

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

.....
**Monday, June 16, 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, Soule, Swanson

Others present: Sigurdson, Engelhardt, Olson, staff; Nathan Hartshorn, counsel

MINUTES (May 14, 2025)

The following motion was made:

Member Swanson's motion: To approve the May 14, 2025, minutes as drafted.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Rashid and Mr. Sigurdson discussed moving the July Board meeting to a later date. Chair Rashid presented a resolution recognizing Member Soule's service on the Board from 2021 to 2025.

The following motion was made:

Member Rashid's motion: To approve the resolution recognizing Member Soule's service.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sigurdson presented a memorandum that is attached to these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson said that the Governor's Office expects to appoint someone to the Board very soon, and is working on finding someone to fill the position being vacated by Member Soule. Mr. Sigurdson stated that money has been appropriated to fund the Board's operations for the next two fiscal years, and the Board has also been provided \$760,000 to pay any fees and expenses owed to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce as a result of its lawsuit against the Board. Mr. Sigurdson said that lobbyist reports, and campaign finance reports for filers involved in local elections, are due today. Mr. Sigurdson stated that Board staff recently hosted campaign finance compliance

trainings, and that he recently participated in a teleconference with the Minnesota section of the American Society of Civil Engineers regarding changes to lobbying provisions.

Mr. Sigurdson said that due to the horrific events that occurred over the weekend, and at the request of leadership within the legislature, he made the decision to remove the street addresses of candidates, committee chairs, treasurers, and public officials from the Board's website. Mr. Sigurdson said that there is a statutory provision that permits campaign finance filers to provide alternate contact information to the Board that is not displayed on the Board's website, and he anticipates an increase in utilization of that option.

REVIEW OF 2025 STATUTORY CHANGES

Mr. Sigurdson presented a memorandum that is attached to these minutes. Mr. Sigurdson said that the tax bill includes a provision requiring the Board to work with the Department of Revenue to automate the political contribution refund (PCR) process. Mr. Sigurdson stated that changes to the lobbying program were, with one exception, based on the Board's report to the legislature on lobbying of political subdivisions. Mr. Sigurdson then provided an overview of the changes to the lobbying, campaign finance, and economic interest programs.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT

A. Consent Items

1. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal African Community Economic Development

African Community Economic Development (#8398) was a lobbyist principal that had a lobbyist from March 18, 2024, to December 11, 2024. African Community Economic Development failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. African Community Economic Development has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Numerous notices were sent to African Community Economic Development regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

2. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Ethiopian Community in Minnesota

Ethiopian Community in Minnesota (#7964) was a lobbyist principal that had a lobbyist from 2022 to April 17, 2024. Ethiopian Community in Minnesota failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Ethiopian Community in Minnesota has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Numerous notices were sent to Ethiopian Community in Minnesota regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

3. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal JADT Development Group, LLC

JADT Development Group, LLC (#8432) is a lobbyist principal that registered a lobbyist in March 1, 2024. JADT Development Group, LLC failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. JADT Development Group, LLC has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Numerous notices were sent to JADT Development Group, LLC regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

4. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Ka Joog Nonprofit Organization

Ka Joog Nonprofit Organization (#7003) was a lobbyist principal that had a lobbyist from 2019 to December 31, 2024. Ka Joog Nonprofit Organization failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Ka Joog Nonprofit Organization has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Ka Joog Nonprofit Organization also owes a \$475 late filing fee for the 2019 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal, a \$25 late filing fee for the 2021 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal, and a \$125 late filing fee for the 2023 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal. Numerous notices were sent to Ka Joog Nonprofit Organization regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

5. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Kyros

Kyros (#8023) was a lobbyist principal that had a lobbyist from 2022 to August 23, 2024. Kyros failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Kyros has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Numerous notices were sent to Kryos regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

6. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal MN Gun Rights

MN Gun Rights (#7335) is a lobbyist principal that has had a registered a lobbyist since 2017. MN Gun Rights failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. MN Gun Rights has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. MN Gun Rights also owes a \$125 late filing fee for the 2019 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal. Numerous notices were sent to MN Gun Rights regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

7. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal MN Right to Life

MN Right to Life (#7663) is a lobbyist principal that has had a registered a lobbyist since 2020. MN Right to Life failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar

year. MN Right to Life has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Numerous notices were sent to MN Right to Life regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

8. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Newby Norris Co / DBA Cultivated CBD

Newby Norris Co / DBA Cultivated CBD (#8123) is a lobbyist principal that has had a registered a lobbyist since February 10, 2023. Newby Norris Co / DBA Cultivated CBD failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 15, 2024, for the 2023 calendar year and the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Newby Norris Co / DBA Cultivated CBD has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000 for both 2023 and 2024. Numerous notices were sent to Newby Norris Co / DBA Cultivated CBD regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the reports and payment of the balance owed.

9. Request to refer matters to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Omar Jamal and Lobbyist Omar Jamal (#5359)

Omar Jamal (#8130) is a lobbyist principal that has had a registered a lobbyist since February 17, 2023. Omar Jamal failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 15, 2024, for the 2023 calendar year and the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Omar Jamal has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000 for both 2023 and 2024. Numerous notices were sent to Omar Jamal regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report.

Also, Omar Jamal (#5359) is a lobbyist registered since February 17, 2023. Mr. Jamal did not file his lobbyist disbursement report due June 17, 2024, that covered the period from January 1, 2024, through May 31, 2024. Mr. Jamal has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Mr. Jamal also owes a late filing fee of \$250 for his lobbyist activity report due January 15, 2025. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matters to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the reports and payment of the balance owed.

10. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Protect Minnesota

Protect Minnesota (#7076) is a lobbyist principal that has had a registered a lobbyist since 2015. Protect Minnesota failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Protect Minnesota has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Numerous notices were sent to Protect Minnesota regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

11. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Safety Triage and Mental Health Providers

Safety Triage and Mental Health Providers (#7282) is a lobbyist principal that has had a registered a lobbyist since 2017. Safety Triage and Mental Health Providers failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Safety Triage and Mental Health Providers has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Safety Triage and Mental Health Providers also owes a \$50 late filing fee for the 2020 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal, a \$25 late filing fee for the 2021 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal, and a \$50 late filing fee for the 2022 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal. Numerous notices were sent to Safety Triage and Mental Health Providers regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

12. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Tremco CPG (Construction Products Group)

Tremco CPG (Construction Products Group) (#8265) is a lobbyist principal that has had a registered a lobbyist since 2023. Tremco CPG (Construction Products Group) failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Tremco CPG (Construction Products Group) has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Numerous notices were sent to Tremco CPG (Construction Products Group) regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

13. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Twin Cities Health Services

Twin Cities Health Services (#8191) was a lobbyist principal that had a lobbyist from April 17, 2023, to December 11, 2024. Twin Cities Health Services failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 15, 2024, for the 2023 calendar year and the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Twin Cities Health Services has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000 for both 2023 and 2024 reports. Numerous notices were sent to Twin Cities Health Services regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the reports and payment of the balance owed.

14. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal Twin Cities Therapy Services, Inc.

Twin Cities Therapy Services, Inc. (#8205) was a lobbyist principal that had a lobbyist from May 10, 2023, to May 31, 2024. Twin Cities Therapy Services, Inc. failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. Twin Cities Therapy Services, Inc. has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. Twin Cities Therapy Services, Inc. also owes a \$1,000 late filing fee for the 2023 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal. Numerous notices were sent to Twin Cities Therapy Services, Inc. regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not

filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

15. Request to refer matter to the Office of the Attorney General—Lobbyist Principal US Steel Corp

US Steel Corp (#955) is a lobbyist principal that has had a registered a lobbyist since 2007. US Steel Corp failed to file the Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal that was due March 17, 2025, for the 2024 calendar year. US Steel Corp has incurred the maximum late filing fee of \$1,000 and the maximum civil penalty of \$1,000. US Steel Corp also owes a \$1,000 late filing fee for the 2023 Annual Report of Lobbyist Principal. Numerous notices were sent to US Steel Corp regarding the deadline for the report and the late filing fee for not filing the report. Staff is asking the Board to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek an order compelling filing the report and payment of the balance owed.

The following motion was made:

Member Soule's motion: To refer items 1-15 to the Attorney General's Office.

In response to a question from Member Swanson, Ms. Engelhardt described the efforts of Board staff to contact principals prior to recommending referral to the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Sigurdson said that referral to the Attorney General's Office will hopefully get the attention of the principals and prevent these matters from lingering. Mr. Hartshorn said that it would make sense for the Attorney General's Office to send letters seeking compliance prior to initiating litigation.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

B. Discussion Items

1. Balance adjustment request – Kari Dziedzic for State Senate (#17310)

The Dziedzic committee's reported 2024 ending cash balance was \$31,351.09, while the actual balance in its bank account was \$29,479.09, leaving a discrepancy of \$1,872. The candidate has passed away, and the treasurer has spent a significant amount of time reviewing the financial records and working with Board staff to resolve the issue. However, she has been unable to resolve the discrepancy that remains and is requesting a downward adjustment to the committee's 2025 beginning cash balance in the amount of \$1,872. The committee has been registered with the Board since 2011, and once the balance adjustment is granted the committee plans on terminating.

The following motion was made:

Member Flynn's motion: To grant the requested balance adjustment.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

C. Waiver Requests

1. HealtheMed						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
March 2024 LPR	3/17/25	3/19/25	\$50	No.	Waive.	Flynn moved to approve the staff recommendation.
<p>It was explained there was a misunderstanding regarding who would file the principal report, as the registration provided incorrect contact information for the principal association. Once realized, the organization corrected their contact information and submitted the required report. They are now taking steps to ensure compliance and request a waiver of the \$50 penalty.</p>						<p>Vote on motion: Four members voted in the affirmative. Asp recused.</p>

2. MN Alliance of YMCAs						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
March 2022 LPR March 2021 LPR	3/15/23 3/15/22	4/4/23 3/16/22	\$350 \$25	No.	Waive.	Soule moved to approve the staff recommendation for items 2-7.
During these two periods, the MN Alliance of YMCAs were completing a merge with the WI Alliance of YMCAs and there were issues with missed communications and not fully understanding who should be filing the report. Also, the individual responsible for filing the 2021 and 2022 LPRs is no longer responsible for filing the reports. MN Alliance of YMCAs is requesting a waiver of both late filing fees.						Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

3. Lobbyist Kim Berns-Melhus (#4780)						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
January 2021 LR June 2024 LR	1/15/21 6/17/24	1/19/21 6/18/24	\$25 \$25	No.	Waive.	Soule moved to approve the staff recommendation for items 2-7. Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.
Ms. Berns-Melhus explains that the lobbyist disbursement reports are filed by their Arlington, VA office. In 2021, Ms. Berns-Melhus explains that she was not in the office frequently and that may have impacted the report being filed late. She states that she will work to ensure that reports are filed on time by the Arlington, VA office in the future. She is requesting that both late filing fees be waived.						

