

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

**CONCILIATION**

**AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the Committee to Elect John Ward (#16310);

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

1. The Committee to Elect John Ward (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Representative John Ward. During 2012, the Committee accepted aggregate contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees in the amount of \$5,275. This amount exceeds the \$5,000 election year limit on contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees, set out in Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, by \$275. The \$275 excess was not returned within 60 days, and thus, is deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

2. On January 22, 2014, the Crow Wing County DFL party unit filed an amendment to the party unit's 2012 year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures. The amendment disclosed an additional \$400 contribution to the Ward Committee which was not reported by the Ward Committee in 2012. Staff notified the Ward Committee of the discrepancy. After checking applicable bank records the Committee filed an amendment to the 2012 year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures on February 14, 2014. The amendment discloses the contribution

from the Crow Wing County DFL, which in combination with other political party contributions, created the violation detailed in paragraph 1. In an e-mail dated March 3, 2014, Louis Anderson, campaign manager, and Sherri DeLaHunt, treasurer, provided an account of their efforts to reconcile the contributions received from the party unit.

3. Board records show that this is the first calendar year in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions in excess of the applicable party unit and terminating principal campaign committee contribution limit. The Committee registered with the Board on March 15, 2012.

4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted excessive contributions from political party units and terminating principal campaign committees resulting in an inadvertent violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, in calendar year 2012.

5. The Candidate hereby agrees to return \$275 to party units that contributed to the Committee in calendar year 2012. A copy of the check(s) used to return the excess amount must be provided to the Board within 30 days after the date this conciliation agreement is signed by both parties.

6. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$275, one times the amount by which the contributions exceeded the applicable limit.

7. The Committee hereby agrees to forward to the Board \$275 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 the payment of the civil penalty of \$275, the return of the excess contributions, providing a copy of the check(s) used to return 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 \$275, to return the excess contributions, or to provide a copy of the check(s) used to return the excess contributions within the time specified in paragraphs 5 and 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.

/s/ John E. Ward Dated: 4/6/2014

Representative John Ward

Approved by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

By /s/ Deanna Wiener Dated: April 1, 2014

Deanna Wiener, Chair

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board