/24	2/3/25	\$1,000		
			Total: \$11,572.70		

Mariani states that the late filings occurred during a particularly challenging personal period towards the end of his term in office, which coincided with significant pressures from his legislative duties. While he successfully managed major finance and policy laws, he struggled to keep up with other obligations, including compliance with campaign reporting laws. He emphasizes that his explanation is not an excuse but rather a truthful account of the circumstances. Having recently filed the last required report and closed his campaign account, Mariani paid the remaining balance, \$372.30, to the Board to help address some of the debt. However, he states that paying the outstanding fines would cause him personal financial hardship. Mariani is requesting that the Board suspend the debt or accept a reduced amount to fulfill his obligations. Additionally, he notes that he did not contest the Board's petition to the courts last year, which found him liable for the debt, and he acknowledges that the Board was correct in making the financial assessments against him.

15. Lobbyist Will Dammann (4491)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Jan. 2025 LR	1/15/25	1/24/25	\$150	No	Reduce to \$75

Mr. Dammann states he moved offices last year, and as a result, the reminder letter was sent to the old address. Furthermore, the email associated with his account was still linked to his former employer. He has now updated his records with the correct email and address.

16. Lobbyist Dennis Egan (1001)					
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action
Jan. 2022 LR	1/18/22	1/27/22	\$350 (\$175x2)	No.	

Mr. Egan states that at the time of the due date in 2022, he was out of town without access to a computer and struggled to maintain a stable connection using a cell phone. Upon returning to his office, Mr. Egan was able to file the reports. As a sole practitioner, Egan was unable to respond before the deadline. Mr. Egan is a lobbyist for three entities and back in 2022, he paid the late filing fee of \$175 for one of the entities he represents. Board staff contacted him in 2022 to request the remaining \$350 for the other two entities, but Mr. Egan did not respond.

Payments

1. Return of public subsidy payment

Aaron (Brooksby) for MN 53B - \$1,854.31
Diane Napper for House - \$24.21
(Marion) Rarick for House - \$1274.94
Max (Ryder) for House Committee - \$290.68
Angela Zorn for MN House - \$1,909.64

2. Anonymous contribution

Friends for Paul Wikstrom - \$500

3. Civil penalty for disclaimer violation

Safer Hennepin - \$1,000

4. Late filing fee for 2018 candidate economic interest statement

Carlos Mariani - \$95

5. Civil penalty for 2018 pre-primary report

Neighbors for (Carlos) Mariani Committee - \$100

6. Late filing fee for 2018 year-end report

Neighbors for (Carlos) Mariani Committee - \$152.30 (partial payment)

7. Late filing fee for 2022 pre-primary large contribution notice

Safer Hennepin - \$250

8. Late filing fee for 2022 year-end report

Safer Hennepin - \$25

9. Late filing fee for 2024 pre-general large contribution notice

NEA Advocacy Fund - \$200
Kristi Pursell for House - \$50

10. Late filing fee for 2024 pre-general report

Safer Hennepin - \$1,000

11. Late filing fee for 2024 year-end report

Campaign Fund of Mike Christopherson - \$425
Citizens to Elect Al Juhnke - \$25
Committee to Elect Erika Bailey-Johnson - \$25
Neighbors for (Carlos) Mariani Committee - \$25
Doug Wardlow for Attorney General - \$50

12. Late filing fee for 2020 June lobbyist report

Gary Lamppa - \$100

13. Late filing fee for 2023 January lobbyist report

Andrew Askew - \$25

14. Late filing fee for 2023 June lobbyist report

Gary Thaden - \$75 (\$25 x 3)

15. Late filing fee for 2024 January lobbyist report

Andrew Askew - \$50

16. Late filing fee for 2024 June lobbyist report

Andrew Askew - \$25
Nikki Vilendrer - \$25

17. Late filing fee for 2025 January lobbyist report

Andrew Askew - \$50
Kate Bailey - \$150
Jean Noelle Cirisan - \$400
Sarah Erickson - \$100
Gary Lamppa - \$50
Robert Lopez - \$25
Michaela Neu - \$150
Teresa Nicholson - \$50
Thomas Poul - \$50
Rachel Sosnowchik - \$275
Gary Thaden - \$150
Pierre Willette - \$25
John-Paul Yates - \$50

Administrative termination of lobbyist Steven Pettersen (4831)

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

190 Centennial Building

658 Cedar Street

St. Paul, MN 55155-1603

651-539-1187



From: Ryan SanCartier <rsancartier@minnesotamca.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 11:44 AM

To: Lor, Ploua (CFB) <Ploua.Lor@state.mn.us>; CFBEmail <cfb.reports@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: Lobbyist Registration Amendments

Hi Ploua,

Thanks for reaching out with these questions. Yes to reporting for Sophie and Matthew for MN Mechanical (I noticed you spelled it Mathew in your email – if I spelled it that way in my amendment form, are you able to correct that?). Steven died late last winter so he should be removed. Are you able to remove him/am I?

Yes to reporting for Sophie for National Electrical.

Best,

Ryan

From: Lor, Ploua (CFB) <Ploua.Lor@state.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:43 AM

To: Ryan SanCartier <rsancartier@minnesotamca.org>; CFBEmail <cfb.reports@state.mn.us>

Subject: Re: Lobbyist Registration Amendments

Hello Ryan,

I have updated your status with MN Mechanical Contractors Association to be the designated lobbyist and reporting for Sophie and Mathew. Will you be reporting for Steven Pettersen too or will he become a self-reporter once Gary terminates?

I registered you with the National Electrical Contractors Association as the designated lobbyist. Will you take over reporting for Sophie Thaden once Gary terminates?

Thank you.

Ploua Lor

Programs Analyst

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

190 Centennial Building

658 Cedar Street

St. Paul, MN 55155-1603

651-539-1187



From: Ryan SanCartier <rsancartier@minnesotamca.org>

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 2:59 PM

To: CFBEEmail <cfb.reports@state.mn.us>

Subject: Lobbyist Registration Amendments

You don't often get email from rsancartier@minnesotamca.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

My boss and current designated lobbyist, Gary Thaden, for these clients is retiring. I'm taking over as the designee for both and the amendments reflect that. Let me know if you need anything else. Gary is filing a lobbyist termination form as well on his own behalf.

Best,

Ryan SanCartier

MN-Dakotas Conference NECA

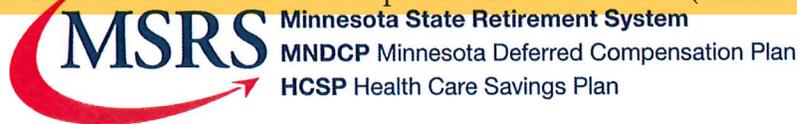
Pettersen & Associates

Government Affairs Liaison

10590 Wayzata Blvd, Ste 100

763-620-8784 (c)

rsancartier@pettersenassoc.com



February 14, 2025

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155
cf.board@state.mn.us

Re: Request for Administrative Termination of Lee Thor.

Dear Board Members

I am writing to request the administrative termination of Lee Thor's status as a public official.

In March of 2024, Lee Thor was elected by members of the Correctional State Employees Retirement Plan to a position of the Minnesota State Retirement System's Board of Directors ("MSRS Board"), under Minn. Stat. § 352.03, subd. 1, para. (5). Lee's election was confirmed at the May 2024 meeting of the MSRS Board. However, Lee was unable to attend the May meeting. Since the May meeting, I have been unable to communicate with Lee. Lee never attended any subsequent MSRS Board meeting nor has he ever taken a vote. I have been informed that following Lee's election, he suffered from a debilitating illness that prevented him from serving on the MSRS Board. On January 16, 2025, the MSRS Board terminated Lee's membership on the MSRS Board.

Because Lee never actually served in his capacity as a MSRS Board member, I ask that you administratively terminate Lee's status as a public official, which I understand will result in the cancellation of any owed fee or penalty resulting from his failure to file his statement of economic interest.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin Leonard
Executive Director
651-284-7848

Cc: Greta Johnson, greta.johnson@state.mn.us

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: Joey Cienian
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 3:36 PM
To: Lor, Ploua (CFB)
Subject: Lobbyist Termination Status MACS

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To whom it may concern,

We are the principal at MACS and would like to request the termination of a former lobbyist, Cari-Ana Luna Garcia. We have been unable to reach them and would appreciate your assistance in removing their lobbyist designation and association with our organization.

Thank you for your help.

Best,

Joey Cienian

--

JOEY CIENIAN (he/him)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Office: 651-789-3090 x1

Cell: 608-444-8285

joey@mncharterschools.org

161 Rondo Ave. Suite 1000, St. Paul, MN 55103

mncharterschools.org





MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Minnesota Veterans Homes

5101 Minnehaha Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417-1699
Phone: 612-548-5959 • Fax: 612-548-5964
MinnesotaVeteran.org • 1-888-LinkVet

Eric Meittunen, MS, MBA
Deputy Commissioner Healthcare
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
5101 Minnehaha Avenue S., Bldg 10
Minneapolis, MN 55417
Eric.Meittunen@state.mn.us
(651) 341-7156

January 23, 2025

Minnesota Campaign Finance Board
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar St
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Board,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to formally request a waiver for the disclosure of my residential address and the address of my second property in my Original Statement of Economic Interest for Appointed Public Officials. I am serving as Deputy Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Healthcare, and due to the nature of my work, I have been subject to threats and other concerns that may put both myself and my family at risk. Specifically, I have received threatening correspondence related to my duties, which has raised significant safety concerns.

Given these circumstances, I kindly request that the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board grant a waiver of the requirement to disclose these addresses in my Statement of Economic Interest. The potential risks to my safety and the safety of my family would be exacerbated by the public listing of this information.

I would be grateful for your understanding and consideration of this request. Please let me know if you require any further details or documentation in support of this waiver request. I am happy to provide additional information if needed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.
Sincerely,

Eric Meittunen, MS.MBA
Deputy Commissioner Healthcare
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Serving Minnesota Veterans and Their Families

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We received the check for \$50 for the fees from 2023 and 2024. However, I do not believe that I have received a waiver email from you regarding the \$125 late filing fee for the January 15, 2025, late lobbyist report. Please let me know if you still want to request a waiver.

Megan

Megan Engelhardt
Assistant Executive Director
Minnesota State Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155-1603
651-539-1182
<https://cfb.mn.gov>



From: Cristine Almeida <cristine@almeidapa.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 11:55 AM
To: Engelhardt, Megan (CFB) <megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us>; Larissa Shea <larissa@almeidapa.com>; Lor, Ploua (CFB) <Ploua.Lor@state.mn.us>
Cc: Cristine Almeida <cristine@almeidapa.com>
Subject: Re: Waiver Form

Dear Megan,

Thank you very much for the email. I am correcting the AT&T form now and will send to Ploua today.