4. Lobbyist Michael Lewis (#4395)						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
June 2020 LR (2 reports)	6/15/20	6/16/20	\$50 (\$25 x 2)	No.	Waive.	Soule moved to approve the staff recommendation for items 2-7.
These reports were filed late during the COVID pandemic and were late due to staff working from home. Also, Mr. Lewis is no longer a lobbyist. The principal is requesting that the two late filing fees be waived.						Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

5. Susan Emmert (#2434)						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
June 2024 LR	6/17/24	7/2/24	\$250	No.	Waive.	Soule moved to approve the staff recommendation for items 2-7.
<p>Ms. Emmert states that mail from the CFB was not delivered to her office at the hospital where she works in a consistent manner so she did not receive the written notice that the report was due, nor did she get the late filing fee letter in 2024. Their budget is also very limited, and also the budget for 2024 has closed, so it would cause hardship to pay this late filing fee. Ms. Emmert did update her registration to her actual hospital mailing address so that she will receive mail more consistently. She requests the \$250 late filing fee be waived.</p>						<p>Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.</p>

6. Thomas Streitz (#9500)						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
June 2024 LR (5 reports)	6/17/24	6/18/24	\$125 (\$25 x 5)	No.	Waive.	Soule moved to approve the staff recommendation for items 2-7.
Mr. Streitz reports that he is new to lobbying and that he had been out of town when the lobbying deadline arrived and he promptly filed upon his return. He is requesting that the five late filing fees be waived.						Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

7. Chelsea Rivers						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
Original EIS	3/17/25	4/30/25	\$100	No.	Waive.	Soule moved to approve the staff recommendation for items 2-7.
<p>Ms. Rivers was appointed on January 1, 2025, and only attended one meeting before she resigned due to scheduling conflicts. She was unable to attend the meeting where filing this report was discussed, as she was unable to attend. She is requesting that the \$100 late filing fee be waived.</p>						<p>Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.</p>

8. Teach for America – Twin Cities						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
March 2024 LPR	3/17/25	5/9/25	\$975	No.		Rashid moved to reduce the amount owed to \$750. Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.
March 2019 LPR	3/16/20	4/14/20	\$525			
Yakasah Wehyee is now the managing director for Teach for America – Twin Cities and reports that there were issues with her predecessor filing the reports. Teach for America – Twin Cities did not get the reminder letter for the 2024 lobbyist principal report due to the fact that it went to the person no longer employed by Teach for America – Twin Cities. Teach for America – Twin Cities is requesting a waiver of both late filing fees.						

9. RockStep Capital Real Estate Investments						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
March 2023 LPR	3/15/24	4/3/24	\$325	No.		No motion.
RockStep is no longer registered with the State of Minnesota for lobbying, and they are therefore requesting a waiver of the \$325 penalty.						

10. Clardy (Mary Francis) for House (#18815)						
Report(s)	Due	Filed	Amount	Prior Waivers	Recommended Action	Board Action
2024 Pre-general large contribution notice	10/30/24	3/31/25	\$1,000	No.	Reduce to \$250.	Flynn move to approve the staff recommendation.
The committee received \$1,200 from a party unit during the large contribution notice period, but failed to enter the contribution during the reporting period. It was discovered as part of the reconciliation process earlier this year. The treasurer filed an amended 2024 year-end report. The treasurer reports that she is new and this was a good-faith mistake. The committee's cash balance as of December 31, 2024, was \$4,569.						Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

Payments

1. Anonymous Funds

Becker-Finn (Jamie) for House - \$1,333.58
Kari Dziedzic for State Senate - \$3,093.14

2. Civil penalty for exceeding the individual contribution limit

Campaign Committee of Elliott Engen - \$325

3. Civil penalty for exceeding the aggregate special source limit

Tou Xiong for Senate - \$100

4. Civil penalty for lobbyist making contributions during the legislative session

Alison Brown - \$500
Terry Brumm - \$100

5. Civil penalty for disclaimer violation

Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman - \$100

6. Late filing fee for underlying source disclosure statements

Conservation Minnesota - \$50
Consevation Minnesota Voter Center - \$50
Pro Jobs Majority - \$300
MN Chamber of Commerce - \$300
RSLC MN IE PAC - \$1,000
Republican State Leadership Committee - \$1,000
The Nature Conservancy - \$50

7. Late filing fee for 2022 year-end report

Neighbors for (Carlos) Mariani Committee - \$500

8. Late filing fee for 2023 year-end report

Joe Widmer for Minnesota - \$250

9. Late filing fee for 2024 April report

Minnesota Future PSC - \$200

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

Jim Nash for Minnesota - \$250

11. Late filing fee for 2024 September report

Minnesota Future PSC - \$100

12. Late filing fee for 2020 June lobbyist report

Kaley Taffe - \$200 (4 x \$50)

13. Late filing fee for 2021 January lobbyist report

Kaley Taffe - \$100 (4 x \$25)

14. Late filing fee for 2022 June lobbyist report

Don Chapdelaine - \$25

Kaley Taffe - \$125 (5 x \$25)

15. Late filing fee for 2023 June lobbyist report

Kayla Christensen - \$50 (2 x \$25)

Sheila Vanney - \$25

16. Late filing fee for 2024 January lobbyist report

Richard Larkin McLay - \$25

17. Late filing fee for 2024 June lobbyist report

Patrick Daly - \$75

Jin Lee Johnson Palen - \$25

Louis Smith - \$100 (2 x \$50)

Kaley Taffe - \$125 (5 x \$25)

18. Late filing fee for 2025 January lobbyist report

Jonathan Curry - \$50

William Dammann - \$75

Erin Rupp - \$25

Jason Tarasek - \$450 (3 x \$150)

