

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

**FINDINGS IN THE MATTER OF
A CONTRIBUTION ACCEPTED
DURING THE REGULAR 2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BY THE (MATTHEW) CONLAN VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) staff, Matthew Conlan, candidate, (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee, notified the Board that the (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee accepted a \$500 contribution from a registered political fund, Carpenter’s Local #87 PAF, during the regular session of the 2004 legislature.

The contribution was received on March 18, 2004. The regular 2004 legislative session was held from February 2, 2004, to May 16, 2004.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on January 25, 2005.

Based on the record before it, the Board issues the following:

EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS

1. There is evidence that the (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee, a registered principal campaign committee, inadvertently accepted a \$500 contribution from Carpenters Local #87 PAF, a registered political fund, on March 18, 2004.
2. There is no evidence that the (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee returned this contribution. Minn. Stat. §10A.273, subd. 1 (a), prohibits a candidate for legislative office from accepting a contribution from a political fund during a regular session of the legislature. The regular 2004 legislative Session was held from February 2, 2004, to May 16, 2004.

Based on the above Statement of the Evidence, the Board makes the following:

FINDING CONCERNING PROBABLE CAUSE

There is probable cause to believe that the (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.273, subd. 1 (a), by accepting a contribution from a political fund during the regular session of the legislature in 2004.

Based on the above Finding Concerning Probable Cause, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. The (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee is directed to return \$500 to Carpenters Local #87 PAF and to provide the Board with a copy of the check returning the contribution and the accompanying letter within 30 days of the public posting of this order.
2. In lieu of forwarding the above public finding of probable cause to the appropriate county attorney to pursue a judgment in district court, the Board imposes a civil penalty of \$500 on the (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee for acceptance of a contribution during the regular 2004 legislative session.
3. The (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the STATE OF MINNESOTA, within thirty days after receipt of this order.
4. If the (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the Ramsey County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 10A.273.
5. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minn. Stat. §10A.02, subd. 11, and upon payment by the (Matthew) Conlan Volunteer Committee of the civil penalty imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: January 25, 2005



Terri Ashmore, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board