

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

**Findings and Order in the Matter of the Chris Coleman for Mayor Committee**

**Summary of the Facts**

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) Niel Ritchie, treasurer, the Greater Minnesota Votes Committee, confirmed that the Chris Coleman for Mayor Committee, an association not registered with the Board, made a contribution of \$500 to the Greater Minnesota Votes Committee on October 26, 2006. The contribution was not accompanied by the disclosure required by Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 13.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 13(b), prohibits an unregistered association from making a contribution in excess of \$100 to a registered political party unit unless, at the time the contribution was made, the unregistered association provides the recipient with the disclosure required by Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.20. An unregistered association that fails to provide the appropriate disclosure with the contribution is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

In a letter dated April 10, 2007, Kris Fredson, treasurer, Chris Coleman for Mayor, states “I was unaware of this requirement. I regret this inadvertent error. I will fully comply with your decision”.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session at its meeting on May 8, 2007. The Board’s decision was based upon correspondence from Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Fredson, and Board records.

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

**Findings Concerning Probable Cause**

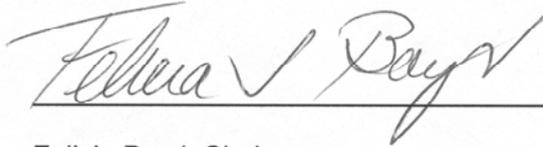
1. There is probable cause to believe that the Chris Coleman for Mayor Committee, an association that is not registered with the Board, inadvertently violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subd. 13, when it made a contribution in excess of \$100 to the Greater Minnesota Votes Committee without providing the required disclosure.
2. There is probable cause to believe that this contribution was not returned within 60 days as permitted in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

**Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:**

**Order**

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$400, one times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on the Chris Coleman for Mayor Committee for making a contribution to a political committee without the disclosure required by Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 13.
2. The Chris Coleman for Mayor 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 30 days of receipt of this order.
3. If the Chris Coleman for Mayor Committee does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall request that the Attorney General bring an action for the remedies available under Minnesota Statute, section 10A.34.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.

Dated: May 8, 2007



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Felicia Boyd, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

**Relevant Statute**

**Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 13. Unregistered association limit; statement; penalty.** (a) The treasurer of a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit must not accept a contribution of more than \$100 from an association not registered under this chapter unless the contribution is accompanied by a written statement that meets the disclosure and reporting period requirements imposed by section 10A.20. This statement must be certified as true and correct by an officer of the contributing association. The committee, fund, or party unit that accepts the contribution must include a copy of the statement with the report that discloses the contribution to the board. This subdivision does not apply when a national political party contributes money to its affiliate in this state.

(b) An unregistered association may provide the written statement required by this subdivision to no more than three committees, funds, or party units in a calendar year. Each statement must cover at least the 30 days immediately preceding and including the date on which the contribution was made. An unregistered association or an officer of it is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000, if the association or its officer:

(1) fails to provide a written statement as required by this subdivision; or

(2) fails to register after giving the written statement required by this subdivision to more than three committees, funds, or party units in a calendar year.

(c) The treasurer of a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit who accepts a contribution in excess of \$100 from an unregistered association without the required written disclosure statement is subject to a civil penalty up to four times the amount in excess of \$100.