

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

190 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55155 cfb.mn.gov



Complaint for Violation of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act

All information on this form is confidential until a decision is issued by the Board.
A photocopy of the entire complaint, however, will be sent to the respondent.

Information about complainant

Name of complaint filer MARC ASCH	
Address 34 North Oaks Rd	Email address marc.asch@asch.org
City, state, and zip North Oaks MN 55217	Telephone (Daytime) 651-484-9037

Identify person or entity being complained about

Name of person/entity being complained about Republican Party of Minnesota
Address 7400 Metro Blvd, Suite 424
City, state, zip Edina, MN 55439
Title of respondent (If applicable)
Board/Department/Agency/District # (If legislator)

Signature of person filing complaint

9/1/2022

Date

Send completed form to:

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

If you have questions:

Call 651-539-1189, 800-657-3889, or for TTY/TDD communication contact us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529. Board staff may also be reached by email at cf.board@state.mn.us.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-539-1180, 800-657-3889, or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529.

Give the statutory cite to the section of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211B, or Minnesota Rules you believe has been violated: 10A.271

You will find the complete text of Chapter 10A, Chapter 211B, and Minnesota Rules chapters 4501 - 4525 on the Board's website at www.cfboard.state.mn.us.

Body of Complaint

Explain in detail why you believe the respondent has violated the campaign finance and public disclosure laws. Attach an extra sheet of paper if necessary. Attach any documents, materials, minutes, resolutions, or other evidence to support your allegations.

see letter of 9/1/2022 faxed to Board by me.

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, describes the procedures required for investigating complaints. A full description of the complaint process is available on the Board's website.

Briefly, the Board will notify you when it has received your complaint. The Board must send a copy of the complaint to the respondent. Complaints and investigations are confidential. Board members and staff cannot talk about an investigation except as required to carry out the investigation or to take action in the matter. After the Board issues a decision, the record of the investigation is public.

The law requires a complaint to go through two stages before the Board can begin an investigation: a prima facie determination and a probable cause decision. If the complaint does not pass one of the stages, it must be dismissed.

The Board has 10 business days after receiving your complaint to determine whether the complaint is sufficient to allege a prima facie violation of the campaign finance laws. If the Board determines that the complaint does allege a prima facie violation, the Board has 45 days to decide whether probable cause exists to believe a violation that warrants a formal investigation has occurred. Both you and the respondent have the right to be heard on the issue of probable cause before the Board makes this decision. The Board will notify you if the complaint moves to the probable cause stage.

If the Board determines that probable cause does not exist, the Board will dismiss the complaint. If the Board determines that probable cause exists, the Board will start an investigation. The Board will send you monthly updates regarding the status of the investigation. At the end of the investigation, the Board will offer you and the respondent the opportunity to be heard before the Board makes a final decision.

In most cases, the Board will issue findings, conclusions, and an order as its decision. For a spending or contribution limits violation, the Board can enter into a conciliation agreement with the respondent instead of issuing findings, conclusions, and an order. The Board's final decision will be sent to you and posted on the Board's website.

Members of the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board,

I am writing to file a complaint about a violation of Minnesota campaign finance law committed by the **Republican Party of Minnesota**, Registration number: 20008, 7400 Metro Blvd Ste 424 Edina, MN 55439, at the 2022, 2021 and 2019 Minnesota State Fairs. The campaign finance report for 2021 lists rental paid to the Minnesota State Fair for the booth. Throughout the duration of the 2019 and 2021 Minnesota State Fairs and thus far in the 2022 Minnesota State Fair the Republican Party of Minnesota collected official political contributions as payment a variety of items including hats, shirts and other political products it sold at its booth on Carnes Avenue without verbally informing purchasers that they were making a political contribution and without a prominent sign providing notice that the money collected was a political contribution. This is a violation of Minnesota Statute ~~10~~OA.271 Subdivision 1.:

Notice to contributors. A political committee, political fund, political party unit, or principal campaign committee that raises funds through the sale of goods or services must disclose to potential customers that the proceeds from the purchase are a political contribution and to whom the contribution is made. The notice may be provided verbally at the time of purchase, or through the prominent display of a sign providing the notice in immediate proximity to the point of sale at the location where the goods or services are sold.

The exception in Subdivision 2. does not apply as the fair is not a fundraising event and the main purpose of the State Fair is not to collect fundraising..

The purpose of Minnesota Statute 1 OA.271 is clearly to make sure that any person making a political contribution while buying a product from a fundraising stand knows they are making a political contribution. Best Fair Foods violated both the intention and the letter of this law.

