

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

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

In the matter of Cordelia Pierson for State House 60B (18356);

1. Cordelia Pierson for State House 60B is the principal campaign committee of candidate Cordelia Pierson. The maximum amount that a house committee could accept from one individual during the 2017-2018 election cycle segment was \$1,000. On its 2018 year-end report of receipts and expenditures, the Pierson committee reported receiving four contributions from its treasurer, Aaron Becker, that totaled \$1,050. The committee did not return the \$50 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 16, 2019, Ms. Pierson explained that she realized soon after Mr. Becker made the fourth contribution that the committee had received excess contributions from him. Ms. Pierson said that her efforts to send a refund check to Mr. Becker were delayed by her uncertainty over whether any of the contributions were intended to be joint contributions from Mr. Becker and his spouse, the fact that Mr. Becker was moving at this time, and her belief that the committee had until the end of the reporting year to return the excess contribution without penalty. The committee has provided documentation showing that it returned the excess contribution to Mr. Becker before the end of 2018 but after the 90-day grace period had expired.
3. The parties agree that the Pierson 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 \$50 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. Payment of the \$50 civil penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties.

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/ Cordelia Pierson  
Cordelia Pierson  
Cordelia Pierson for State House 60B

Dated: September 25, 2019

/s/ Margaret Leppik  
Margaret Leppik, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: September 4, 2019