I will also put in the mail today a check for \$50 to cover the fees for 2023 and 2024.

For the \$125 in fees accrued over the last several days, I will send a separate email for you to present to the Board requesting a waiver.

Finally, I very much appreciate Ploua's help on correcting our filings. Many thanks.

Best, Cristine Almeida

Cristine Almeida
Almeida Public Affairs
612-770-8578

From: Engelhardt, Megan (CFB) <megan.engelhardt@state.mn.us>
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 at 11:48 AM
To: Larissa Shea <larissa@almeidapa.com>, Lor, Ploua (CFB) <Ploua.Lor@state.mn.us>

Cc: Cristine Almeida <cristine@almeidapa.com>

Subject: RE: Waiver Form

Hello Larissa and Cristine,

Ploua forwarded me your email for me to respond. There is not a waiver form for you to fill out—the waiver request is just an email or letter sent to me and then I provide your email/letter to the Board for consideration at the next available Board meeting as part of the public portion of the meeting. I have attached a late filing fee letter to this email that includes the \$125 late filing fee for the late AT&T report due January 15, 2025; however, as the letter indicates there are two other late filing fees that are unresolved. We will need you to either pay those by mailing a check to our office made out to the State of Minnesota or include those late filing fees in your waiver request.

I will note that Ploua requested clarification on the AT&T report as she had questions when entering the report. We need those to be resolved before presenting the waiver request to the Board. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Megan

Megan Engelhardt
Assistant Executive Director
Minnesota State Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155-1603
651-539-1182
<https://cfb.mn.gov>



From: Larissa Shea <larissa@almeidapa.com>

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 8:47 AM

To: Lor, Ploua (CFB) <Ploua.Lor@state.mn.us>

Cc: Cristine Almeida <cristine@almeidapa.com>

Subject: Waiver Form

You don't often get email from larissa@almeidapa.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Ploua,

Cristine Almeida asked me to track down a “waiver form” that we can submit to appeal fines we have accrued due to a glitch with Cristine’s AT&T termination statement and report. I wasn’t able to find the form online. Can you send?

Thank you,
Larissa

--

Larissa Shea
Almeida Public Affairs
320-491-6823
larissa@almeidapa.com

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: David Stiggers <dstiggers@atu1005.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:33 PM
To: Stevens, Melissa (CFB)
Subject: Late Fee Waiver

You don't often get email from dstiggers@atu1005.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon, Melissa.

I received a letter from you regarding our unreceived CFB report that was due by January 31, 2025. The process is very new to me as it was typically completed by our Financial Secretary, Tommy Bellfield. Tommy was hospitalized in November and sadly passed away in late January, taking with him all of the knowledge to complete these tasks. I went into the CFB website and had thought that the information I had input was actually submitted but it wasn't. I'm asking for a late fee waiver due to our very unfortunate circumstance that has left our office scrambling a bit to accomplish many of our business duties. I do hope the board understands.

Thank you for your consideration.



David Stiggers

President
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005
312 Central Ave Minneapolis, MN 55414
O. 612-379-2914
C. 612-250-6755

"Diversity of thought opens minds. Intensity of conviction closes them."

March 25, 2025

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board
Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar St - Suite 190
St Paul, MN 55155-1603

RE: 2024 Year-End Report for MFC Action Fund
Reg. No.: 30658

Dear Megan Engelhardt,

I am following up on your letter dated February 14, 2025, received February 20, 2025, in regard to the Report of Receipts and Expenditures due on January 31, 2025 and the late fee of \$125.00 assessed for late filing of our report on February 7, 2025. I am writing to request that the fee be waived.

Due to our bookkeeper's cancer surgery and recovery in January, and follow-up appointments at Mayo in Rochester on February 3rd, we were unable to complete our report by the January 31st deadline. I alerted you to this via email on February 2nd, indicating that we hoped to file our report on February 4th.

However, we encountered problems completing our report online and reached out to CFB staff for help. Our bookkeeper emailed and called twice on February 5th, and emailed again on February 6th. Andrew Olson responded late on February 6th with the assistance we needed, enabling us to complete and file our report on February 7th.

Subsequently, on February 27, 2025, we were notified by Board staff that due to a CFRO system error that affected our report and others, we are required to correct the CFRO-caused problems with our report and file an amended report.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the late fee of \$125 be waived.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you with a favorable response from the Board.

Sincerely,



John Helmberger, Treasurer
MFC Action Fund

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: Toby Brill PMP Mpls MN <toby.brill@usa.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 11:26 AM
To: cap
Cc: Sigurdson, Jeff (CFB)
Subject: Important Action Item: Principal report for North Fourth Minneapolis Media, Llc

Importance: High

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Hello Cap!

This matter requires your immediate attention and both a call and written response.

I can understand that you were attending to a family member's health over the past several months and perhaps you didn't see correspondence during December and January that we were unable to file lobbyist reports on-line and thought this was due to your filing, but I believe you are responsible for filing the Principal's report for North Fourth Minneapolis Media, Llc.

If you do not feel you are the appropriate party, please respond to Mr. Sigurdson, George Warner and me by Noon tomorrow. As you aware, we are now facing penalties for the delinquent Principal's report for North Fourth Minneapolis Media Llc. The Principal report for North Fourth Minneapolis, Llc. was timely filed.

Mr. Sigurdson:

Pursuant to my responsive voice mail and telephonic discussion this morning, I received an email from Ploua Lor at your office requesting I file a Principal's report for North Fourth Minneapolis, Llc, but never rec'd an email nor a letter mailed via USPS relating to North Fourth Minneapolis Media, Llc. requesting a Principal's report.

You acknowledged that your agency rec'd my North Fourth Minneapolis, Llc. Principal report timely.

Further, you had no knowledge of the numerous telephonic and email discussions with staff regarding accurate registration of our two entities, our inability to file the January reports on-line, discussion with your tech support and long delays in posting reports timely filed.

Best, tbb 612.263.1285

Toby B. Brill, PMP/Minneapolis, MN. Please note that I do not maintain a social media site. vCard available on request. Membership nos. PMI: 8916793, IBO USA:1018 and PerView

Swedzinski (Chris) for House (17075)

Chris Swedzinski

P.O. Box 826

Marshall, Minnesota 56258

March 5th, 2025

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1603

Dear CFB,

I am writing respectfully to request a waiver for the fine that was recently levied on my campaign. I acknowledge the fine and fully understand the importance of having rules and regulations to ensure campaigns are governed and operated correctly. I appreciate the job you do ensuring clean and fair election funding.

I would like to provide some context as to why we had some paperwork delays. Given my circumstances, I ask you to reconsider this fine.

During the heat of the election season, my Treasurer had a hip replacement and later fell and broke her leg. I assure you absolutely no malice was intended with the paperwork not being submitted promptly.

Sincerely,

Chris Swedzinski



Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: Wind, Hannah
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Engelhardt, Megan (CFB)
Cc: Reich, John
Subject: Lobbyist Disbursement Report Notice
Attachments: Feb-18-2025_USPS_Wind-1.pdf

You don't often get email from hwind@cozen.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning Megan,

My name is Hannah Wind (registration number 5248) with Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies. I received a notice in the mail from the Campaign Finance Board that my most recent report filing was late for some of our clients. My colleague John Reich (registration number 3301) and I submitted all our client reports together at the same time on Jan. 15th before the deadline and his are marked as submitted on time. However, some of my client reports are marked as late by a day or two and the other client reports are shown to be submitted before the deadline at the same time as John's submissions.

I spoke with Ms. Ploua Lor on the phone and she recommended I reach out to you to inquire further about this and if there is any possibility of getting the filing fees waived. She further noted she would reach out to the IT team to inquire as well as to if there is any additional information they are able to share on the matter.

Thank you and we really appreciate any input you may have.

Best,
Hannah



Hannah Wind
Government Relations Associate
33 South 6th Street, Suite 3800 | Minneapolis, MN 55402
763-567-3151 | HWind@cozen.com
copublicstrategies.com
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Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: Josiah Ampian <josiah.d.ampian@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 2:29 PM
To: Engelhardt, Megan (CFB)
Subject: Filing waiver

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Hi Megan,

My committee would like to request a waiver for the late filing fee of 225\$ with reason of my treasurer being a first time treasurer.

Thanks,
Josiah D Ampian

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: Paul Jackson <pj@inv-air.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 10:53 AM
To: CFBEmail
Subject: Mn Future PSC Account

You don't often get email from pj@inv-air.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I served as Chair of this entity for the 2022 campaign cycle. The bank accounts, legal advisor, and treasurer left or were closed post the 2022 cycle. The PAC had one donation in the 2022 cycle and has been dormant since. The email link that was used to contact me was taken down post 2022 cycle and I tried without success several times to use the online campaign finance reporter to terminate this committee. The terminate committee drop down icon is a broken link. I was able to notify the board of the termination of this entity through direct contact in 2024. I have not received any written notice of the termination and only noted this by looking up the status of the entity via search on your website.

I am requesting a waiver due to no email notification (the email listed for me was terminated when the 2022 election cycle ended) was given to me in a timely manner. Also, there has not been a transaction that was not reported as there have been none to report to the board. This has been a dormant account that and one that I was not aware required reports to be filed even in the absence of any activity.

Terminating an entity should be easy and accessible for the user. I tried several times to use the link on your campaign finance reporter with no success. I do not believe I should be held responsible for fines as there was no harm as no transactions were omitted or delayed and your processes certainly made terminating this entity difficult at best.

Paul Jackson
612-963-1655

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Campaign for Thomas J Sexton (19096)

March 2nd, 2025

Thomas J. Sexton
Campaign for Thomas J. Sexton (Registration #19096)
P.O. Box 624
Waseca, MN 56093

Megan Engelhardt
Assistant Executive Director, Campaign Finance Board
Suite 190
Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155-1603
RE: Minnesota Campaign Finance Board Letter, dated 14 February 2025.

Greetings Ms. Engelhardt,

Thank You for your letter and I am enclosing a check (#1004) for \$1,000.00 to make restitution for my unintentional reporting error outlined in your letter (attached).

I truly believe in the rule of law and I want to make restitution for my error.

In addition, as noted in the letter, I would like to request a full or partial waiver for my unintended error.

As I stated, I fully believe in the rule of law and I take full responsibility for my error.