19. Late filing fee for 2016 lobbyist principal report

MN Assn of Exterior Specialists - \$25

20. Late filing fee for 2019 lobbyist principal report

North Central States Reg Cncl of Carpenters - \$25

Park Dental - \$25

21. Late filing fee for 2020 lobbyist principal report

Minneapolis Auto Auction - \$50

Orchard Therapeutics - \$25

22. Late filing fee for 2022 lobbyist principal report

Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce - \$25

Foster Advocates - \$400

23. Late filing fee for 2023 lobbyist principal report

American Indian OIC - \$25

Essentia Health - \$50

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness - \$100

24. Late filing fee for 2024 lobbyist principal report

CenturyLink - \$100

Coalition of Asian American Leaders - \$825

Integrated Recycling Technologies - \$25

Midwest Home health Care - \$275 (still owes \$100)

Tract - \$25

United Properties - \$350

ORDER ON IFP MOTION REGARDING COURT OF APPEALS CASE NO. A25-0853

Mr. Olson presented members with a memorandum and draft order that are attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Olson explained the criteria a movant must satisfy to be granted IFP status.

The following motion was made:

Member Rashid's motion: To approve the order granting IFP status.

Vote on motion: Unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sigurdson stated that on Friday the Board was notified of a lawsuit filed by Minnesota Right to Life and Minnesota Gun Rights challenging statutory provisions related to lobbying.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Rashid recessed the regular session of the meeting and called to order the executive session. Upon adjournment of the executive session, Chair Rashid reported that the Board has made findings in the Matter of Right Now Minnesota, 1854, Inc., and Brick, Inc., and has made a probable cause determination in the Matter of the Complaint of Rebecca Thompson regarding Wedge Live!, John Edwards, and Taylor Dahlin. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Rashid.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Sigurdson
Executive Director

Attachments:

Executive director's report

Memo reviewing changes to campaign finance and public disclosure laws

Draft IFP order memo and attachments



MINNESOTA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: June 9, 2025

To: Board Members

From: Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director

Telephone: 651-539-1189

Re: Executive Director's Report – Board Operations

Board Appointments

As of the date of this memo, the Governor has not made appointments for the position currently held by Member Soule, or the vacancy for a former Republican member of the legislature. However, I have been told that applicants for the vacancies are under review, and that it is hoped that at least one new member will be appointed on June 20.

The June meeting will be Member Soule's last meeting as a Board member, as he cannot serve past July 1, 2025.

Legislative Action

By separate memo I have provided a review of the statutory changes to Chapter 10A found in 2025 Minnesota Laws, [Chapter 39](#), signed by Governor Walz on May 23, 2025. Chapter 39 also provides the Board's funding for fiscal year 2026 (\$1,819,000) and fiscal year 2027 (\$1,846,000). These amounts are consistent with the Governor's recommendation for the Board, and are sufficient to maintain staffing and operations for the agency. Additionally, the Board is provided \$760,000 to pay any plaintiff's fees and expenses that are granted for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce v. Choi lawsuit.

Lobbyist Activity Report

The lobbyist activity report covering the period January 1 – May 31, 2025, is due on June 16. As of the date of this memo the Board has received 913 of 2,724 expected reports.

Compliance Training

During the first week of June Board staff hosted compliance trainings for candidate committees, and for party units and political committees and funds, via Webex. There were 29 participants that attended the training for candidate committees and 75 participants that attended the training for party units and political committees and funds. Of those who attended the second training, approximately 60% are affiliated with a party unit, approximately 30% are affiliated with a general purpose political committee or fund, and approximately 10% are affiliated with an independent expenditure or ballot question political committee or fund. Recordings of the trainings are available on the Board's website.



MINNESOTA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: June 9, 2025

To: Board Members

From: Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director

Subject: Review of changes to campaign finance and public disclosure laws.

The changes to statutory provisions administered by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board are found in 2025 Minnesota Laws, [Chapter 39](#), signed by Governor Walz on May 23, 2025. The following is a review of the sections in Chapter 39, article 7, that are under the Board's jurisdiction.

Additionally, HF 9 the tax policy bill, continues to fund the political contribution refund (PCR) program. The bill will also phase out the use of paper PCR receipts, and requires the Board and the Department of Revenue to establish a system of electronic receipts for contributions made after December 31, 2026. Assuming that the bill is passed and signed by the Governor, I will provide a more detailed review of HF 9 at the next Board meeting.

Lobbying

Section 4 creates a definition for "expert witness" in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 16c. An expert witness is an individual preparing or delivering testimony or a report that contains information, data, or professional opinions on which the individual has expertise. The expertise may be gained through formal education, professional or occupational training, or experience working in a field that is relevant to the testimony or report.

This section became effective on June 1, 2025.

Section 5 amends the definition of "lobbyist" found in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 21, in three ways. First, the amendment eliminated the need for a nonelected local official or an employee of a political subdivision to register as a lobbyist if they spend more than 50 hours in a month communicating with public or local officials to influence an official action of another political subdivision (other than a metropolitan governmental unit). A nonelected local official or an employee of a political subdivision will still need to register as a lobbyist if they spend more than 50 hours in a month communicating with public or local officials to influence legislative or administrative action. The amendment also eliminates time spent urging others to communicate with public or local officials, time spent monitoring legislation or administrative action, and time spent compiling information related to legislative or administrative action, as activities that count towards the 50-hour threshold.

Second, the section provides a new exception from the definition of lobbyist for finance professionals when the professional works with a registered lobbyist to obtain conduit financing

through a political subdivision. To qualify for this exception the finance professional must be subject to Securities and Exchange Commission regulation.

