

Minnesota

# ***Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board***

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## **Changes made during the 2005 legislative session**

Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 5 – The definition of ‘associated business’ includes an association, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other organized legal entity. *This provision impacts what public officials must disclose on economic interest statements.*

Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd 26 - Additional items added to noncampaign disbursements:

- Constituent services includes the costs of preparing and distributing a suggestion or idea solicitation to constituents;
- Payment for food and beverages consumed by a candidate or volunteers while engaged in campaign activities;
- Payment for food or a beverage consumed while attending a reception or meeting directly related to legislative duties;
- Payments for funeral gifts or memorials.

Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 35 – The new state chief information officer is a public official and therefore must file Statement of Economic Interest and comply with the provisions of the gift ban.

Minn. Stat. § 10A.025 - Allows all reports or statements to be filed electronically. The Board will adopt rules to ensure the electronic filing process is secure.

Minn. Stat. § 10A.071 – Clarifies that a trinket or memento costing \$5 or less is an exception to the ban on gifts from lobbyists to public officials.

Minn. Stat. § 10A.08 – Provides that if a public official required to file a notice of Representation Disclosure fails to file the disclosure within 14 days after receiving certified notice from the Board, the Board must notify the public official that if the disclosure is not received with seven days, the public official is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

Minn. Stat. § 10A.20 – Provides that a candidate who receives a contribution that must be reported within 48 hours may file that notice electronically. Therefore, candidates may notify the Board via e-mail to fulfill the 48 hour notice requirement.

Minn. Stat. § 10A.27 – Includes a lobbyist and a political party unit in the prohibition on making a contribution that a candidate is prohibited from accepting.

Minn. Stat. § 10A.28 – Provides a civil penalty of up to four times the amount of an excess contribution for:

1. a lobbyist, political committee, or political fund that makes a contribution in excess of election or nonelection year contribution limit;
2. a terminating principal campaign committee that makes a contribution in excess of the limit a candidate may accept from the political party;
3. a political party unit that makes a contribution or loan in excess of the limit a candidate may accept from the political party; and
4. a candidate who accepts any contribution in excess of the limits imposed for the office the candidate is seeking.

Minn. Stat. § 10A.31, subd. 4 – Reduces the direct appropriation to the General Account of the State Elections Campaign Fund to \$1,250,000 each election year. *This amount previously was \$1,500,000.*

Minn. Stat. § 10A.31, subd. 5 – Limits to \$50,000 the amount of check off money paid annually to political parties. If an amount greater than \$50,000 is checked off, 1/3 of the excess is allocated to senate candidates of that party and 2/3 of the excess allocated to house candidates of that party.

Other statutory changes –

Minn. Stat. § 383B.046. provides that a political committee, political fund, or principal campaign committee registered with the Board does not need to register with Hennepin County in order to give contributions to entities registered in Hennepin County. *Board rules allow entities registered in Hennepin County to contribute to Chapter 10A entities without registering with the Board.*

Minn. Stat. § 200.02, subd. 7 – provides an additional definition of “major political party” to include a political party that maintains a party organization in the state, political subdivision, or precinct and has at least 45 candidates for state representative, 23 candidates for state senator, four candidates for representative in Congress, and one candidate for each of the constitutional offices; governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, and state auditor.

The Board does not administer the above two provisions.