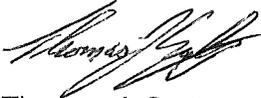
During the last couple of days leading up to a tightly contested primary election, as a first-time candidate, I decided to expend funds on text messages during a telephone call with my internet webpage provider. These charges were applied to my personal credit card and were created in the form of text message credits. Thus, I did not realize that my purchase of text message credits exceeded \$500.00 while speaking to my internet webpage provider.

If you review my entire campaign reporting history, Mr. Steffens (Treasurer), my spouse, and I reported detailed receipts including charges as small as \$9.13 to make sure we captured every single expenditure. Honesty is truly the best policy.

Most importantly, I am disappointed in myself for unintentionally overlooking my expenditure which is leading to this error.

In summary, I shall pay my restitution as I abide by the law. However, I will ask the Board to consider waiving or reducing my late filings fees for this unintentional error.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Sexton
Candidate, House District 19B (#19096)

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: Laura Smith <laura.kirsten.smith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2025 2:37 PM
To: Engelhardt, Megan (CFB); CFBEmail
Cc: Samantha Sencer-Mura
Subject: Follow Up on Large Contribution Notice Fine (The People for Sencer-Mura, #18768).

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Dear Assistant Executive Director Megan Engelhardt and the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board,

Thank you for following up on the 24-hour notice contribution that was received by The People for Sencer-Mura campaign (#18768).

In January, when I was preparing the 2024 year-end finance report, I discovered we received a large contribution during the 24-hour reporting period. I mistakenly believed the donation was received after the reporting period had concluded, but it was received November 4, the last day of reporting.

On the guidance of your compliance staff, I added the contribution to the Campaign Finance Reporting Online system on January 21 and communicated with staff and the candidate to determine next steps.

I sincerely apologize for the oversight. It is my first time serving as campaign treasurer and I should have been more vigilant in communicating regularly with the candidate during that extremely busy time period.

The candidate and I will be very mindful of future 24-hour reporting periods and report swiftly to the board if any donations are received. We did not intend to overlook this important reporting requirement and would greatly appreciate your consideration in reducing or waiving the fine for the oversight.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,

Laura Smith

Treasurer, The People for Sencer-Mura

--

Laura Smith (she/her)
laura.kirsten.smith@gmail.com
715-252-0016 cell

Jim Nash for Minnesota (17709)

March 15, 2025

Minnesota State Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

190 Centennial Building

658 Cedar Street

St. Paul, MN 55155-1603

RE: Waiver Request – Large Contribution Notice -- Reg. No.: 17709

Dear MN State Campaign Finance Board,

I write this letter as a request of grace regarding a late filing fee that has accrued in the amount of \$1,000. I am the treasurer for the Jim Nash for Minnesota campaign. I have been his treasurer for the past two calendar years. As treasurer I became aware of Minnesota Statute section 10A20, subdivision 5, as I started working on the 2024 pre-general report that was due by 10/28/2024. The 2024 campaign was my first time filing CFB reporting during an election year. As a result, I mis-filed, by not filing one contribution that should have been filed within the timeline of the large contribution notice statute (10/22/24-11/04/2024). At the time of filing the 2024 pre-general report, I had bank printouts with deposit information just short of October 25th, the deposit date of the \$1,000 deposit / contribution from Dale Teal that in turn, was not reported until I completed the year end filing on Jan 31, 2025. Thus a late filing fee accrued to the maximum of \$1,000.

Additionally, Jim had made me aware of a \$1,000 Contribution from Mark Wilf that he deposited on 10/28/24. I made certain to file that large contribution notice within 24 hours. Unfortunately, there was the oversight on my part as I had not received the final bank statement for October and had missed the contribution of \$1,000 from Dale Teal (10/25 deposit). Since Jim knew I was working on the 2024 pre-general reporting, he presumed that I would account for the deposits already made.

I am requesting a waiver of the \$1,000 late filing fee, as there was no ill intent to not disclose, which I hope can be trusted with the fact that I followed process on the one other contribution that fell into the disclosure dates. Please understand that I take the responsibility of this late filing very seriously as I operate as an officer of a financial institution in my day to day work, and compliance to regulation is of the utmost importance to me. I also support Jim Nash as his Treasurer because helping him with these filings allow for him to represent our district, and continue to make positive change for us Minnesotans. It pains me to think that my error in reporting could cost the campaign dollar for dollar, the very contribution that was reported late. I respect the statute, and will be much more mindful and cautious moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration.



Mike McKeever

-Jim Nash for Minnesota

320-493-7019 – mrmckeeper@gmail.com

Josh Jungling for State Representative (19047)

Minnesota Campaign Finance Board

Attn: Megan Engelhardt

658 Cedar Street

St Paul, MN 55155-1603

Dear Megan,

I am writing to you in response to our receipt of a notification of an untimely filing of large pre-election contributions for A. Novogratz and J. Novogratz. The delay between October 23, 2024 and the receipt date of October 31, 2024 is due to the time needed to acquire filing information (i.e. wife's name and occupation/employer information for both contributors) which were not gathered on the date of the fundraising function. As such we are requesting a waiver of the assessed fees.

Sincerely,

John Wittek, Treasurer

Josh Jungling for State Representative Campaign

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: Walter Hudson <walter@hudsonformn.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2025 3:12 PM
To: Engelhardt, Megan (CFB)
Cc: Alicia Leiviska
Subject: 18797 - Waiver Request

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Ms. Engelhardt -

I have received your letter dated February 14, 2025 regarding the \$1000 fee imposed on my committee for failure to report a large pre-election contribution from a single source.

Per the option offered in that letter, I am writing to request a waiver of that fee for the following good cause.

The contribution in question came in unexpectedly via a digital vender and escaped my prompt notice. I did not solicit the contributor directly, and was not notified in real-time of the contribution. The lack of compliance was unintentional, discovered later when I (my own treasurer) was submitting our end-of-year report. To my knowledge, this is the first instance of my committee engaging in such an oversight. This incident will prompt greater scrutiny of transactions in the pre-election period moving forward. I hope my expressed good faith will suffice for the board's consideration, but will of course comply promptly if this request is rejected.

Thank you,
Walter Hudson
walter@hudsonformn.com

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: CFBEmail
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 10:16 AM
To: Engelhardt, Megan (CFB)
Subject: FW: NRA PVF Late Filing Fee Waiver Request

From: Hadyn Smith <hadyn@crosbyott.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 9:51 AM
To: CFBEmail <cfb.reports@state.mn.us>
Subject: NRA PVF Late Filing Fee Waiver Request

You don't often get email from hadyn@crosbyott.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

To Whom It May Concern:

National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund (NRA PVF) failed to timely file the 24-hour notice of receipt of a large contribution due to a misunderstanding of the applicable rules for the specific contribution. NRA PVF was under the assumption the report was not required since the contribution was a transfer of funds from the Federal account of NRA PVF and not from an outside source. However, upon clarification that the notice would still be required in this instance, the report was filed immediately. NRA PVF has procedures in place to prevent any further late filings. Please accept this email and correspondence as explanation for the Committee's failure to timely file. Given the information provided here and our good standing, we respectfully request any late filing fees be waived. Please reach out via email (zac@crosbyott.com) with any inquiries or additional information needed.

Sincerely,

Hadyn Smith, CPA
Crosby Ottenhoff Group

CARLOS MARIANI ROSA

187 Congress Street West, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55107

651 214-5014

cmarianirosa@hotmail.com

21 March 2025

MN Campaign Finance and
Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Board Members,

I write to respectfully request the MN Campaign Finance Board for a waiver from paying the balance of fines and fees remaining from my former campaign committee, Neighbors for Mariani, #12353, incurred for my failure to submit timely reports to the Board.

I plead no excuse for that failure and agree that the fines and fees were correctly assessed. I did not contest the Board's petition to the Courts of finding me liable for the debt, freely admitting the Board was correct in making the financial assessments against me.

By way of offering a truthful account for my failure, I submit that many of the late filings occurred during an extended difficult personal time towards the end of my tenure in office. That also coincided with extreme pressure to fulfill my duties as a senior member of the state legislative body I was elected to in navigating through extraordinary difficult lawmaking decisions. I was successful in those efforts of managing major finance and policy laws that I believe have served our state well however, I also struggled to keep up with many of my other obligations, including to our state campaign reporting laws.

Again, I offer this as information related to my failure and not as an excuse for that failure.

I filed the last required report recently and I have closed my campaign account remitting the small balance remaining to the Board to used towards meeting some of the debt owed to the Board. The account had been inactive since before my retirement in 2022. The only way I can meet my campaign account's obligation to pay the remaining fines and fees would be to incur personal financial cost that will pose some hardship to me.

I thus humbly request that the Board suspend my debt for the remaining balance of fines and fees owed. In lieu, if the Board is open to accepting a lessor amount against that debt to fulfill my obligation, I similarly request that. I would be grateful for any relief the Board would extend to me. Please know I will certainly comply with whatever decision the Board makes.

CARLOS MARIANI ROSA

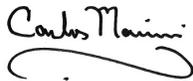
187 Congress Street West, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55107

651 214-5014

cmarianirosa@hotmail.com

Finally, I humbly apologize for subjecting the members of the Board, and to its staff – who have only ever been kind and helpful towards me – for having put you in the undesirable position of issuing these fines and pursuing their payments. I have no doubt your public service is principally driven by a desire for helping to maintain an orderly and ethical process for transparency – key to good governance - by which Minnesota’s campaign finance laws are met by all who participate in our elections. For that commitment, I am grateful to you for serving Minnesota well.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos Mariani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Carlos Mariani

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: William Dammann - MMCL <William.Dammann@mesabimetallics.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 2:54 PM
To: Engelhardt, Megan (CFB)
Subject: Fee Waiver Request

You don't often get email from william.dammann@mesabimetallics.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Megan,

I would like to request a waiver for the late fee charged because of the late submittal. We moved offices last year and the letter went to the old office. Additionally, the email address for my account was still the email at my former employer. We have updated the records with the accurate email and address.

Thank you for your consideration.



ESSAR Group - Green Steel

Will Dammann
Government Affairs Manager

Mesabi Metallics
60 South 6th Street, Suite 1250
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
Cell (612) 710-4576
william.dammann@mesabimetallics.com

Minnesota Campaign Finance Board

Request for reducing and waiving late fee for 2022.

At the time of reporting, I was out of town and called several times to request assistance as I was unable to access the MN Campaign Site. Once I returned, I was able to access the site and file reports using my computer. I would like to formally request the waiver of the 2022 late fees.

I appreciate your consideration.

