

## CHAPTER 10A

### ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

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#### 10A.02 BOARD OF ETHICAL PRACTICES.

*[For text of subds 1 to 10, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 11. The board may investigate any alleged violation of this chapter. The board shall investigate any violation which is alleged in a written complaint filed with the board and, except for alleged violations of section 10A.25 or 10A.27, shall within 30 days after the filing of the complaint make a public finding of whether or not there is probable cause to believe a violation has occurred. In the case of a written complaint alleging a violation of section 10A.25 or 10A.27, the board shall either enter a conciliation agreement or make a public finding of whether or not there is probable cause, within 60 days of the filing of the complaint. The deadline for action on any written complaint may be extended by majority vote of the board. Within a reasonable time after beginning an investigation of an individual or association, the board shall notify that individual or association of the fact of the investigation. The board shall make no finding of whether or not there is probable cause to believe a violation has occurred without notifying the individual or association of the nature of the allegations and affording an opportunity to answer those allegations. Any hearing or action of the board concerning any complaint or investigation other than a finding concerning probable cause or a conciliation agreement shall be confidential. Until the board makes a public finding concerning probable cause or enters a conciliation agreement:

(a) No member, employee, or agent of the board shall disclose to any individual any information obtained by that member, employee, or agent concerning any complaint or investigation except as required to carry out the investigation or take action in the matter as authorized by this chapter; and

(b) Any individual who discloses information contrary to the provisions of this subdivision shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Except as provided in section 10A.28, after the board makes a public finding of probable cause the board shall report that finding to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

*[For text of subds 11a to 13, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 214 s 1

#### 10A.12 POLITICAL FUNDS.

*[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 5. Notwithstanding subdivision 1, any association may, if not prohibited by other law, deposit in its political fund money derived from dues or membership fees. Pursuant to section 10A.20, the treasurer of the fund shall disclose the name of any member whose dues, membership fees and contributions deposited in the political fund together exceed \$100 in any one year.

*[For text of subd 6, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 214 s 2

**10A.20 CAMPAIGN REPORTS.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 3. Each report under this section shall disclose:

(a) The amount of liquid assets on hand at the beginning of the reporting period;

(b) The name, address and employer, or occupation if self-employed, of each individual, political committee or political fund who within the year has made one or more transfers or donations in kind to the political committee or political fund, including the purchase of tickets for all fund raising efforts, which in aggregate exceed \$100 for legislative or statewide candidates or ballot questions, together with the amount and date of each transfer or donation in kind, and the aggregate amount of transfers and donations in kind within the year from each source so disclosed. A donation in kind shall be disclosed at its fair market value. An approved expenditure is listed as a donation in kind. A donation in kind is considered consumed in the reporting period in which it is received. The names of contributors shall be listed in alphabetical order;

(c) The sum of contributions to the political committee or political fund during the reporting period;

(d) Each loan made or received by the political committee or political fund within the year in aggregate in excess of \$100, continuously reported until repaid or forgiven, together with the name, address, occupation and the principal place of business, if any, of the lender and any endorser and the date and amount of the loan. If any loan made to the principal campaign committee of a candidate is forgiven at any time or repaid by any entity other than that principal campaign committee, it shall be reported as a contribution for the year in which the loan was made;

(e) Each receipt in excess of \$100 not otherwise listed under clauses (b) to (d);

(f) The sum of all receipts of the political committee or political fund during the reporting period;

(g) The name and address of each individual or association to whom aggregate expenditures, including approved expenditures, have been made by or on behalf of the political committee or political fund within the year in excess of \$100, together with the amount, date and purpose of each expenditure and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf the expenditure was made, identification of the ballot question which the expenditure is intended to promote or defeat, and in the case of independent expenditures made in opposition to a candidate, the name, address and office sought for each such candidate;

(h) The sum of all expenditures made by or on behalf of the political committee or political fund during the reporting period;

(i) The amount and nature of any advance of credit incurred by the political committee or political fund, continuously reported until paid or forgiven. If any advance of credit incurred by the principal campaign committee of a candidate is forgiven at any time by the creditor or paid by any entity other than that principal campaign committee, it shall be reported as a donation in kind for the year in which the advance of credit was incurred;

(j) The name and address of each political committee, political fund, or principal campaign committee to which aggregate transfers in excess of \$100 have been made within the year, together with the amount and date of each transfer;

(k) The sum of all transfers made by the political committee, political fund, or principal campaign committee during the reporting period;

(l) For principal campaign committees only, the sum of noncampaign disbursements made in each category listed in section 10A.01, subdivision 10c, during the reporting period; and

(m) The sum of all noncampaign disbursements made by the political committee, political fund, or principal campaign committee during the reporting period.