The Republican Party of Minnesota is violating the statute in two ways:

- The sign they have posted is behind the sales counter making it virtually impossible to read from the point of sale and often totally blocked from view by the sales personnel behind the counter. (see exhibit A, B, C)
- A review of the 2021 reports shows no reported contributions for matching the amounts of the items they have been selling. A photo of the booth's pricing sign is included. Every hat, \$35, and every t-shirt, \$30, is priced at a point requiring

collecting personal information required by Minnesota Statute and Campaign Finance regulations. (see exhibit D)

Exhibit A
Sales Counter from interior of booth, August 30, 2022

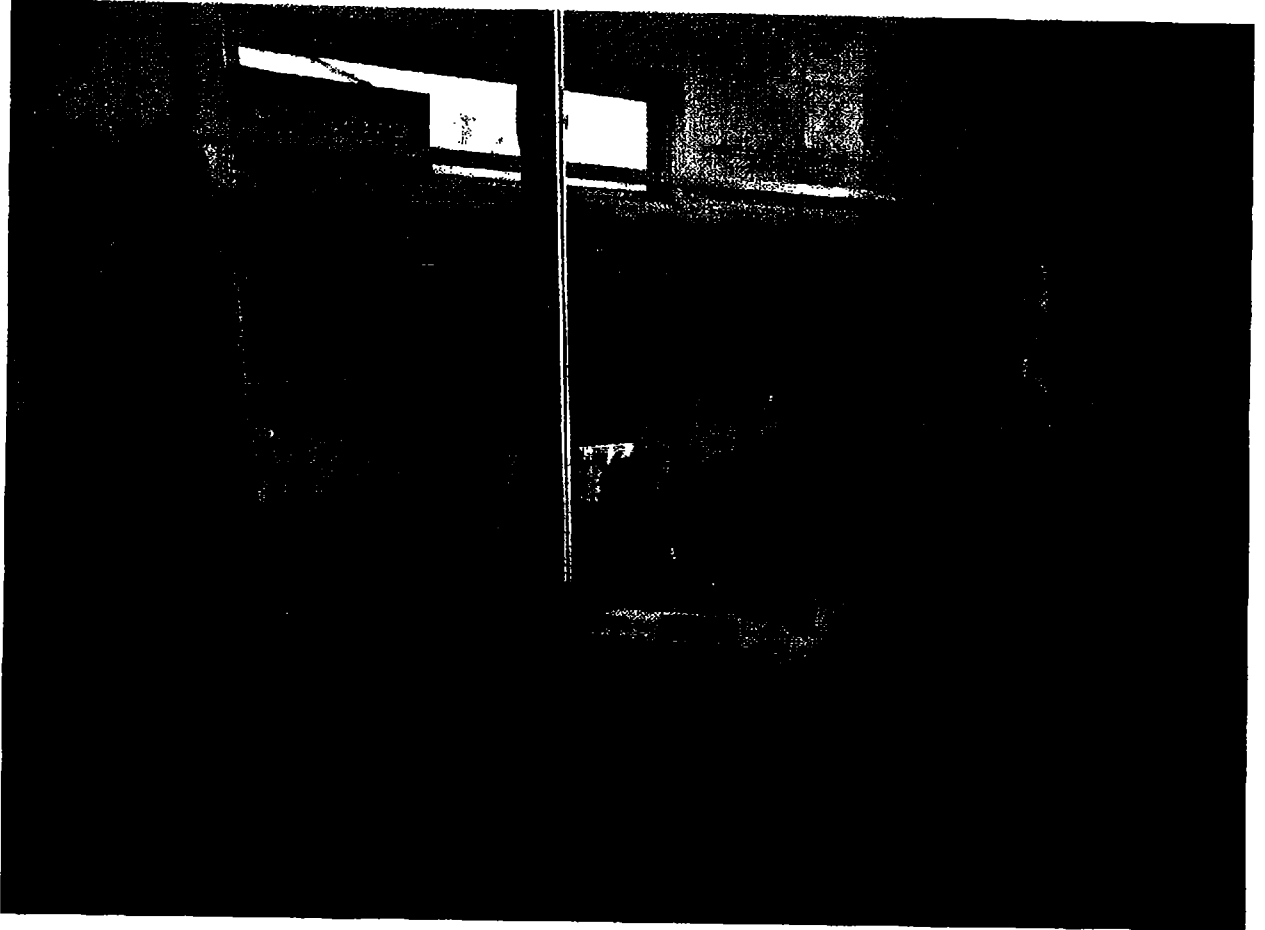


Exhibit B
Sales Counter from street side, August 30, 2022

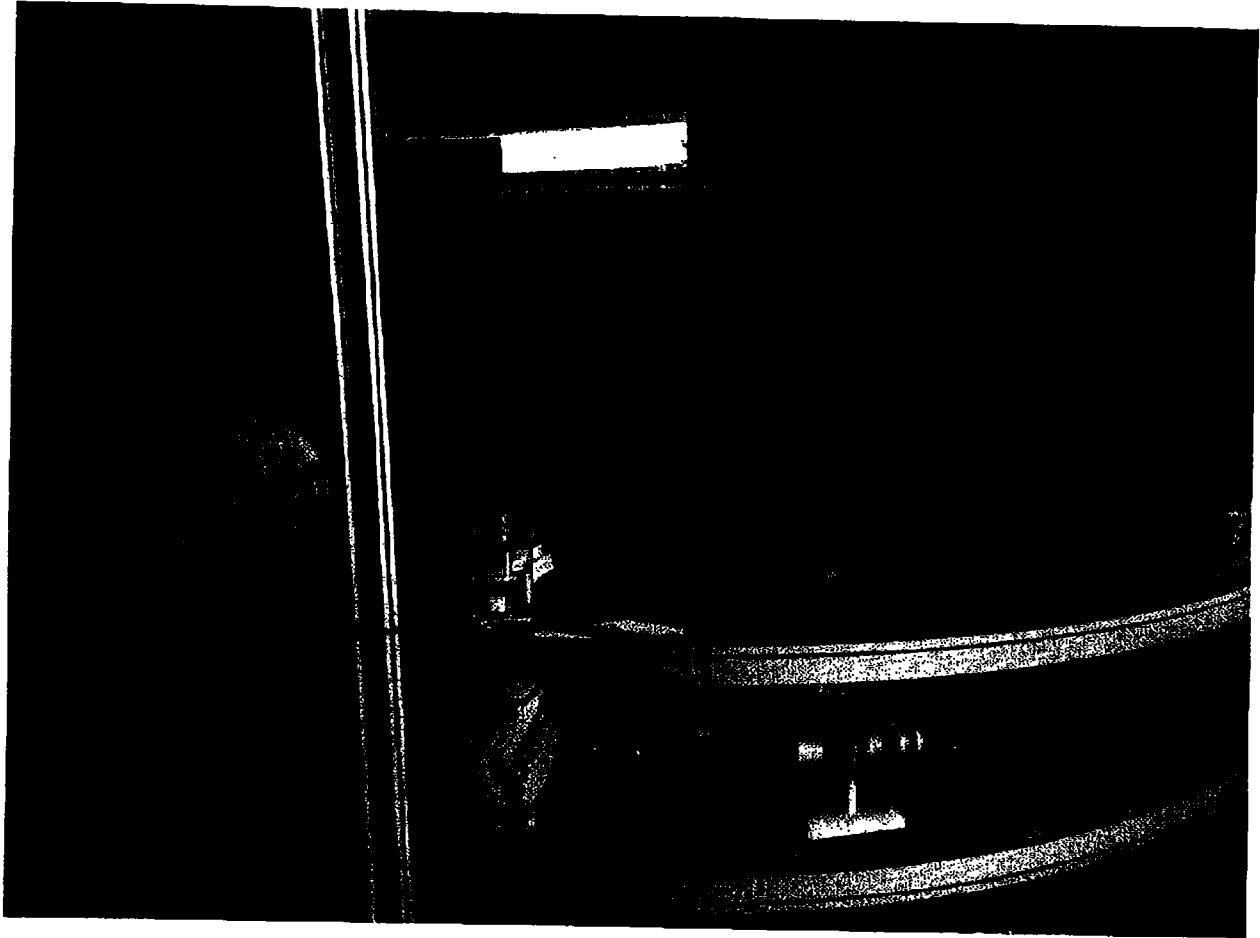


Exhibit C
Street Counter, September 5, 20231




Exhibit D
Price list at booth, August 30, 2022



All political funds must collect money legally and ethically. The Republican Party of Minnesota thumbs it's nose at both requirements and must be reprimanded. The booth probably took unknown amounts of illegal contributions over the course of the multiple Fairs since none from the dates of multiple fairs are seen.

We all need to play by the established rules.


Marc Asch

9/1/2022

Marc.Asch@gmail.com

651-484-9037

34 North Oaks Rd

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-484-9037





Republican merchandise!

HATS \$35
T-SHIRTS \$30
BUTTONS 2/\$5, 1/\$3
CLEARANCE \$10
PONCHOS \$5

DEPLOMAY
ACQUAINT
UKRAINE
35
DO TOUCH
NET WORTH 1 BILL
MINNESOTANS
BUSH HORSE
MINNESOTA
ELAKE, BRANN,
MINNESOTA
BUSINESS
EXPERIENCE
VOLK &
GELATO
COFFEE
MANAGEMENT
MARK
WORKING
FAMILY MAN
ON 2
MILLION
EVEN
HARVARD, OX
OXFORD
WEILER LOAN
HARRIS

FOR CONGRESS

