

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

**PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF SOREN SORENSEN REGARDING MICHAEL NORTHBIRD:

On March 26, 2018, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Soren Sorensen regarding Michael Northbird, the candidate. The complaint states that the candidate does not have the required disclaimer language on his campaign website and Facebook page.

Determination:

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04 requires candidates to include a disclaimer on all campaign materials that prominently states "Prepared and paid for by the . . . committee, . . . (address)." The complaint alleges that the website and Facebook page for the candidate's campaign do not include a disclaimer in the form required by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.

The Facebook page identified in the complaint, and certain posts on the page that appear to be campaign material, do not include the required disclaimer language. By following a website link on the Facebook page, one is directed to the website for the candidate. The website does not have the disclaimer on the main page. The chair therefore concludes that the complaint states a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (1), this prima facie determination is made by a single Board member and not by any vote of the entire Board. This prima facie determination does not mean that the Board has commenced, or will commence, an investigation or has made any determination of a violation by any of the individuals or entities named in the complaint.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (2), within 45 days of the date of this determination the Board will make findings and conclusions as to whether probable cause exists to believe the reporting violation and false certification alleged in the complaint warrants a formal investigation. The complainant and the respondent named in this prima facie determination will be given an opportunity to be heard by the Board prior to any decision on probable cause.

Until the Board makes a public finding or enters into a conciliation agreement, this matter is subject to the confidentiality requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 5.

/s/ Carolyn Flynn
Carolyn Flynn, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: March 29, 2018