Dennis Egan

Egan Public Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Egan", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Johnson, Greta (CFB)

From: eganpublicaffairs@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Johnson, Greta (CFB)
Subject: RE: Waiver Request

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Thank you for your voicemail and email.

In 2022 I was out of town with out the use of my computer, I had difficulty accessing a stable connection while using my cell phone. As soon as I was back in my office, I was able to request help from your office and complete the paperwork. As a sole practitioner I was unable to respond prior to the deadline. I understand I have some responsibility but am requesting for the 2022 late fees to be waived.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Dennis Egan

From: Johnson, Greta (CFB) <Greta.Johnson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 9:17 AM
To: 'eganpublicaffairs@gmail.com' <eganpublicaffairs@gmail.com>
Subject: Waiver Request

Hi Dennis,

Thank you for your waiver request. Can you provide more details on why you would like the Board to waive your fees from 2022?

Our Board will review your request on April 8, 2025, at its Board meeting. You have the option to attend the meeting virtually via WebEx or in person. After the Board staff reviews your waiver request, you can decide whether or not to attend the meeting. The recommendations will be available in the Enforcement Report section of our website's meeting materials on April 2. <https://cfb.mn.gov/citizen-resources/the-board/meetings/agendas/> If you do decide to attend, please let me know.

Thank you,



Greta Johnson

Campaign Finance Board | State of Minnesota
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 539-1183

Report of the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board



Covering Fiscal Year 2024

July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024

Issued: April 2025

CAMPAIGN FINANCE and PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

Suite 190, Centennial Building

658 Cedar Street

St. Paul MN 55155-1603

Telephone: 651-539-1180 or 800-657-3889

Fax: 651-539-1196 or 800-357-4114

Email: cf.board@state.mn.us

Website: www.cfb.mn.gov

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.



MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

DATE: April 8, 2025

TO: The Honorable Tim Walz, Governor
The Honorable Erin P. Murphy, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Lisa Demuth, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Mark T. Johnson, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Jim Carlson, Chair Elections
The Honorable Tou Xiong, Chair State and Local Governments
The Honorable Mike Freiberg, Co-Chair Elections Finance and Government Operations
The Honorable Duane Quam, Co-Chair Elections Finance and Government Operations

FROM: Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

SUBJECT: Report of Board activities during fiscal year 2024.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.02, subdivision 8 (a), the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board submits this report of the Board's activities during fiscal year 2024.

The Board, consistent with its objectives and administrative procedures, provided guidance to the thousands of individuals and associations whose disclosure of certain political, lobbying, and economic interest activities is regulated by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A.

Included in this report is information about campaign finance disclosure, the filing of lobbyist disbursement and lobbyist principal reports, and the filing of statements of economic interest by public officials.

Throughout its activities the Board strives to accomplish its mission; to promote public confidence in state government decision-making through development, administration, and enforcement of disclosure and public financing programs and ensure public access to and understanding of information filed with the Board.

We recognize the importance the State of Minnesota places on public disclosure laws and the regulation of campaign finance activity and appreciate the trust placed in the Board and its staff by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor.

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Executive Summary

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board is charged with the administration of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act, Chapter 10A of Minnesota Statutes. There are three major programs governed by Chapter 10A: 1) the regulation of campaign finance contributions and expenditures for state-level candidates, party units, and political committees; 2) the registration and reporting of lobbyists and the principals the lobbyists represent; and 3) the collection and disclosure of economic interest statements required of public officials. A brief overview of each program is provided here, with reference to the page in the annual report where detailed information is located. Additionally, the annual report provides information on Board members who served during the fiscal year beginning on page 4, and on the Board's staff, budget, and other financial activity during the fiscal year starting on page 34.

Fiscal year 2024 includes the first six months of calendar year 2024, which is a state election year. To help candidates and treasurers comply with the reporting and compliance issues in Chapters 10A and 211B Board staff conducted virtual training sessions through the end of June 2024. Remote training was initially in response to the COVID pandemic, but it has proved to be very popular with candidates and treasurers who appreciate being able to attend training without travel to a specific location, and who can use recordings of the training sessions at their convenience. Additional information regarding the training the Board conducted is found on page 8.

Staff works in the office three days a week, and remotely from home two days a week. This allows the office to be staffed every day of the week.

On the filing date for the 2023 year-end report of campaign receipts and expenditures there were 550 state-level candidates, 309 political party units, and 404 political committees and funds registered with the Board. Collectively, the year-end reports disclosed \$43,908,061 in receipts and \$32,205,360 in expenditures during calendar year 2023. Additional information regarding the campaign finance program begins on page 11.

About 1,751 lobbyists were registered with the Board at any one time throughout the fiscal year. The lobbyists represented 1,611 principals. The principals reported total lobbying expenditures of \$96,371,501 in calendar year 2023. Additional information on the lobbyist program is found on page 21.

The economic interest disclosure program requires public officials in approximately 3,400 positions to file economic interest statements with the Board. Depending on the position, these officials file their statements when they initially file their affidavits of candidacy for state-level office or when they take office. Additionally, public officials must review and update their statements in January of each year. Details on the economic interest disclosure program start on page 28.

During the fiscal year, the Board held twelve scheduled meetings. All regular sessions of Board meetings may be watched and participated in via WebEx or Teams. For the most part, the Board and Board staff appear in person for the meetings. At these meetings, the Board reviewed and approved sixteen conciliation agreements that resolved violations of Chapter 10A as part of the Board's staff reviews and resolved ten complaints filed with the Board.

Introduction to the Board

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board was established by the state legislature in 1974 through enactment of Chapter 10A of the Minnesota Statutes.

Throughout its history the Board has enforced the provisions of Chapter 10A, promulgated and enforced Minnesota Rules 4501 through 4525, and issued advisory opinions to guide clients in meeting the chapter's requirements.

In 2013 the Board was given authority over three sections of Chapter 211B. Those sections are (1) 211B.04, which governs the "prepared and paid for" form of disclaimer, (2) 211B.12, which specifies the purposes for which campaign money legally may be used, and (3) 211B.15, which governs corporate contributions. This authority is limited to those individuals and associations already subject to the Board's jurisdiction under Chapter 10A.

Mission Statement

To promote public confidence in state government decision-making through development, administration, and enforcement of disclosure and public financing programs which will ensure public access to and understanding of information filed with the Board.

Functions

Core functions of the Board include administration and management of the following:

- registration and public disclosure by state legislative, constitutional office, and judicial office candidates; political party units; political committees; and political funds;
- state public subsidy program that provides public funding to qualified state candidates and the state committees of political parties;
- registration and public disclosure by lobbyists and principals attempting to influence state legislative action, administrative action, and the official action of metropolitan governmental units; and
- disclosure of economic interest, conflicts of interest, and representation of a client for a fee under certain circumstances for designated state and metropolitan governmental unit officials.

Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives of the Board include the following:

- Create better compliance with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act by providing easy access to information and training.
- Provide fair and consistent enforcement of the Act.
- Help citizens become better informed about public issues related to the Act.

Board and Staff

The Board consists of six members, none of who may be an active lobbyist, a state elected official, or an active candidate for state office. The Board is not non-partisan; rather it is multi-partisan, with no more than three of the members of the Board supporting the same political party. The Board was able to maintain eight full-time positions during the fiscal year. Additional information about Board staff is found beginning on page 32.

Board Member Qualifications

The Board consists of six citizen members who are responsible for the administration of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act. Members of the Board are appointed by the Governor to staggered four-year terms. Their appointments must be confirmed by a three-fifths vote of the members of each body of the legislature. Two members must be former members of the legislature who support different political parties; two members must be persons who have not been public officials, held any political party office other than precinct delegate, or been elected to public office for which party designation is required by statute in the three years preceding the date of their appointment; and the other two members must support different political parties.

Board Members

July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024



Margaret Leppik

Margaret (Peggy) Leppik was appointed to the Board in May of 2015 by Governor Dayton for a term ending in January of 2016. Governor Dayton re-appointed Ms. Leppik in January 2016 for a term ending in January of 2020, but because no appointment was made to replace her, Ms. Leppik continued to serve until July 1, of 2020. In August of 2020, Walz reappointed Ms. Leppik to a term ending in January of 2024, but because no appointment was made to replace her, Ms. Leppik continued to serve until June 5, 2024. Ms. Leppik filled a Board position requiring a former Republican legislator. Ms. Leppik served as a state representative from 1991-2003 where she chaired the Higher Education Finance Committee. She served on the Metropolitan Council from 2003-2011 where she was vice chair for three years and chaired the Environmental Committee. A graduate of Smith College, Ms. Leppik is an active volunteer for numerous nonprofit organizations.



Carol Flynn

Carol Flynn was appointed to the Board in February of 2015 by Governor Dayton for a term ending in January of 2019. In August of 2020, Governor Walz reappointed Ms. Flynn to a term ending in January of 2023. Ms. Flynn was appointed again in March of 2023 for a term ending in January of 2027. She fills a Board position requiring a former DFL legislator. Ms. Flynn served as a state senator from 1990-2000 where she was Majority Whip and chaired the Judiciary and Transportation Committees. Ms. Flynn worked and studied at the University of Minnesota. She served on the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission and Metropolitan Council where she chaired the Systems Committee. She currently volunteers for senior organizations.



Faris Rashid, Board Chair,

Faris Rashid was appointed to the Board in August of 2020 by Governor Walz. Mr. Rashid was appointed in July of 2021 for a term ending in January of 2023. In March of 2023, Mr. Rashid was appointed again for a term ending in January of 2027. He fills a Board position requiring a member who has not been a public official, held any political party office other than precinct delegate, or been elected to public office for which party designation is required by statute in the three years preceding the member's appointment to the Board. Mr. Rashid supports the DFL party. Mr. Rashid is a trial lawyer and partner at Greene Espel PLLP with a focus on technology, intellectual property, and trade-secrets disputes. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School.



David Asp, Board Chair, 2024

David Asp was appointed to the Board in February of 2022 by Governor Walz for a term ending in January of 2026. He fills a Board position requiring a member who has not been a public official, held any political party office other than precinct delegate, or been elected to public office for which party designation is required by statute in the three years preceding the member's appointment to the Board. Mr. Asp has supported the Republican party. Mr. Asp is a partner at Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP where his practice focuses on litigation, particularly litigation involving health care and administrative law. Mr. Asp has been an active volunteer on the board of several community and non-profit organizations, and has volunteered with political campaigns, party units, and political committees. He graduated from Augsburg College and the University of Minnesota Law School.



