

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

**FINAL AUDIT REPORT**

2022 AUDIT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC SUBSIDY PAYMENTS:

A candidate must do the following to be eligible for public subsidy payments: (1) sign a public subsidy agreement in which the candidate agrees, among other requirements, to be bound by a spending limit; (2) raise a statutorily-specified amount in qualifying contributions from individuals, (3) file a notarized affidavit of contributions with the Board verifying that the candidate has raised the required amount in qualifying contributions, and (4) appear on the general election ballot.

To ensure eligibility for public subsidy payments, the Board audited the qualifying contributions of candidates seeking public subsidy payments who did not use the Campaign Finance Reporter software to submit their affidavits of contributions and whose total reported individual contributions were less than the audit threshold. The audit threshold was set at twice the amount a candidate was required to raise in qualifying contributions. For example, the required amount of qualifying contributions for a house candidate is \$1,500. This amount must be raised between January 1 of the previous odd-numbered year and the cutoff date for transactions included in the pre-primary-election report. Consequently, a candidate for house was subject to audit if the candidate was seeking public subsidy funds, did not use the Campaign Finance Reporter software to submit the original affidavit of contributions, and reported receiving \$3,000 or less in individual contributions between January 1, 2021, and July 18, 2022. Candidates who did not submit the pre-primary report or prior reports by July 25, 2022 or the reported information was not entered into the reporting software by staff, were also subject to the audit regardless of amount reported as the reported amount for the query was below the threshold.

The following audit thresholds were used for the offices being contested in 2022:

Office	Threshold
Senate	\$6,000
House of Representatives	\$3,000

Applying the audit criteria to candidates who were seeking public subsidy resulted in an audit of nine house candidates and ten senate candidates. Attachment A lists the candidates who were subject to the audit.

Reporting individual contributions less than the audit threshold had no effect on a candidate's eligibility for public subsidy payments. It simply determined which candidates would be subject to an audit by the Board to ensure that their certified affidavits of contributions were, in fact, correct and that the candidates actually had raised the required amount in qualifying contributions.

The Board asked each candidate subject to the audit to provide a list of the individual contributions that had been included in the amount required to qualify for public subsidy along with each contributor's name and address. The information was used to determine whether the contributions and the contributors met the criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.323. To be included in the

qualifying amount, a contribution had to have been made by an individual eligible to vote in Minnesota between January 1, 2021, and July 18, 2022. In addition, only the first \$50 from each contributor could be included in the qualifying amount and in-kind contributions could not be considered.

All nineteen committees submitted the requested information. Board staff reviewed the lists of individual contributors provided by the committees against the criteria for eligible qualifying contributions. Jeff Sigurdson, executive director to the Board, was the individual responsible for the audit. Mr. Sigurdson was supported in contacting the committees and evaluating the committees' responses by William Hager, legal analyst.

**Audit finding:**

The following committees subject to the audit did not raise the required amount in qualifying contributions:

- Campaign fund of Victoria A Bird DFL
- Livingston for Senate
- Ken Navitsky for MN State Senate

The remaining sixteen committees subject to the audit raised the required amount in qualifying contributions.

Responsible Staff Person:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Jeff Sigurdson\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_8/15/2022\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Faris Rashid\_\_\_\_\_  
Faris Rashid, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_8/15/2022\_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment A: Candidate committees subject to the audit**

<b>Senate Committees</b>					
<b>Reg. No.</b>	<b>Committee name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>2021 reported contributions</b>	<b>2022 reported contributions</b>	<b>Total reported contributions</b>
19001	Campaign fund of Victoria A Bird DFL	DFL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18840	Brad (Drenckhahn) for State Senate	DFL	\$0.00	\$5,638.49	\$5,638.49
18841	Dan Kessler for MN Senate	DFL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18713	Livingston for Senate	DFL	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
18928	Ken Navitsky for MN State Senate	RPM	\$0.00	\$3,550.00	\$3,550.00
18985	Friends of Diane Nguyen	DFL	\$0.00	\$4,043.18	\$4,043.18
18920	Pafko (Frank) for Senate	RPM	\$0.00	\$3,855.00	\$3,855.00
18615	A. John Peters for MN Senate	DFL	\$600.00	\$3,935.89	\$4,535.89
18616	Samuelson (Steve) for Senate	DFL	\$0.00	\$4,711.00	\$4,711.00
18972	Anita Gaul for State Senate	DFL	\$0.00	\$4,992.40	\$4,992.40

<b>House Committees</b>					
<b>Reg. No.</b>	<b>Committee name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>2021 reported contributions</b>	<b>2022 reported contributions</b>	<b>Total reported contributions</b>
18736	Jennifer for Minnesota	DFL	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
18091	Diesslin (Elise) for House	DFL	\$30.00	\$2,436.25	\$2,466.25
18984	Fisher (Bill) for 31B/ Fisher (Bill) for Mn House	DFL	\$0.00	\$2,655.00	\$2,655.00
18986	Friends of Chad Hobot	DFL	\$0.00	\$1,925.00	\$1,925.00
18813	Newton (Jerry) Campaign Committee	DFL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18922	Andrea Robinson for MN House	DFL	\$0.00	\$2,727.00	\$2,727.00
18846	Carolyn Treadway for MN House of Representatives	DFL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18939	Ulmen (Marisa) for House 22a	DFL	\$0.00	\$2,380.00	\$2,380.00
18493	Wright (Robert) for Us	DFL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00