

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Gary Steuart for Minnesota committee (19157);

1. Gary Steuart for Minnesota is the principal campaign committee of Gary Steuart, a candidate for House District 26B. On May 3, 2024, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Joseph Sheffer regarding Gary Steuart. The complaint alleged that Mr. Steuart had not registered a principal campaign committee with the Board, and Board records confirmed that at the time the complaint was filed, Mr. Steuart had not registered a principal campaign committee. The complaint alleged that more than \$750 had been spent on Mr. Steuart's campaign and that Mr. Steuart therefore was required to register a principal campaign committee. The complaint also alleged that two pieces of campaign material were disseminated by the Steuart campaign without a required disclaimer. On May 16, 2024, the Board chair determined that the complaint stated prima facie violations of Minnesota Statutes sections 10A.14 and 211B.04.
2. Mr. Steuart stated his understanding that nothing needed to be filed "until after the election." Mr. Steuart provided a copy of a form that local candidates are required to file with their local filing officer under Minnesota Statutes section 211A.05, subdivision 1, and explained that he mistakenly thought that he needed to provide that form within 7 days after the election. Mr. Steuart stated that he received a copy of the form when filing his affidavit of candidacy with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. Mr. Steuart also admitted that he had raised over \$750 on May 6, 2024. During a phone conversation with Board staff, Mr. Steuart said that he had personally paid for items at the beginning of his campaign, including a flyer for a meet and greet event in April, and literature produced for his political party's endorsing convention in April.
3. On July 10, 2024, the Board found that there was probable cause to believe that a violation of the registration requirement in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14 occurred due to Mr. Steuart not registering a principal campaign committee by May 20, 2024. Because Mr. Steuart was not required to have registered a principal campaign committee prior to the campaign material in question being disseminated, the Board found that there was not probable cause to find a disclaimer violation. The Board directed the Board's executive director to open a staff review to conclude the investigation.
4. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 1 requires a principal campaign committee to register with the Board "no later than 14 days after the committee . . . has made a contribution, received contributions, or made expenditures in excess of \$750." Mr. Steuart did not register a principal campaign committee with the Board until June 12, 2024.
5. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14, subdivision 4, provides that the Board "may impose a late filing fee of \$25 per day, not to exceed \$1,000, starting on the day after the [registration] statement

was due.” The Steuart committee registered 16 business days after the date it was required by statute to register. Therefore, the late filing fee for the failure to timely register a principal campaign committee is \$400.

6. The parties agree that the Steuart committee violated the registration requirement under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.14. The committee agrees to the imposition of a late filing fee of \$400. Payment is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties.

7. If the committee 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/ Gary Steuart
Gary Steuart
Gary Steuart for Minnesota

Dated: August 14, 2024

/s/ Faris Rashid
Faris Rashid, Vice Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: August 7, 2024