Stephen Swanson

Stephen D. Swanson was appointed to the Board in July of 2017 by Governor Dayton for a term ending in January of 2020, but because no appointment was made to replace him, Mr. Swanson continued to serve until July 1, of 2020. In August of 2020, and again in July of 2021, Governor Walz reappointed Mr. Swanson to a term ending in January of 2024. Effective July 2, 2024, Governor Walz reappointed Mr. Swanson to a term ending in January 2028. He occupies an unrestricted Board position and supports the DFL party. Mr. Swanson is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Law, and holds a Master of Laws degree from New York University. Following a career as an attorney with Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, Inc. Mr. Swanson served as a Hennepin County District Court Judge from July of 1989 to February of 2007 and as a Senior Judge from January of 2009 to April of 2014. He served as a temporary administrative law judge with the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings from May 2014 to May 2017. Mr. Swanson has served as an international judge on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and worked in USAID-sponsored rule of law projects in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Lebanon. Mr. Swanson was employed as a half-time housing attorney with the Volunteer Lawyers Network. Mr. Swanson is presently an arbitrator for the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services on the Peace Officer Grievance Arbitration Roster.



George Soule, Board Chair, 2023

George Soule was appointed to the Board in March of 2021 by Governor Walz for a term ending in January of 2025. He occupies an unrestricted Board position and does not have a political party affiliation. Mr. Soule is a trial lawyer and founding partner of Soule & Stull LLC in Minneapolis. He also serves as a tribal court of appeals judge for five Minnesota tribes, including the White Earth Nation, where he is a member. Mr. Soule is a former Chair of the Minnesota Commission on Judicial Selection and serves on the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees. He graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead and Harvard Law School.

Summary of Board Activities

Meetings

The Board holds regular monthly meetings, which are open to the public, and executive session meetings, which are closed to the public.

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board held twelve regularly scheduled meetings during the fiscal year, plus three committee meetings as part of the rule-making process. Minutes of Board meetings are published on the Board's website.

Advisory Opinion Procedure

The Board is authorized to issue advisory opinions on the requirements of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A; Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.04, 211B.12, and 211B.15 if the requestor is under the jurisdiction of Chapter 10A. Individuals or associations may ask for advisory opinions based on real or hypothetical situations to guide their compliance with these laws.

A request for an advisory opinion and the opinion itself are nonpublic data. The Board provides consent to release information forms to individuals requesting opinions as part of the procedures under this law. If the requester does not consent to the publication of the requester's identity, the Board generally publishes a public version of the opinion, which does not identify the requester.

A written advisory opinion issued by the Board is binding on the Board in any subsequent Board proceeding concerning the person making or covered by the request and is a defense in a judicial proceeding that involves the subject matter of the opinion and is brought against the person making or covered by the request unless 1) the Board has amended or revoked the opinion before the initiation of the Board or judicial proceeding, has notified the person making or covered by the request of its action, and has allowed at least 30 days for the person to do anything that might be necessary to comply with the amended or revoked opinion; 2) the request has omitted or misstated material facts; or 3) the person making or covered by the request has not acted in good faith in reliance on the opinion.

Education and Training

To accomplish the goal of educating clients and the interested public on the compliance and reporting requirements of Chapter 10A Board staff conducted the following training during the fiscal year:

- 2 remote compliance training sessions attended by 45 candidates and treasurers of principal campaign committees;
- 2 remote compliance training session attended by 57 treasurers and chairs of political party units and political committees and funds;
- 1 remote training for CFRO attended by 119 people from party units, political committees/funds, and principal campaign committees; and
- 1 remote compliance training session attended by 221 lobbyists.

The remote compliance trainings were scheduled for both day and evening start times to accommodate different work schedules for treasurers and candidates. Also, staff recorded the remote campaign finance compliance training class, Campaign Finance Report Online (CFRO) training class, and a lobbying compliant class so that clients could watch the training classes at their convenience. The recorded training classes and the PowerPoint materials and handouts are on the website for clients to access.

As an effort to provide training available at any time and at any location with web access the Board has five online training videos for treasurers on the website. The modules allow viewers to move at their own pace through the topics covered and incorporate quizzes during the training to make the modules more interactive. The Board also maintains videos on specific topics related to using Campaign Finance Reporter Online (CFRO), which is used to file the campaign finance reports. The videos are available on the Board's website. Additionally Board staff participated in several panels and other events for interested groups of the public on the requirements of Chapter 10A.

Use of Technology

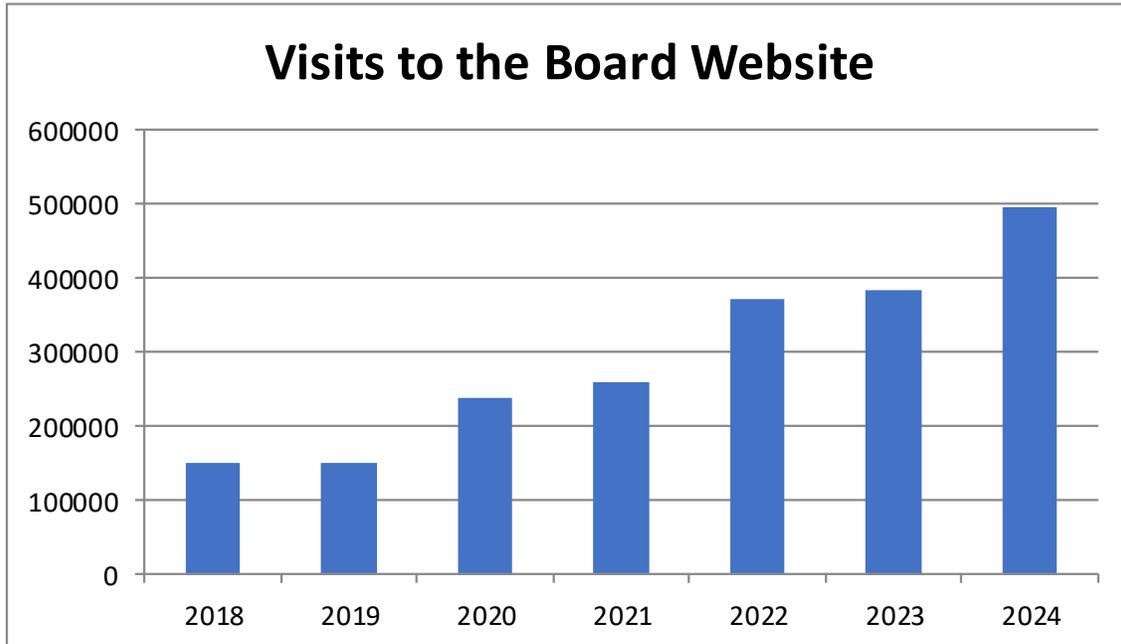
The Board has long recognized the value of receiving disclosure reports in electronic format. Electronic reports may be moved directly into Board databases where the records are analyzed for compliance issues and then exported to the Board's website for faster disclosure to the public. Electronic filing eliminates the cost and errors associated with data entry of paper reports.

To facilitate electronic filing, the Board developed web based applications for filing lobbyist disbursement reports, lobbyist principal reports, and economic interest statements. Use of these web based applications is optional, clients may still file a paper report, but all three applications have participation rates of over 85%, which indicates that clients also prefer electronic filing.

The Board website offers the following:

- Board meeting notices and minutes;
- Board enforcement actions, including findings and conciliation agreements;
- Advisory opinions;
- Lists of lobbyists and principals, candidate committees, political committees, political funds, party units, and public officials;
- Copies of all campaign finance and lobbyist reports;
- Electronic filing for lobbyists and lobbyist principals;
- Electronic filing of statements of economic interest for public officials;
- All Board publications and forms;
- Searchable databases of campaign finance contributions;
- Searchable database of independent expenditures;
- Campaign Finance Summaries;
- Lobbyist Disbursement Summaries;
- Annual Reports of Lobbyist Principal Expenditures; and
- Training videos on campaign finance compliance and the use of Campaign Finance Reporter.

Board Website - cfb.mn.gov



Program Reviews

The Board administers three major and several minor programs as authorized by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A. The major programs are campaign finance, lobbying, and economic interest disclosure. The review of each major program includes a general description of the program, a review of legislation passed during the fiscal year that affects the program, a review of any Board advisory opinions issued during the time period for the program area, and an overview of administrative activity that occurred during the fiscal year.

Campaign Finance Program Overview

The Board administers the provisions of Chapter 10A of the Minnesota Statutes. These laws govern campaign finance for principal campaign committees, political committees, political funds, political party units, and independent expenditure and ballot question committees and funds.

During calendar year 2024, an election year, these committees and funds filed periodic reports disclosing receipts and expenditures. Information on the number of reports filed is found on page 16.

Each filed report is reviewed by Board staff for compliance with the disclosure law requirements, including accurate accounting and reporting and adherence to applicable contribution and expenditure limits. Violations of contribution and expenditure limits are resolved through either a conciliation agreement, or in some cases, a Board order. Information on Board investigations and enforcement actions is found on page 20.

As a part of the campaign finance program the Board administers and regulates the distribution of payments for the state's public subsidy program, which provides public funding to qualified state candidates and the state committees of political parties. Payments are made following the state primary election to candidates and monthly to the state committees of political parties. Information on public subsidy payments made during fiscal year 2024 is found on page 18.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking

The Board did not make any recommendations regarding Chapter 10A or Chapter 211B for the 2024 legislative session.

There were numerous changes made to the campaign finance provisions of Chapter 10A in the 2024 legislative session. Some of the changes to the campaign finance provisions of Chapters 10A and 211B are outlined on the next several pages.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking (cont.)

The definition of “ballot questions” was updated. The definition previously was limited to constitutional amendments and questions placed on the ballot by Hennepin County, cities within Hennepin County with a population of at least 75,000, and School District 1 (Minneapolis). The definition has been expanded to include a question placed on the ballot by any county, city, school district, township, or special district in the state. This amendment shifts committees formed to support or oppose local ballot questions and local office candidates, other than committees formed by local candidates, to the registration and reporting requirements of Chapter 10A. This section was effective January 1, 2025.

The legislature expanded the definition of “local candidate” to now include all candidates seeking office in any county, city, school district, township, or special district in the state. The previous definition was limited to certain offices in Hennepin County. Local candidates are still required to file campaign finance reports with local election administrators under the provisions of Chapter 211A. This section was effective January 1, 2025.

The legislature also clarified the filing dates for committees, funds, and party units that are required to file reports of receipts and expenditures during an odd-numbered year (non-state election year) because of contributions or expenditures to support or oppose local ballot questions or local candidates. The reference to filing a “pre-primary” report is replaced with the requirement to file a report in July. The change reflects the fact that many political subdivisions do not hold primary elections. This section was effective January 1, 2025.

