

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

FINAL AUDIT REPORT

2020 AUDIT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC SUBSIDY PAYMENTS:

A candidate must do the following to be eligible for public subsidy payments: (1) sign a public subsidy agreement in which the candidate agrees, among other requirements, to be bound by a spending limit; (2) raise a statutorily-specified amount in qualifying contributions from individuals, (3) file a notarized affidavit of contributions with the Board verifying that the candidate has raised the required amount in qualifying contributions, and (4) appear on the general election ballot.

To ensure eligibility for public subsidy payments, the Board audited the qualifying contributions of candidates seeking public subsidy payments who did not use the Campaign Finance Reporter software to submit their affidavits of contributions and whose total reported individual contributions were less than the audit threshold. The audit threshold was set at twice the amount a candidate was required to raise in qualifying contributions. For example, the required amount of qualifying contributions for a house candidate is \$1,500. This amount must be raised between January 1 of the previous odd-numbered year and the cutoff date for transactions included in the pre-primary-election report. Consequently, a candidate for house was subject to audit if the candidate was seeking public subsidy funds, did not use the Campaign Finance Reporter software to submit the original affidavit of contributions, and reported receiving \$3,000 or less in individual contributions between January 1, 2019, and July 20, 2020.

The following audit thresholds were used for the offices being contested in 2020:

Office	Threshold
Senate	\$6,000
House of Representatives	\$3,000

Applying the audit criteria to candidates who were seeking public subsidy resulted in an audit of 16 house candidates and five senate candidates. Attachment A lists the candidates who were subject to the audit.

Reporting individual contributions less than the audit threshold had no effect on a candidate's eligibility for public subsidy payments. It simply determined which candidates would be subject to an audit by the Board to ensure that their certified affidavits of contributions were, in fact, correct and that the candidates actually had raised the required amount in qualifying contributions.

The Board asked each candidate subject to the audit to provide a list of the individual contributions that had been included in the amount required to qualify for public subsidy along with each contributor's name and address. The information was used to determine whether the contributions and the contributors met the criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.323. To be included in the qualifying amount, a contribution had to have been made by an individual eligible to vote in Minnesota between January 1, 2019, and July 20, 2020. In addition, only the first \$50 from each

contributor could be included in the qualifying amount and in-kind contributions could not be considered.

All 21 committees submitted the requested information. Board staff reviewed the lists of individual contributors provided by the committees against the criteria for eligible qualifying contributions. Jeff Sigurdson, executive director to the Board, was the individual primarily responsible for the audit. Mr. Sigurdson was supported in evaluating the candidates' responses by Melissa Stevens, compliance officer, and Jodi Pope, legal analyst.

Audit finding:

The following committee subject to the audit did not raise the required amount in qualifying contributions:

Zina Alston Fizer for MN Senate

The remaining 20 committees subject to the audit raised the required amount in qualifying contributions.

Responsible Staff Person:

/s/ Jeff Sigurdson
Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: September 9, 2020

/s/ Gary Haugen
Gary Haugen, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: September 9, 2020

Attachment A: Candidate committees subject to the audit

House committees					
Reg. No.	Committee name	Party	2019 reported contributions	2020 reported contributions	Total reported contributions
18654	Chris Baumberger For Minnesota Representative	DFL	\$0	\$1,835	\$1,835
18677	Ken Fitzgerald for State Rep	RPM	\$0	\$2,245	\$2,245
18152	Fontenello (Jordan) for House	DFL	\$0	\$2,029.90	\$2,029.90
18564	We Win with Edwin (Hahn)	RPM	\$0	\$1,720	\$1,720
18519	Kim Hicks for MN House	DFL	\$0	\$2,510	\$2,510
18646	Hjelle (Andrew) for 3B	RPM	\$0	\$2,210	\$2,210
18650	Art Johnston for Minnesota House 7B	RPM	\$0	\$2,640	\$2,640
18059	Committee to elect Sue Larson	DFL	\$0	\$2,040	\$2,040
18583	Lindstrom (Connie) for Minnesota	DFL	\$0	\$2,735	\$2,735
18633	Mikki Murray 4 MN House	RPM	\$0	\$2,475	\$2,475
18324	Pafko (Frank) for House	RPM	\$950	\$1,100	\$2,050
18503	Raines (Brian) for 34A	DFL	\$0	\$2,855	\$2,855
18459	Brett Rose for House	RPM	\$450	\$2,000	\$2,450
18640	Spolarich for MN House	DFL	\$0	\$2,090	\$2,090
18648	Sullivan (Thomas) For The House	RPM	\$0	\$2,150	\$2,150
18637	Wendling for House	RPM	\$0	\$1,850	\$1,850

Senate committees					
Reg. No.	Committee name	Party	2019 reported contributions	2020 reported contributions	Total reported contributions
18668	Zina Alston Fizer for MN Senate	DFL	\$0	\$3,370	\$3,370
18604	KRIST (Brent) for SD15	DFL	\$0	\$5,520	\$5,520
18655	Moren (John) for Senate	RPM	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000
18589	Friends of Diane Nguyen	DFL	\$0	\$5,495	\$5,495
18615	A. John Peters for MN Senate	DFL	\$0	\$3,860	\$3,860