Third, the section amends the exception to the definition of lobbyist for an expert witness (as defined in section 4). The amendment expands the exception to include expert witnesses who testify before public or local officials at a public meeting, or in writing if the testimony is made available to the general public. Prior to amendment the exception for an expert witness applied only to individuals who were paid for their testimony and who were requested to appear by the government body before which the witness appeared. The exception to register as a lobbyist for an expert witness does not apply to individuals who appear before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

This section became effective on June 1, 2025.

Section 6 amends the definition of “local official” in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 22. The definition still provides that an individual is a local official if they hold elective office in a political subdivision, or are appointed or employed by a political subdivision, and the individual has specified authority or responsibility related to major decisions regarding the expenditure or investment of public funds. The amended definition narrows the scope of individuals that will be defined as a local official. In order to be a local official an individual must have 1) the authority to make major financial decisions; 2) the responsibility to make recommendations to the chief executive or the governing body regarding major financial decisions; or 3) the authority to vote on major financial decisions as a member of the governing body.

This section became effective on June 1, 2025.

Section 8 updates the definition of “Official action of a political subdivision” found in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26b. The definition is modified to closely parallel the language used to define a non-elected local official (section 6). With the amendment it is an official action of a political subdivision if an action requires a vote by elected officials, or if the local official uses their authority to make a major financial decision, their responsibility to make a recommendation on a major financial decision, or their authority to vote on a major financial decision.

This section became effective on June 1, 2025.

Section 9 amends Minnesota Statutes section 10A.04, subdivision 4, to create a new reporting requirement for lobbyists. Lobbyists are now required to report each expert witness who testified at the request of the lobbyist or the lobbyist principal, and each finance professional who participated in a conduit financing request through a political subdivision. The report will include the name of the expert witness or financial professional, their employer, the government entity that received the communication, and the specific subject on which the expert witness or financial professional communicated.

This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 10 makes an exception to the prohibition on contingent fees for lobbyists found in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.06. The statute now provides that an attorney or financial professional's compensation may be dependent upon the outcome of a request for conduit financing through a political subdivision.

This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 11 creates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.066, which requires that the Board publish a handbook for lobbying on the Board's website. The handbook must clearly explain registration requirements, including registration requirements if a person is employed by a government entity. The handbook must also explain what is a lobbying activity, and the differences between lobbying the legislature, the executive branch, the Public Utilities Commission, and political subdivisions. In writing the handbook the Board must consult with registered lobbyists, individuals who are not full-time lobbyists, individuals from nonprofit organizations, and individuals who represent small organizations. The handbook must be published no later than January 15, 2026.

The section was effective the day after final enactment.

Section 15 creates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.52, which provides guidance on what is a major decision by a nonelected local official. The language is very similar to Minnesota Rules part 4511.1100, with the addition that language identifying a major decision of nonelected local officials reflects the language provided in section 6. The statute also specifies that the act of applying for a grant or responding to a request for proposals is not lobbying, and that communications of a purely administrative or technical nature regarding the submission of a grant application or in response to a request for proposals is not lobbying.

This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Campaign Finance

Section 7 adds a new noncampaign disbursement to the list provided in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.01, subdivision 26. The new noncampaign disbursement is for transition expenses and inaugural event expenses as provided in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.174 (which is created in section 13). Currently, transition expenses are noncampaign disbursements only when incurred by a winning candidate for governor, under Minnesota Rules part 4503.0900, subpart 1.

This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 13 creates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.174, which provides for inaugural event and transition expenses. The statute provides that "inaugural event expenses" means costs related to the individual's inauguration if the event occurs between the date of the general election at which an individual is elected to a statewide office, and January 31 of the year in which the officeholder takes office.

The term "transition expenses" means expenses incurred in preparation for assuming office for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, or attorney general. The statute lists a number of permissible transition expenses including: office space and equipment, communications and technology, consulting services, travel costs, and compensation for staff. The noncampaign disbursement for transition expenses is not available after the officeholder takes office.

Generally, all contributions solicited or accepted, and expenditures made, by a candidate or their principal campaign committee for inaugural events and transition expenses must occur

through the candidate's principal campaign committee and are subject to the provisions of Chapter 10A. However, Chapter 39, article 7, sections 1 through 3, also create new provisions (outside of the Board's jurisdiction) that transfer money to Minnesota Management and Budget to pay certain transition expenses for newly-elected candidates for the offices of attorney general, secretary of state, and state auditor.

This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 14 creates a new reporting requirement for candidates in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20. A candidate who does not sign the public subsidy agreement may contribute personal funds or make a loan to their campaign committee in any amount. Under this provision a candidate for constitutional or legislative office must report a personal contribution or personal loan to their campaign committee that in aggregate exceeds the personal contribution limit for candidates that do sign the public subsidy agreement. The contribution or loan must be reported to the Board by the next business day. A new report must be filed each time that the threshold is exceeded during the election cycle segment.

This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 22 The Board must amend Minnesota Rules part 4503.0900, to conform to the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.174 regarding transition expenses. The Board is authorized to use the good cause exemption for amending administrative rules provided in Chapter 14, which is an abbreviated and expedited process for changing an administrative rule to comply with a statutory change.

This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Economic Interest Statements

Section 12 amends Minnesota Statutes section 10A.09, so that a candidate for constitutional or legislative office, or for certain local offices in a metropolitan governmental unit, must file an economic interest statement within 14 days of the end of the filing period. Prior to this amendment, a candidate was required to file an economic interest statement within 14 days after they had filed for the office. This amendment will create a uniform due date for the statements of candidates with the same filing period, and will make it easier to track compliance with the requirement.

This section is effective January 1, 2026.