The legislature also provided that a candidate’s principal campaign committee may not accept a loan from the candidate if the terms of the loan require the committee to pay interest to the candidate. This change was effective January 1, 2025.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking (cont.)

The legislature increased the range of late filing fees and civil penalties available to the Board for a political committee, political fund, candidate committee, or party unit that files a report of receipts and expenditures or a pre-election large contribution notice past the deadline. The modified late filing fees and civil penalties are also available to fine an unregistered association for filing a report of electioneering communications late.

The legislature also provided a new range of penalties for unregistered associations that contribute to independent expenditure committees and funds, or to a ballot question committee or fund, without providing the required statement disclosing the source of funds used for the contribution; and for independent expenditure committees and funds that file a report without including the statement from the unregistered association.

The legislature made changes to the electioneering statutes added in 2023 by expanding the scope of electioneering communications required to be reported to the Board. The change amends the definition of “electioneering communication” in several ways. First, telephone and digital communications are included as a means to distribute electioneering communications. Second, this section clarifies the periods of time when a communication is subject to reporting as an electioneering communication. The definition continues to provide that an electioneering communication may occur in the 60 days before a general election, or the 30 days before a primary election, if the office sought by the candidate referenced in the communication will be on the ballot. In addition, this section clarifies that an electioneering communication may occur in the 30 days before a convention of a party unit that has the authority to endorse a candidate for the office sought by the candidate referred to in the communication.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking (cont.)

The statute now provides that a communication is not an electioneering communication if the communication is a noncommercial opinion poll, survey, or form of data collection for the purpose of opinion research. This exception does not apply if the solicitation is designed to influence the respondents' views on an issue. Additionally, a communication disseminated by telephone, or online, or by other electronic means is not an electioneering communication if the recipient has voluntarily and affirmatively consented to receive messages from the sender.

Previously, a communication could not be an electioneering communication unless it could be received on radio or television by at least 10,000 individuals within the legislative or judicial district of the candidate referenced in the communication, or statewide if the communication referred to a candidate for an office that is voted on statewide. Now, the statute provides a new definition for the term "targeted to the relevant electorate" so that an electioneering communication may also be distributed by telephone, in a digital format online, or by other electronic means.

Additionally, the numerical threshold for potential recipients of communication to qualify as electioneering communication will vary based on the distribution method. The standard remains 10,000 individuals within the relevant election district for communications distributed by radio or television. For a message distributed by telephone, online, or by other electronic means, the communication must generate 2,500 or more contacts within a district during an electioneering communication period as defined in Chapter 10A. The 2,500 or more contacts may be from a single communication, or the 2,500 contacts may be cumulative from multiple communications distributed by the same person if the communications refer to the same candidate and is distributed in the same electioneering communication period.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking (cont.)

The statute also now clarifies that a political committee, political fund, or political party unit that makes a contribution that meets the definition of an electioneering communication will report the cost of the communication as a campaign expenditure or independent expenditure. Previously the text explicitly referred only to political committees. The changes to the electioneering statutes are effective January 1, 2025.

The Board also started a formal rulemaking process in fiscal year 2024, but it will not be completed until fiscal year 2025.

Advisory Opinions Issued Related to Campaign Finance Program

The Board issued two advisory opinions regarding the campaign finance program during fiscal year 2024.

Advisory Opinion 459 provided that the Board cannot issue an advisory opinion without specific factual information, either real or hypothetical, about the requestor's planned conduct. The opinion also stated that the Board declines to interpret the phrase "proximity to the election" within the definition of the term "expressly advocating" to refer to a specific number of days prior to a primary or general election.

Advisory Opinion 462 provided that a partnership consisting of individuals may make political contributions to a general purpose political committee or fund. The opinion provided that such a partnership may be the supporting association of a general purpose political fund and may provide collateral for a line of credit to be used by the political fund. The opinion also stated that Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 17, which allows nonprofit corporations to provide limited administrative assistance to a political committee or fund, does not apply to a partnership.

Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports Filed

Below are the number of reports of receipts and expenditures filed by candidates, political party units, and political committees and political funds during part of the election year 2024, and the 2023 year-end report filed in January of 2024.

	Paper	Electronic	Total
Candidate Committees	57	534	591
Political Party Units	23	301	324
Political Committees or Funds	39	1,241	1,280

Below are the number of reports of receipts and expenditures filed by political party units, political committees, and political funds during local election year 2023 for Hennepin County for three reports filed in fiscal year 2024.

	Paper	Electronic	Total
Political Party Units	0	4	4
Political Committees or Funds	0	113	113

Electronic Filing of Reports

Principal campaign committees, political committees, political funds, and political party units have been using the Campaign Finance Reporter software since 1998. The Board provides the software to registered committees without charge. The maintenance, upgrade, training, and helpdesk support for the software is provided by Board staff. The software provides compliance checks and warnings as records are entered, generates electronic reports for filing that reduce the data entry demands on Board staff, and provides contact management tools for the committees that use the software.

Electronic filing of campaign finance reports became mandatory beginning with the 2012 election cycle. The Board may grant a waiver from the requirement to file electronically if the total financial activity of a committee is less than \$5,000, or if there are technical or other valid reasons why the electronic filing requirement would be an unreasonable burden to the committee.

The Board has developed and distributed a XML schema that is the standard for the electronic filing of campaign finance reports using a third party vendor's software. Forty-four committees filed electronically using the XML standard.

The Board has ceased supporting the Campaign Finance Reporter (CFR) reporting system that was a software system after the 2023 year-end report. The CFR was replaced by the web-based reporting application, Campaign Finance Reporter Online (CFRO). As an online application, CFRO is available to all committees regardless of the operating system of their computer.

Candidate Public Subsidy Payments

The Board administers the distribution of payments for the state's public subsidy program, which provides public funding to qualified state candidates and the state committees of political parties. Payments to qualified candidates during the 2024 state general election were made in fiscal year 2025. A report of the public subsidy payments made to each qualified candidate during the 2024 state election is available on the Board's website.

Political Contribution Refund Program

State candidates who sign the public subsidy agreement and political parties are allowed to give political contribution refund receipts to individual contributors. In calendar year 2023 the Department of Revenue issued \$447,860 in refunds based on contributions to candidates, and another \$1,616,213 in refunds based on contributions to political parties.

Political Party Payments

The state central committees of political parties receive 10% of the tax check-offs to the party account of the State Elections Campaign Fund. Based on monthly certification from the Department of Revenue during fiscal year 2024 the Board made \$60,218 in payments to political parties. By party the payments were as follows:

Party	Payment
Democratic Farmer Labor	\$42,734
Republican Party of Minnesota	\$14,879
Legal Marijuana Now	\$612
Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis	\$443
Libertarian	\$818
Independence Alliance	\$732

Campaign Finance Enforcement Actions

The Board conducts investigations of possible violations of the provisions of Chapter 10A or those sections of 211B under the Board's jurisdiction. An investigation is started in response to a complaint filed with the Board or may be initiated by staff based on information disclosed on documents filed with the Board.

Investigations of many types of violations are typically resolved by conciliation agreement. The conciliation agreement will set the terms under which the violation is to be remedied, provide for remedial measures to correct the offending behavior, and provide for a civil penalty to the committee. Violations not resolved by conciliation agreement are resolved through the issuance of a Board order. If warranted, the Board may also issue an order stating that no violation occurred.

During fiscal year 2024 the Board entered into sixteen conciliation agreements to resolve violations of Chapter 10A or Chapter 211B that were initiated by a staff review. In fiscal year 2024 the Board also resolved seven complaints filed with the Board with either a conciliation agreement, settlement agreement, findings, or dismissal.

To ensure compliance with disclosure deadlines Chapter 10A provides for late fees applied at the rate of \$50 a day for reports of receipts and expenditures for most campaign finance reports, and \$25 a day for the year-end report. Reports that are filed more than 7 days after the Board has sent notice by certified mail of the failure to file a report also incur a \$1,000 civil penalty. Civil penalties and late fees collected by the Board are deposited in the state general fund. A breakdown of late fees and civil penalties collected through enforcement is provided on page 36.

Lobbying Program Overview

The Board administers the provisions of Chapter 10A that govern registration and public disclosure by lobbyists and principals attempting to influence state legislative action, state administrative action, and the official action of metropolitan governmental units.

Lobbyists are required to report activities for lobbying purposes to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board two times each year (January 15 and June 15). On the June 15th report the lobbyist must provide a general description of the subjects lobbied on during the previous 12 months.

Individuals or associations that hire lobbyists or spend \$50,000 or more to influence legislative action, administrative action, or the official action of metropolitan governmental units, are principals and are required to file an annual report disclosing total expenditures on these efforts. The report is due March 15th, and covers the prior calendar year.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking

The Board started a formal rulemaking process in fiscal year 2024, but it will not be completed until fiscal year 2025.

The Board did not make recommendations regarding the lobbying provisions of Chapter 10A for the 2024 legislative session. There were changes made to the lobbying provisions of Chapter 10A in the 2024 legislative session that are outlined on the next several pages.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking (cont.)

The Legislature applied a stay to the registration and reporting requirements for lobbying a political subdivision that is not a metropolitan governmental unit. The stay is effective until June 1, 2025. In effect, this puts back in place the standard for lobbying local government that existed on December 31, 2023. A lobbyist who has or will be lobbying metropolitan governmental units, as defined in Chapter 10A, will still need to register and report with the Board. An individual who is lobbying only political subdivisions that are not metropolitan governmental units is not required to register and report with the Board while the stay is in place.

Also, the Board is directed to prepare a report that studies the definitions of “lobbyist”, “local official”, “public official”, and “official action of a political subdivision” that was due to the legislature on January 15, 2025.

The Legislature also amended the definition of “lobbyist”. Previously, an individual compensated more than \$3,000 for urging the public to contact public or local officials on an issue was a lobbyist. The section removes “urging others to communicate” from the definition of lobbyist for individuals who are compensated over \$3,000 and for individuals who spend more than \$3,000 of their own money on lobbying. Of note; while this change means that individuals no longer will register for what is commonly known as “grassroots lobbying,” a lobbyist principal will still need to report money spent urging the public to contact officials on an issue, and an association that is not represented by a lobbyist may still become a lobbyist principal if it spends \$50,000 or more on grassroots lobbying within a calendar year.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking (cont.)

