

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the 13th Senate District DFL (20505);

1. The 13th Senate District DFL is a political party unit registered with the Board. The party unit's 2018 pre-general report of receipts and expenditures first disclosed a \$410 incoming contribution from Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF), a labor union that does not have a political committee or fund registered with the Board.
2. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, prohibits a party unit from accepting a contribution that exceeds \$200 from an association not registered with the Board, unless the contribution is accompanied by a written disclosure statement satisfying the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20. If an unregistered association gives a contribution in excess of \$200, the recipient is required to provide the disclosure statement to the Board when filing the report of receipts and expenditures that first discloses the contribution. MSCF did not provide the required disclosure statement to the 13th Senate District DFL. A contribution that is not returned within 90 days of being deposited is deemed to be accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
3. Mark Grant, chair of the MSCF's Legislative Committee, explained that the \$410 contribution should have been given via a political fund registered with the Board with which the MSCF is affiliated, but was mistakenly made directly by MSCF. The 13th Senate District DFL's treasurer, Thomas Schutz, stated that the party unit assumed that MSCF was registered with the Board. Mr. Schutz stated that a check returning \$210 of the \$410 contribution was sent to MSCF in November 2019.
4. The parties agree that the 13th Senate District DFL accepted a contribution in excess of \$200 from an association not registered with the Board without the required disclosure statement in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13. This is the 13th Senate District DFL's first violation of the disclosure requirement regarding contributions from unregistered associations.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the 13th Senate District DFL agrees that will not accept a contribution in excess of \$200 from an association without also obtaining the association's Board registration number, a disclosure statement in the form required by statute if the association is not registered with the Board, or advice from Board staff.
6. The 13th Senate District DFL agrees to provide to the Board, within 90 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of the deposited check or other documentation showing that the \$210 it returned was received by MSCF.

7. The 13th Senate District DFL also agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$210 for accepting a contribution in excess of \$200 without the disclosure statement required by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13. The civil penalty is the amount of the contribution that exceeded \$200. Of this amount, \$55 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$155 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2021. If the 13th Senate District DFL violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the 13th Senate District DFL does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

8. If the 13th Senate District DFL does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Thomas Schutz
Thomas Schutz, Treasurer
13th Senate District DFL

Dated: January 2, 2020

/s/ Margaret Leppik
Margaret Leppik, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: December 4, 2019