

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

**CONCILIATION**  
**AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the Citizens for JoAnn Ward Committee (#17438);

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.28, subdivision 3, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and Representative JoAnn Ward (hereinafter referred to as the Candidate) hereby agree as follows:

1. The Citizens for JoAnn Ward Committee (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Representative JoAnn Ward. During 2012, the Committee accepted \$7,250 in contributions from special sources. These sources include a large giver from whom the Committee accepted \$500, registered lobbyists from whom the Committee accepted \$250, and political committees or political funds from which the Committee accepted \$6,500. The total amount of these contributions exceeded by \$350 the applicable limit on aggregate contributions from special sources, which for a state representative candidate was \$6,900. The \$350 in excess contributions was not returned within 60 days, and thus, is deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

2. In a letter dated March 9, 2013, the treasurer for the Committee, Gary LePage, explained that all checks were scanned before they were deposited and the scans were forwarded to him to

be recorded. Mr. LePage stated that “[t]his process broke down when scans of two special source checks were inadvertently not emailed to the Treasurer.” Mr. Lepage said he did not discover the two missing checks until he prepared the year-end report in January 2013 and, by that time, the 60-day period during which contributions could be returned without being considered accepted had expired.

3. Board records show that this is the first calendar year in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions that exceeded the applicable aggregate contribution limit. The Committee registered with the Board on March 26, 2012.

4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted excessive contributions from special sources resulting in an inadvertent violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, in calendar year 2012.

5. The Committee has returned \$250 of the large giver’s \$500 contribution. Due to the return of this amount, the contributor no longer is a large giver. The amount that the Committee received from special sources in 2012 therefore is reduced by \$500 to \$6,750. A copy of the check used to return the excess contribution was forwarded to the Board.

6. The Candidate agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$350, one times the amount by which the contributions exceeded the applicable limit, to be paid to the Board for deposit in the general fund of the state.

7. The Committee hereby agrees to forward to the Board \$350 by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota within 30 days after the date this agreement is signed by both parties. It is agreed by the parties that payment of the civil penalty of \$350, return of the excess contribution, and this conciliation agreement will be a bar to any civil proceeding under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.28, subdivisions 3 and 4.

8. It is further understood and agreed, however, that failure to pay the civil penalty of \$350 within the time specified in paragraph 7 above is a violation of the terms of this conciliation agreement and the Board may declare this agreement to be null and void and may take further action to resolve this matter.

9. It is further understood and agreed that this agreement is confidential until signed by the Candidate and the Board Chair. Once signed, the agreement shall become a matter of public record, and the statutory requirement of confidentiality shall no longer apply. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and section 10A.28, subdivision 3.

  
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Representative JoAnn Ward

Dated: 

Approved by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: May 7, 2013

Andrew M. Luger, Chair

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board