The Legislature provided a definition for the term “employee of a political subdivision” which is not a lobbyist if the employee attempts to influence the official action of the political subdivision that hired or appointed the employee. This definition will expand “employee of a political subdivision” to include consultants, independent contractors, and individuals employed by a business hired by a political subdivision to provide legal counsel, professional services, or policy recommendations to the political subdivision.

The Legislature updated the definition of “principal” in two ways. First, the threshold at which an association becomes a lobbyist principal as a result of compensating a lobbyist was raised from \$500 to \$3,000 in a calendar year. This matches the compensation level at which an individual will need to register as a lobbyist. Second, an association that does not pay \$3,000 for lobbyist representation is still a lobbyist principal if the association spends \$50,000 or more to influence official actions, including the official actions of political subdivisions.

The Legislature also made two changes to the annual lobbyist principal report. First, it reduces the allowable rounding of the total amount spent for each of the four types of lobbying from the nearest \$9,000 to the nearest \$5,000. Second, the types of expenditures made by a principal that are included on the annual report was expanded to include “communications and staff costs used for the purpose of urging members of the public to contact public or local officials to influence official actions”. This language was included to clarify that expenditures on grassroots lobbying are still reportable by principals even though individuals are no longer required to register as a lobbyist based on grassroots lobbying.

Advisory Opinions Issued Related to Lobbyist Program

The Board issued six advisory opinions regarding the lobbying program during fiscal year 2024.

Advisory Opinion 456 provided that a membership organization comprised of political subdivisions that communicates with its members about lobbying efforts made on behalf of those members, and suggests that members take action to support those lobbying efforts, is not lobbying its own members.

Advisory Opinion 457 considered multiple complex fact patterns and addressed whether specific activities constitute lobbying. The opinion focused on attorneys who interact with political subdivisions on behalf of clients. The opinion generally provided that attorneys who represent clients by communicating with public or local officials are engaged in lobbying if that communication is intended to influence the official action of a political subdivision.

Advisory Opinion 458 considered multiple complex fact patterns and addressed whether, given specific facts, individuals would be required to register as lobbyists and report their lobbying activity, as well as whether principals would be required to include certain activity when calculating the amount spent on lobbying for purposes of their annual report to the Board. The opinion focused on companies with high-level executives, and trade association members, who may be engaged in lobbying. The opinion generally provided that determining if an individual must register as a lobbyist requires an examination of the communication made by the individual, who the communication was made to, if the communication attempts to influence an official action, and the compensation received for making the communication.

Advisory Opinions Issued Related to Lobbyist Program (cont.)

Advisory Opinion 460 provided that a nonelected local official or employee of a political subdivision is not a lobbyist unless the individual both receives compensation in excess of \$3,000 for lobbying in any year and spends more than 50 hours in any month on lobbying.

Advisory Opinion 461 provided that a vote by elected local officials to adopt a collective bargaining agreement for union employees of a political subdivision is an official action of a political subdivision and attempting to influence that vote is lobbying. The opinion also stated that actions by union representatives to enforce the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement after it has been adopted, or to represent union employees in discussions with human resource staff, is not lobbying.

Advisory Opinion 463 considered the meaning of the phrase “news medium” as used to exclude individuals from the definition of the term “lobbyist.” The opinion also considered several specific fact patterns and addressed whether, given specific facts, individuals would be required to register as lobbyists and report their lobbying activity, as well as whether their employers would be defined as principals. The opinion generally concluded that news media organizations and their employees and agents are not lobbyists as a result of publishing or broadcasting news items, editorial comments, or paid advertisements which directly or indirectly urge official action by public or local officials.

Lobbyist Disbursement Reports

The Board has developed a web-based reporting system for lobbyists. Use of the system is voluntary, but as shown below it is used by most lobbyists as the reporting method of choice. Lobbyist reports are available for review on the Board website.

Reporting year	Reports filed	Electronically filed
2023	5,219	95%
2022	4,444	93%
2021	4,319	94%
2020	4,292	94%
2019	4,338	93%
2018	4,201	97%
2017	4,231	95%
2016	4,174	98%
2015	4,076	97%
2014	4,041	96%
2013	3,998	97%
2012	3,823	93%

Principal Reporting

	All Other Lobbying in Minnesota	MN Public Utilities Commission	Total
2023	\$90,012,463	\$6,359,039	\$96,371,501
2022	\$77,134,544	\$6,137,008	\$83,271,552
2021	\$69,005,045	\$5,194,947	\$74,199,992
2020	\$62,974,403	\$5,049,004	\$68,023,406
2019	\$68,408,333	\$7,809,960	\$76,218,293
2018	\$63,727,954	\$15,029,661	\$78,757,615
2017	\$66,029,622	\$9,641,044	\$75,670,666
2016	\$62,140,012	\$6,222,560	\$68,362,572
2015	\$63,947,699	\$5,177,020	\$69,124,719
2014	\$64,517,472	\$5,889,000	\$70,406,472
2013	\$69,185,283	\$5,568,210	\$74,753,493
2012	\$59,060,155	\$2,749,590	\$61,809,745

Lobbyist Program Enforcement Actions

In fiscal year 2024, the Board dismissed two complaints and resolved an additional complaint after an investigation.

Also, during fiscal year 2024, the Board entered into one conciliation agreement with a lobbyist to resolve a campaign finance violation.

Economic Interest Statement Program Overview

The Board administers the provisions of Chapter 10A of the Minnesota Statutes that govern disclosure of economic interests by public officials and local officials in metropolitan governmental units. There were over 3,380 public officials who filed with the Board in fiscal year 2024. Local officials use forms developed by the Board, but file with the local governmental unit.

Original statements of economic interest must be filed at the time of appointment or, for nonjudicial candidates, when the candidate files for office. All incumbent office holders and appointed officials must annually review and recertify their statements. The annual recertification is due by the last Monday in January and covers all time served during the previous calendar year. The Board has developed a web based system for submitting economic interest statements.

Filing of Statements

During fiscal year 2024, there were 421 state offices, boards, agencies, or commissions with elected or appointed public officials. The Board processed 4,038 statements of economic interest during the fiscal year, 89% of which were submitted using the Board's electronic filing system, and 11% of which were submitted on paper forms.

During the annual recertification period in January of 2024, staff processed 2,972 statements. Of those statements, 97% were filed electronically.

Legislative Action and Rulemaking

The Board has also started a formal rulemaking process in fiscal year 2024, but it will not be completed until fiscal year 2025.

The Board did not make any legislative recommendations regarding the economic interest program, nor did the Legislature make any changes to the economic interest program in 2024.

Advisory Opinions Issued Related to the Economic Interest Program

No advisory opinions were issued in the economic interest program in fiscal year 2024.

Other Board Programs

Potential Conflict of Interest

A public or local official who in the discharge of the official's duties would be required to take an action or make a decision that would substantially affect the official's financial interests or those of an associated business must under certain circumstances file a Potential Conflict of Interest Notice, or a written statement describing the potential conflict. If there is insufficient time to comply with the written requirements, oral notice must be given to the official's immediate supervisor of the possible conflict.

If the official is not permitted or is otherwise unable to abstain from action in connection with the matter, the public official must file the notice with the Board and a local official must file with the governing body of the official's political subdivision. The statement must be filed within one week of the action taken.

Local Pension Plans

Members of a governing board of a covered pension plan and the chief administrative officer of the plan are required to file an annual statement of economic interest with the governing board under Minnesota Statutes section 356A.06, subdivision 4.

The Office of the State Auditor prescribes the statement and instructions for completing the statement. The chief administrative officer of each covered pension plan must submit to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board a certified list of all individuals who filed a statement with the pension plan no later than January 15th of each year. There were 266 plans that filed a certified list covering 2023. Approximately half of those lists were filed by January 15, 2024. This number is expected to decline over time as covered pension plans dissolve to join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) Plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). The Board does not have jurisdiction over the enforcement of this certification requirement.

Public Employees Retirement Association Trustee Candidates

Candidates for election as PERA Trustees are required to file certain campaign finance disclosure reports with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board under Minnesota Statutes, section 353.03, subdivision 1. Under this statute, the Board prescribes and furnishes to trustee candidates the reporting form and instructions for completing the form.

State Board of Investment

Minnesota Statutes section 11A.075, requires certain disclosure by SBI members upon appointment and SBI employees upon hire and by both annually until termination of appointment or employment. Under this statute, the Board prescribes and furnishes to the members and employees the reporting form and instructions for completing the form.

Representation Disclosure

A public official who represents a client for a fee before any individual board, commission, or agency that has rulemaking authority in a hearing conducted under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14, and in the cases of rate setting, power plant and power line siting, and granting of certificates of need under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, must file a Representation Disclosure Statement within 14 days after the appearance has taken place, disclosing the official's part in the action.

Staff Duties

Executive Director

The executive director facilitates achievement of the Board's goals and objectives, sets the agenda and prepares materials for Board and committee meetings, and directs all agency and staff operations. The executive director also drafts advisory opinions for Board consideration, serves as the Board's representative to the Legislature and the Executive Branch. The executive director is responsible to insure that the information technology resources of the agency are best used to support the Board's missions and goals. The executive director is responsible for the calculation of public subsidy payments made to candidates and political party units. Lastly, the executive director administers the preparation of the biennial budget.

Assistant Executive Director

The assistant executive director serves as advisor to the executive director and assists in management of the operations for the agency. The assistant executive director conducts complex investigations and prepares drafts for Board consideration, reconciles and reports on the Board's financial systems, and supervises the agency's compliance programs. The assistant executive director prepares and conducts training classes for clients on campaign finance reporting requirements.

Legal Analyst—Management Analyst

Two staff members hold this position. The legal analysts—management analysts perform legal analysis, make recommendations, and assist in agency administrative rule-making, the conduct of Board investigations, and drafting findings and orders for Board consideration. These positions also serve as internal management consultants providing support and analysis to the executive director and assistant executive director.

Compliance Officer

The compliance officer provides for distribution, collection, data entry, and filing of campaign finance registrations and reports required by Chapter 10A. The compliance officer reviews the reconciliation of reported contributions, performs compliance checks on campaign finance reports filed with the Board, assists in the conduct of Board audits, and monitors cases for Revenue Recapture. The compliance officer also provides compliance advice and guidance to Board staff and clients.

Lobbying Program Administrator

The programs administrator provides for distribution, collection, data entry, and filing of lobbyist disclosure required by Chapter 10A. The programs administrator collects, stores, and retrieves data for the preparation and analysis of summaries of documents filed with the Board. The programs administrator also provides database advice and guidance to Board staff and clients.