MINNESOTA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Date: June 9, 2025

To: Board members
Nathan Hartshorn, counsel

From: Andrew Olson, Legal/Management Analyst

Telephone: 651-539-1190

Re: Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis - Court of Appeals Case No. A25-0853

In February 2025 the Board received a complaint submitted by Troy Scheffler alleging multiple violations by Representative Joshua Heintzeman and his principal campaign committee, the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman. The violations alleged included a violation of the disclaimer requirement under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, regarding a single campaign sign, and violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 regarding legal expenses incurred by the Heintzeman committee. Within a prima facie determination signed February 21, 2025, the Board's chair determined that the complaint did not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, and did state prima facie violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3. On April 8, 2025, the Board determined there was not probable cause to believe the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12, and ordered a staff review regarding the Heintzeman committee's failure to include information required by Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, with respect to five specific noncampaign disbursements for legal expenses. The Heintzeman committee filed an amended report on May 5, 2025, to address those issues, and the Board's executive director closed the staff review on May 9, 2025.

Mr. Scheffler filed a petition for a writ of certiorari with the Court of Appeals on May 23, 2025, seeking judicial review under Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. The Writ of Certiorari was issued on May 27, 2025. Within a court filing known as a statement of the case, Mr. Scheffler stated that he is challenging determinations made with respect to Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.04 and 211B.12, and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.

Mr. Scheffler also served the Board with the attached motion and affidavit seeking to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP) in the Court of Appeals. IFP status affords a litigant the ability to proceed "without payment of fees, costs, and security for costs" they would otherwise be required to pay. Under Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure, Rule 109.02, a motion to proceed IFP in the Court of Appeals must be filed with the trial court, and the trial court must rule on the motion. When the decision being appealed was issued by a state agency, the state agency acts as a trial court would and is responsible for ruling on the IFP motion.

IFP status is granted, under Minnesota Statutes section 563.01, subdivision 3, when an "appeal is not of a frivolous nature" and the appeal is brought by an individual who files an affidavit

stating they are entitled to redress and are “financially unable to pay the fees, costs and security for costs.” Under paragraph (b) of that subdivision, an individual is presumed to qualify if they are “receiving public assistance described in section 550.37, subdivision 14,” and that statute includes “payment of Medicare part B premiums” within its description of forms of public assistance.

Mr. Scheffler’s core argument appears to be that the Board’s chair erred in dismissing the alleged disclaimer violation, that the Board erred in dismissing the alleged violation regarding permissible uses of campaign funds, and that the Board’s executive director erred in closing the staff review following receipt of an amended 2024 year-end report from the Heintzeman committee. Mr. Scheffler appears to argue that the disclaimer in question was not sufficiently prominent, that campaign funds cannot be used to pay for legal expenses related to a defamation lawsuit against a legislator, and that the Heintzeman committee’s amended 2024 year-end report is inaccurate regarding the committee’s legal expenses. Notably, the Heintzeman committee filed a second amended 2024 year-end report on May 22, 2025, to address one error within the first amended report. Board staff does not believe that Mr. Scheffler’s appeal is frivolous.

Mr. Scheffler’s affidavit includes evidence that he receives public assistance in the form of payment of Medicare Part B premiums. Therefore, he is presumed to qualify for IFP status if the appeal is not of a frivolous nature. Mr. Scheffler was granted IFP status by the Board with respect to a separate appeal involving the Heintzeman committee in May, and by the Court of Appeals in an unrelated matter in April¹. Also, Mr. Scheffler was granted IFP status by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) in November 2024 and January 2023 in two separate matters that were appealed to the Court of Appeals.²

The attached draft order would grant Mr. Scheffler’s motion for IFP status. Also attached are Mr. Scheffler’s statement of the case and petition for a writ of certiorari, and the Writ of Certiorari issued by the Court of Appeals.

Attachments:

IFP motion and affidavit
Scheffler statement of the case
Scheffler petition for a writ of certiorari
Writ of Certiorari
Draft IFP order

¹ Scheffler v. Costco Wholesale Corp., No. A24-0564 (Minn. Ct. App. Apr. 15, 2025).

² Scheffler v. Heintzeman, No. A24-1719 (Minn. Ct. App. Nov. 25, 2024); In re the Matter of Troy Kenneth Scheffler (Rosemary Franzen), No. A22-1797 (Minn. Ct. App. Jan. 9, 2023).

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

In the Matter of the Complaint of
Troy Scheffler Regarding the
Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman

**Motion and Affidavit for Proceeding
In Forma Pauperis in the Court of
Appeals**

CFB CASE FILED: 02/11/2025
DATE OF DECISION: 05/09/2025

State of Minnesota)
) SS
County of Crow Wing)

1. I believe that I have valid reasons for pursuing this Court of Appeals action and I move for an order granting me the following relief: Waiving appellate court filing fees and cost bond.
2. I am a party in this action and in good faith I request an Order to proceed In Forma Pauperis. I have attached a copy of my statement of the case or petition being filed in the appellate court, showing the proposed issues on appeal.
3. I am receiving public assistance under one or more of the following programs: Medicare Part B reimbursement, see MN Stat. 256B .057 subd.4. (Attached)

By signing this Affidavit, I am certifying that these statements are true under penalty of perjury. I understand that if I provide false information on the form it may lead to criminal charges. I understand that if I provide information or requested records may result in denial of my motion to proceed In Forma Pauperis. I am authorizing that the facts contained in this Affidavit may be verified by any means required.

