

Minnesota

# *Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board*

cfboard.state.mn.us

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**DATE:** 18 May 2007

**TO:** Lobbyists  
Candidates  
Political Party Units  
Political Committees and Funds

**FROM:** Jeanne Olson  
Executive Director

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800/657-3889

**SUBJECT:** Contributions Via the Internet

It has come to the attention of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board that some candidates and caucuses accept contributions via the Internet. The Board wishes to inform clients of a potential problem related to giving and accepting contributions over the Internet.

Lobbyists, political committees, political funds, and political party units must provide their Board registration number when making contributions to candidates and legislative caucuses.

On websites reviewed by Board staff, there does not appear to be a mechanism for these types of contributors to provide their registration numbers at the time the contribution is made, contrary to the statutory provision.

Candidates and caucuses may wish to change their internet sites to allow for the provision of registration numbers when contributions are accepted over the Internet.

Lobbyists, political committees, political funds, and political party units should ensure their contributions are made using a method that allows the registration number to be included with the contribution. A civil penalty of up to \$1,000 may be imposed for failure to provide the registration number with the contribution.

Please call me if you have questions about this memorandum or the requirement to provide registration numbers.