

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

**Findings and Order In The Matter Of a Contribution Made By
The Ed Matthews for Ramsey County Judge Committee
To a Candidate Seeking Local Office**

Summary of the Facts

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, clause (d), prohibits contributions from a principal campaign committee to a candidate for a local political subdivision office (an office other than state legislature, judicial, or constitutional). There is no specified civil penalty for a principal campaign committee that violates this statute, but the amount of a prohibited contribution must be returned to the principal campaign committee.

The 2010 Year-End Report of Receipts and Expenditures filed by the Ed Matthews for Ramsey County Judge Committee (“the Committee”) disclosed a \$500 contribution to the Citizens for Peter Orput Committee. Mr. Orput was a candidate for a local political subdivision office.

By letter dated April 13, 2011, Board staff notified Brett Olander, treasurer of the Committee, of the potential violation. On May 6, 2011, Mr. Olander provided the Board with a copy of a check received from the Citizens for Peter Orput committee for \$500. The check was made payable to the Ed Matthews for Ramsey County Judge Committee.

The matter was considered by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (the Board) in executive session on May 31, 2011. The Board’s decision was based on the response from Mr. Olander and Board records.

Based on the above Summary of Facts and the Relevant Statute, the Board makes the following:

Findings Concerning Probable Cause

1. There is probable cause to believe that the Ed Matthews for Ramsey County Judge Committee contributed \$500 to a candidate seeking a local political subdivision office in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, clause (d).
2. There is no probable cause to believe that this violation was done with the intent to violate the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.
3. There is probable cause to believe that the contribution was recovered by the Ed Matthews for Ramsey County Judge Committee to remedy the violation.

Based on the above Finding, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. The record in this matter and all correspondence is hereby entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, this matter is closed.

Dated: May 31, 2011

/s/ John Scanlon

John Scanlon, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Relevant Statute

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, clause (d) ...A candidate or the treasurer of a candidate's principal campaign committee must not make a contribution from the principal campaign committee to a candidate for political subdivision office in any state.