05/23/2025


Troy Scheffler
26359 Shandy Trl.
Merrifield, MN 56465
763-225-7702
troyscheffler@gmail.com

INVOICE DATE	INVOICE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INVOICE AMOUNT
05/01/2025	9-May	MED PART B HS Service Date: HS Desc:	\$185.00

Vendor No.	Vendor Name	EFT No.	EFT Date	EFT Amount
[REDACTED]	TROY K SCHEFFLER	[REDACTED]	05/09/2025	\$185.00



Crow Wing County Community Services

PO Box 686
Brainerd, MN 56401
PH. (218) 824-1047

Vendor
Number

[REDACTED]

EFT
Date

05/09/2025

EFT
Number

[REDACTED]

\$185.00

Pay One Hundred Eighty-five Dollars and 00 Cents

To the
Order Of TROY K SCHEFFLER
26359 SHANDY TRAIL
MERRIFIELD, MN 56465

**EFT FILE COPY
NON-NEGOTIABLE**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN COURT OF APPEALS

FILED

May 23, 2025

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

In the Matter of the Complaint of
Troy Scheffler Regarding the
Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE OF
RELATOR**

CFB CASE FILED: 02/11/2025
DATE OF DECISION: **05/09/2025**

1. **Agency where case originated:** Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Name of presiding judge or hearing officer: Chair, Faris Rashid

2. **Jurisdictional statement for a certiorari appeal:** MN Stat: 14.63, 14.64

Authority fixing time limit and date of event triggering appeal time; mailing of final order: MN Stat. 14.63, 14.64

3. **Type of litigation and any statutes at issue:**

Respondent violated Campaign Law Minn. Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, Minn. Stat. 211B.12, and 211B.04.

4. **Brief description of issues that were raised before the administrative or agency decision maker, and how the administrative or agency decision maker decided those issues:**

Numerous campaign violations were made and some were dismissed as the Office of Administrative Hearings held jurisdiction. At the Prima Facie Stage, the issue in appeal is the dismissal of 211B.04. At the Probable Cause stage, the issue in appeal is 211B.12. Finally, in final memorandum “dismissing” the matter, the issue in appeal is the Board dismissing Minn. R. 4503.0900 based upon a clearly fraudulent financial disclosure that was even more fraudulent than the one is was amended from.

5. **Short description of issues you are raising in this appeal:**

211B.04 clearly states “prominent”; not “legible” for displaying a campaign disclaimer. Relator pled adequate requisite facts to sustain the violations. See: A22-1797 *In re the Matter of Troy Kenneth Scheffler (Rosemary Franzen)*, (2023).

211B.12 does not cover “Defamation Suits” that are not directly related to the Respondent being a State Representative and is part of the fraud in the Minn. R. 4503.0900.

That in his amended financial disclosure, Heintzeman amended “campaign expenses” that literally are patently false simply based upon public record such as filing fees and filings themselves. For example, in an effort to cover up a campaign fund money laundering scheme between Heintzeman and his attorney Reid LeBeau, Heintzeman originally claimed a general in-kind donation from the HRCC for \$6,000 on 12/31/2024 for “legal expenses” made to LeBeau. When Relator began showing the pattern of fraud, including that the HRCC never showed such a donation, Heintzeman as Chair of the HRCC, cooked the HRCC’s books by amending a former general payment made to LeBeau MONTHS before 12/31/2024 and subsequently changed his own financials to reflect the same. The problem is that the date they chose to claim and the case they claimed it was made for, never even existed at the time.

Lastly, the Board despite sanctioning the deficient original reporting by having Heintzeman amend the financials, they erroneously reflect the matter as “dismissed”; which of course is in error along with the “dismissal” itself being based upon clear fraud, which Relator appeals.

6. Related appeals:

- a. List any prior or pending appeals arising from the same agency case as this appeal: A25-0632 (211B.04)
- b. List any pending appeals arising from different agency cases that raise similar issues to this appeal: None known.

7. Contents of record:

- a. Is a transcript necessary to review the issues on appeal? No.
- b. If yes, is it a full transcript of the hearing(s) before the administrative decision-maker, or a partial transcript? N/A
- c. Has the transcript been ordered from the court reporter? N/A.
- d. If a transcript is unavailable, is a statement of the proceedings under Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure 110.03 necessary? N/A.

e. In lieu of the record as defined in Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure 110.01, have the parties agreed to prepare a statement of the record pursuant to Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure 110.04? No.

8. **Oral argument:**

a. If you have an attorney, is oral argument requested? No.

b. N/A

9. **Type of Brief to be filed:**

Informal Brief under Rule 128.01, subd. 1.

10. **Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of relator and respondents:**

Relator:



Troy Kenneth Scheffler
26359 Shandy Trl, Merrifield, MN 56465
troyscheffler@gmail.com
763-225-7702

05/23/2025

Respondent's Attorney:

Rondell Reid LeBeau II (MN#347504)
525 Park St. Ste #255, St. Paul, MN 55103
rlebeau@chalmersadams.com
651-397-0089

FILED

May 23, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of the Complaint of
Troy Scheffler Regarding the
Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF
CERTIORARI**

APPELLATE CASE #:
CFB CASE FILED: 02/11/2025
DATE OF DECISION: **05/09/2025**

TO: The Court of Appeals of the State of Minnesota:

Troy Scheffler hereby petitions the Court of Appeals for a Writ of Certiorari pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 14.63, § 14.64 to review a decision of the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board issued on the date noted above, upon the grounds that:

In its closing of the case by memorandum on 05/09/2025, following prior allowance to "correct" falsehoods in the Complaint (Minn. R. 4503.0900) made by Relator, Respondent Heintzeman filed a patently false "amended" financial disclosure which the Board "dismissed" Relator's Complaint upon.

The Board was well aware the amended filing was false and once again perjurious in a continued effort to cover up a clear and well documented campaign fund fraud and money laundering scheme and erroneously "dismissed" the complaint regardless; status of "dismissal" is also erroneous as the Board did in fact find Probable Cause and subsequently sanctioned/penalized Heintzeman by ordering an amended financial report which was filed with material changes.

