

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of Jim Read for State Representative (18162);

1. Jim Read for State Representative is the principal campaign committee of candidate Jim Read. The maximum amount that a house committee could accept from one individual during the 2017-2018 election cycle segment was \$1,000. On its 2017 and 2018 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures, the Read committee reported receiving three contributions from Thomas Sibley totaling \$1,140. The committee did not return the \$140 that exceeded the individual contribution limit within 90 days of deposit and the excess contributions therefore are deemed to be accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. In a response dated August 8, 2019, committee treasurer Jim Parsons explained that he did not realize that the committee had accepted excess contributions from an individual until he entered the third contribution from Mr. Sibley into the Campaign Finance Reporter software. Mr. Parsons said that he immediately returned \$140 to Mr. Sibley but that this return occurred 91 days after the date when the contribution had been deposited. The committee has provided documentation confirming that it returned the excess contributions to Mr. Sibley 91 days after deposit.
3. The parties agree that the Read committee accepted excess contributions from an individual in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (5), during the 2017-2018 election cycle segment. This is the committee's first violation of the individual contribution limit.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees to:
 - a. Ensure that the committee's treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt; and
 - b. Run a batch compliance report after each time contributions are entered and take steps to remedy any violations the software identifies within the 90 days provided by statute for the return of a contribution before it is deemed accepted.
5. The committee also agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$140 for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (5). This amount is one times the amount of the excess contributions. Of the \$140, \$35 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$105 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 1, paragraph (a), clause (5), before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is due

immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (5), before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

6. 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/ Jim Read Dated: September 6, 2019
Jim Read
Jim Read for State Representative

/s/ Margaret Leppik Dated: September 4, 2019
Margaret Leppik, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board