

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Ruth (Richardson) for House committee (18253);

1. The Ruth (Richardson) for House committee is the principal campaign committee of Representative Ruth Richardson. The committee's amended 2018 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed receipt of \$10,435.18 in contributions from political party units and terminating principal campaign committees. That amount exceeded by \$435.18 the \$10,000 limit on contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees to a candidate for state representative during the 2017-2018 election cycle. The \$435.18 that exceeded the limit was not returned within 90 days and therefore is deemed to be accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. The committee's treasurer, Jennifer Stieve, has stated that the committee has returned \$435.18 to a party unit that gave a cash contribution to the committee in 2018.
3. Ms. Stieve explained that she mistakenly failed to enter a \$450 in-kind contribution from a party unit within the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter software, and the error was not discovered until June 2019 as the result of a routine reconciliation audit performed by Board staff.
4. The parties agree that the committee accepted excessive contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, during the 2017-2018 election cycle. This is the committee's first violation of the limit on contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees to:
 - a. Ensure that the committee's treasurer enters contributions, including in-kind contributions, into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt, or more quickly if necessary to timely file an accurate report with the Board; and
 - b. Run a batch compliance report after each time contributions are entered and take steps to remedy any violations the software identifies so that problems may be resolved within the 90 days provided by statute for the return of a contribution before it is deemed accepted.
6. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$435.18, the amount of the violation, for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2. Of this amount, \$110 is due within 30 days of the date the

agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$325.18 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2021. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

7. The committee also 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 \$435.18 was received by the party unit to which it was returned.

8. 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/ Ruth Richardson
Representative Ruth Richardson
Ruth (Richardson) for House

Dated: August 27, 2019

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

Dated: August 14, 2019