Information Technology Specialist III Database Management

This information technology specialist develops, maintains, and manages complex database applications to support administration of all Board programs and activities. The position provides technical service, LAN administration, and training to Board staff. The position also develops, administers, and provides technical support for the Board's website and provides client training and support in the use of Campaign Finance Reporter Online (CFRO).

Information Technology Specialist IV Application Development

This information technology specialist ensures that the technology resources of the Board support applicable business rules and statutory obligations. The position develops online applications for use by clients in reporting to the Board. The position also develops and administers applications for use by staff and in response to management requests. The position also supports multiple complex relational databases. Lastly, this position coordinates the work of other IT staff and contractors to ensure that the IT systems complies with Board security and documentation standards.

Staff Salaries FY 2024

Position	Staff Member	FY 2024
Executive Director	Jeffrey Sigurdson	\$134,971
Assistant Director	Megan Engelhardt	\$114,771
Legal - Management Analyst 4	Will Hager (resigned 7/14/23)	\$2,664
Legal - Management Analyst 4	Greta Johnson (joined staff 10/18/23)	\$48,002
Legal - Management Analyst 4	Andrew Olson	\$84,922
Investigator	Melissa Stevens	\$68,342
Information Technology Specialist 4	Jon Peterson	\$109,175
Information Technology Specialist 3	Gary Bauer	\$78,082
Management Analyst 1	Erika Ross	\$62,323
Office Specialist (part time position)	Jodi Pope	\$7,882
Total Salaries		\$711,134

Board Financial Information FY 2024

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board is funded by a direct appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature. The Board's operational appropriation for fiscal 2024 was \$1,993,000. Funds not expended in the first year of a biennium roll forward into the next fiscal year and funds not expended in the second year of a biennium are returned to the state general fund.

Income Summary	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$1,993,000
Expenditure Summary	
Operating budget expenditures	(\$1,172,027)
Carryforward to FY 25	\$820,973

Board Operating Budget—FY 2024

Salary and Benefits	FY 2024
Full time and part time staff (salary and fringe)	\$990,078
Per diem for Board Members	\$3,135
Salary and Benefits Sub Total of Expenditures	\$993,213

Operating Expenses	FY 2024
Office rent	\$45,455
Copier lease	\$5,571
Mail	\$13,614
Printing	\$1,232
Staff development	\$11,627
Supplies	\$9,770
MNIT services	\$20,069
Court reporter, subpoena, and court filing costs	\$4,250
Litigation Expense - Expert Witness	\$20,750
Equipment	\$5,571
Computer systems - software	\$33,562
Travel	\$5,609
Miscellaneous Costs	\$1,734
Operating Expense Sub Total of Expenditures	\$178,814

Board Operating Total Expenditures	\$1,172,027
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Penalties Paid for Late Filing Fees and Other Violations of Chapter 10A

The following is a listing of fees and fines paid during the fiscal year. Some fees and fines may have been assessed prior to fiscal year 2024.

Late Filing Fees	FY 2024 Dollars Paid	Number of Violations
Candidate Campaign Committees	\$6,378.35	19
24-Hour Notice	\$2,000	4
Political Committees and Funds	\$16,586.77	37
Political Party Units	\$2,175	3
Economic Interest Statements	\$1,745	35
Lobbyist Disbursement Reports	\$1,625	22
Lobbyist Principal Annual Reports	\$2,875	20
Total Late Fees	\$33,385.12	140
Civil Penalties	FY 2024 Dollars Paid	Number of Violations
Contribution Limits Violations		
Party Unit Limit	\$330	2
Candidates Accepted in Excess of Limit	\$1,475	3
Special Source Aggregate Limit	\$2,645	10
Prohibited Contributions During Session		
Lobbyist	\$100	1
Candidate	\$100	1
Failure to File Disclosure Report		
Candidate Committees	\$22.67	1
Public Official	\$350	2
Lobbyists	\$1,500	2
Lobbyist Principals	\$4,000	1
Disclaimer Violations	\$100	1
Candidate—Certified False Information	\$625	2
Circumvention—false name for contribution	\$200	1
Total Civil Penalties	\$8,411.30	27
Total Late Fees and Civil Penalties Deposited in State General Fund	\$41,796.42	167



MINNESOTA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: April 1, 2025

To: Board members

From: Megan Engelhardt, Assistant Executive Director **Telephone:** 651-539-1182

Re: Prima Facie Determinations

Complaints filed with the Board are subject to a prima facie determination which are made by the Board chair in consultation with staff. If the Board chair determines that the complaint states a violation of Chapter 10A or the provisions of Chapter 211B under the Board's jurisdiction, the complaint moves forward to a probable cause determination by the full Board.

If the determination finds that the complaint does not state a prima facie violation, the prima facie determination must dismiss the complaint without prejudice. When a complaint is dismissed, the complaint and the prima facie determination become public data. The following complaints were dismissed by Chair Asp, and the prima facie determinations are provided here as an informational item to Board members. No further Board action is required.

Concerned Citizens of Our Tax Dollars

On February 18, 2025, the Board received a complaint from Jodi Paulsen regarding "concerned citizens of our tax dollars." The complaint alleged that an advertisement placed in the Ortonville Independent by "concerned citizens of our tax dollars" did not include a name or address to contact the group. The complaint alleged that information regarding the alleged PAC is unavailable and raised questions about the legality of the PAC in Minnesota. The complaint alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, which requires campaign material to have a disclaimer. The complaint also alleged a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.38, however, that statute only applies to principal campaign committees. The complaint appeared to allege that the group should have registered with the Board, and thus had a disclaimer on the advertisement. However, the complainant did not provide any evidence that the advertisement cost more than \$5,000, which is the threshold for a ballot question committee or fund to register with the Board. If the group was not required to register with the Board, then it was not required to have a disclaimer. The complaint was dismissed due to a failure to state a prima facie violation of Chapter 10A or of those sections of Chapter 211B under the Board's jurisdiction.

Attachments:

Concerned Citizens of Our Tax Dollars complaint

Concerned Citizens of Our Tax Dollars prima facie determination



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	Jodi Paulsen		
Address	38125 US Hwy 75	Email address	jodesinaz@cox.net
City, state, and zip	Ortonville MN 56278	Telephone (Daytime)	4803304108

Identify person/entity you are complaining about

Name of person/entity being complained about	"concerned citizens of our tax dollars"
Address	unknown
City, state, zip	unknown
Title of respondent (If applicable)	unknown
Board/Department/Agency/District # (If legislator)	unknown



Signature of person filing complaint

02/12/2025

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.

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:

10A.38

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.

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.

Recently, The Ortonville Independent, the local newspaper in Ortonville Minnesota published an advertisement that was paid for by "concerned citizens of our tax dollars" asking voters to vote no on a particular referendum. The advertisement did not include any names or addresses for this supposed PAC. I can find no information about this PAC whatsoever, which makes me question if it is even a legal PAC in Minnesota.

This was published in it's print version and web version of this edition. I have included the web address below and will also include a print copy of the screen capture for your consideration.

https://www.ortonvilleindependent.com/Vote_No.html

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.

Vote No

VOTE
NO

February 11th
Ortonville Armory

\$36,000,000 School Tax Referendum

- 26 year property tax assessment
- Will cost many local businesses \$50 to \$100 thousand dollars
- Local taxes have skyrocketed already with street assessments, wheel tax, other school referendums
- Additional school operating funding likely in the next 26 years
- Decreased enrollment (down 40 students from 2019-2024)
- The district hasn't curbed spending with the coming deficit
- The district has a higher percentage of capital outlay compared to neighboring districts
- Many citizens are on a fixed income
- Too much focus on sports rather than academics
- This \$36 million dollar referendum would strain our local economy

Independent School District No. 2903 (Ortonville Public Schools), Minnesota

Paid for by concerned citizens of our tax dollars

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

**PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF JODI PAULSEN REGARDING “CONCERNED CITIZENS OF OUR TAX DOLLARS”

On February 18, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Jodi Paulsen regarding “concerned citizens of our tax dollars.” The complaint alleges that an advertisement placed in the Ortonville Independent by “concerned citizens of our tax dollars” did not include a name or address to contact the group. The complaint alleges that information regarding the alleged PAC is unavailable and raises questions about the legality of the PAC in Minnesota.

In support of the allegation, the complaint includes a copy of an advertisement urging voters to vote no on a school district tax referendum.¹ The advertisement concerns a special election held by Independent School District 2903 (Ortonville Public Schools). The advertisement states that it was “Paid for by concerned citizens of our tax dollars.” However, it does not provide an address or any additional information about the identity of the “concerned citizens of our tax dollars.”

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. The complaint cites Minnesota Statutes section 10A.38, but that provision only applies to principal campaign committees. The complaint instead appears to allege a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 generally requires ballot question political committees to include on their campaign material a disclaimer substantially in the form provided in Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1. With the exception of broadcast media, campaign material must include a disclaimer in the following format: Prepared and paid for by the [committee name], [address]. “The address must be either the committee's mailing address or the committee's website if the website includes the committee's mailing address.” Minn. Stat. § 211B.04, subd. 1. Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 3, paragraph (b) provides that the disclaimer requirement “does not apply to an individual or association that is not required to register or report under chapter 10A or 211A.”

¹ ortonvilleindependent.com/Vote_No.html

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1a states that “The treasurer of an independent expenditure or ballot question political committee or fund must register with the board by filing a registration statement.” The registration statement must be filed if the ballot question political committee has received aggregate contributions, or made aggregate expenditures, exceeding \$5,000 in a calendar year to promote or defeat a ballot question. Minn. Stat. § 10A.14, subd. 1a.

The complaint appears to allege that “concerned citizens for our tax dollars” failed to register with the Board. However, the complaint does not allege or provide evidence that this committee exceeded the \$5,000 registration threshold. The complaint does not include information regarding the cost of the Ortonville Independent advertisement, nor does it include evidence of any additional advertisements or expenditures by the committee. If the committee was not required to register with the Board, it was not required, by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, to include a disclaimer on its campaign material. 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: February 28, 2025

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD
March 2025**

ACTIVE FILES

CLOSED FILES

Candidate/Treasurer/ Lobbyist	Committee/Agency	Report Missing/ Violation	Late Fee/ Civil Penalty	Referred to AGO	Date S&C Personally Served	Default Hearing Date	Date Judgment Entered	Case Status
Mariani, Carlos	Neighbors for Mariani	Previously filed reports and statements Late filing of 2023 year-end report	\$7,620 LFF \$3,300 CP \$1,000 LFF	11/22/23 7/31/24	8/29/24	2/3/25	2/4/25	Closed