The Board also erred in dismissing a disclaimer violation under Minn Stat. 211B.04 by claiming the disclaimer was "legible", rather than "prominent" and erred in finding a defamation lawsuit justified dismissal of 211B.12.


Troy Kenneth Scheffler
26359 Shandy Trl
Merrifield, MN 56465
763-225-7702
troyscheffler@gmail.com

05/23/2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN COURT OF APPEALS



In the Matter of the Complaint of Troy Scheffler Regarding Representative Joshua Heintzeman and the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman.

ORDER
A25-0853

BASED ON THE FILE, RECORD, AND PROCEEDINGS, AND BECAUSE:

1. This certiorari appeal was filed on May 23, 2025.
2. On May 27, 2026, relator Troy Kenneth Scheffler filed a motion requesting leave to file an informal brief pursuant to Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 128.01, subd. 1.
3. Because Scheffler is self-represented, we will accept an informal brief and addendum from Scheffler.
4. An informal brief shall contain a concise statement of the party's arguments on appeal, together with the addendum required by Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 130.01. Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 128.01, subd. 1. The informal brief shall have a cover and any paper copy may be bound by stapling. *Id.*
5. The addendum filed with Scheffler's brief must include a copy of the decisions being appealed. *See* Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 130.02(a) (governing appealing party's addendum).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Relator Troy Kenneth Scheffler's motion for leave to file an informal brief is granted.

2. Scheffler shall serve and file a brief and addendum within 30 days after service of the itemized list of the contents of the record. *See* Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 115.04, subd. 4. The addendum filed with Scheffler's brief must include a copy of the decisions being appealed.

Dated: May 29, 2025

BY THE COURT

Jennifer L. Frisch
Chief Judge

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

**ORDER ON MOTION TO
PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF TROY SCHEFFLER REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA HEINTZEMAN AND THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JOSH HEINTZEMAN

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ordered a staff review regarding this matter on April 8, 2025, and the staff review was closed on May 9, 2025. The complainant, Troy Scheffler, filed a petition for a writ of certiorari with the Court of Appeals on May 23, 2025, seeking judicial review under Minnesota Statutes section 14.63. On May 23, 2025, Mr. Scheffler mailed his Motion and Affidavit for Proceeding In Forma Pauperis in the Court of Appeals to the Board by certified mail, along with his Statement of the Case.

The affidavit states that Mr. Scheffler is receiving public assistance, consisting of “Medicare Part B reimbursement”. The affidavit includes a document indicating that Mr. Scheffler received a \$185 reimbursement on May 9, 2025, from Crow Wing County Community Services, related to Medicare Part B. In 2025 the standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B insurance is \$185.¹ Minnesota Statutes section 563.01, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), provides that if an “appeal is not of a frivolous nature,” an individual seeking to proceed *in forma pauperis* is generally presumed to qualify if they receive “public assistance described in section 550.37, subdivision 14. . . .” Minnesota Statutes section 550.37, subdivision 14, provides that “government assistance based on need includes but is not limited to . . . payment of Medicare part B premiums. . . .”

The Statement of the Case indicates that Mr. Scheffler is appealing determinations made regarding alleged violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 211B.04 and 211B.12 and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3. The Statement of the Case asserts that the complainant “pled adequate requisite facts to sustain” a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 and that the standard for a disclaimer violation is whether the disclaimer was prominent, rather than legible. The Statement of the Case asserts that paying legal expenses related to a defamation lawsuit against a legislator is not a proper use of campaign funds under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. The Statement of the Case also asserts that the Heintzeman committee failed to accurately amend its 2024 year-end report of receipts and expenditures with respect to certain legal expenses that were identified by the Board as lacking the information required by Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.

¹ cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles

Based on the above background and the record in this matter, the Board makes the following:

Findings of Fact

1. On February 11, 2025, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint filed by Troy Scheffler regarding Representative Joshua Heintzeman, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 6B, and his principal campaign committee, the Committee to Elect Josh Heintzeman. The complaint alleged multiple violations including a violation of the disclaimer requirement under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, regarding a single campaign sign, and violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 regarding legal expenses incurred by the Heintzeman committee.
2. On February 21, 2025, the Board's chair determined that the complaint did not state a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, and did state prima facie violations of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12 and Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.
3. On April 8, 2025, the Board determined that there was not probable cause to believe that the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Statutes section 211B.12. The Board determined that there was probable cause to believe that the Heintzeman committee violated Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3, and ordered a type of informal investigation known as a staff review.
4. On May 5, 2025, the Heintzeman committee filed an amended 2024 year-end report of receipts and expenditures to address issues raised within the Board's probable cause determination.
5. On May 9, 2025, the Board's executive director closed the staff review and determined that the amended report remedied any violation of Minnesota Rules 4503.0900, subpart 3.
6. On May 23, 2025, Mr. Scheffler filed his Motion and Affidavit for Proceeding In Forma Pauperis in the Court of Appeals, along with his Statement of the Case. The affidavit indicates that Mr. Scheffler receives public assistance in the form of payment of Medicare Part B premiums. The Statement of the Case describes the appeal as challenging the dismissal of certain violations alleged in Mr. Scheffler's complaint regarding the Heintzeman committee.

Based on the above findings of fact, the Board makes the following:

Conclusions of Law

1. Based on the Statement of the Case, the issues raised in this appeal are not frivolous.
2. Mr. Scheffler meets the criteria for proceeding *in forma pauperis*.

Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Board issues the following:

Order

1. The Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis is granted.

Faris Rashid, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: _____