*[For text of subds 3a and 4, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 5. In any statewide election any contribution or contributions from any one source totaling \$2,000 or more, or in any legislative election totaling more than \$400, received between the last day covered in the last report prior to an election and the election shall be reported to the board in one of the following ways:

- (1) in person within 48 hours after its receipt;
- (2) by telegram or mailgram within 48 hours after its receipt; or
- (3) by certified mail sent within 48 hours after its receipt.

These contributions must also be reported in the next required report.

*[For text of subds 6 to 12, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 214 s 3,4

## 10A.25 LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 2. In a year in which an election is held for an office sought by a candidate, no expenditures shall be made by the principal campaign committee of that candidate, nor any approved expenditures made on behalf of that candidate which expenditures and approved expenditures result in an aggregate amount in excess of the following:

- (a) For governor and lieutenant governor, running together, \$600,000;
- (b) For attorney general, \$100,000;
- (c) For secretary of state, state treasurer, and state auditor, separately, \$50,000;
- (d) For state senator, \$15,000;
- (e) For state representative, \$7,500.

*[For text of subds 3 to 6, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 7. On or before December 31 of each year the board shall determine and publish in the State Register the expenditure limits for each office for the next calendar year as prescribed by subdivision 2.

*[For text of subd 10, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 214 s 5,6

## 10A.255 ADJUSTMENT BY CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

Subdivision 1. **Method of calculation.** The dollar amounts provided in section 10A.25, subdivision 2, must be adjusted for general election years as provided in this section. By June 1 of the general election year, the executive director of the board shall determine the percentage increase in the consumer price index from December of the year preceding the general election year to December of the year preceding the year in which the determination is made. The dollar amounts used for the preceding general election year must be multiplied by that percentage. The product of the calculation must be added to each dollar amount to produce the dollar limitations to be in effect for the next general election. The product must be rounded up to the next highest whole dollar. The index used must be the revised consumer price index for all urban consumers for the St. Paul-Minneapolis metropolitan area prepared by the United States Department of Labor with 1967 as a base year.

Subd. 2. **Transitional period.** (a) The dollar amounts provided in section 10A.25, subdivision 2, must be adjusted for 1988 in the manner provided in subdivision 1, except that the percentage increase in the consumer price index must be determined from April of 1986 to December of 1987 and the adjustment must be calculated by the executive director by June 1, 1988.

(b) Except for the office of state representative in the legislature, the dollar amounts

provided in section 10A.25, subdivision 2, must be adjusted for 1990 in the manner provided in subdivision 1, except that the percentage increase in the consumer price index must be determined from April of 1986 to December of 1989 and the adjustment must be calculated by the executive director by June 1, 1990.

**History:** 1987 c 214 s 7

#### **10A.31 DESIGNATION OF INCOME TAX PAYMENTS.**

Subdivision 1. Every individual resident of Minnesota who files an income tax return or a renter and homeowner property tax refund return with the commissioner of revenue may designate on their original return that \$5 shall be paid from the general fund of the state into the state elections campaign fund. If a husband and wife file a joint return, each spouse may designate that \$5 shall be paid. No individual shall be allowed to designate \$5 more than once in any year.

Subd. 2. The taxpayer may designate that the amount designated be paid into the account of a political party or into the general account.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of the department of revenue shall provide on the first page of the income tax form and the renter and homeowner property tax refund return a space for the individual to indicate a wish to allocate \$5 (\$10 if filing a joint return) from the general fund of the state to finance the election campaigns of state candidates. The form shall also contain language prepared by the commissioner which permits the individual to direct the state to allocate the \$5 (or \$10 if filing a joint return) to: (i) one of the major political parties; (ii) any minor political party as defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 13, which qualifies under the provisions of subdivision 3a; or (iii) all qualifying candidates as provided by subdivision 7. The renter and homeowner property tax refund return shall include instructions that the individual filing the return may designate \$5 on the return only if the individual has not designated \$5 on the income tax return.

*[For text of subds 3a to 11, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 268 art 1 s 1-3

#### **10A.32 LIMITATIONS UPON THE STATE ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 3. As a condition of receiving any money from the state elections campaign fund, a candidate shall agree by stating in writing to the board that (a) the candidate's expenditures and approved expenditures shall not exceed the expenditure limits as set forth in section 10A.25 and that (b) the candidate shall not accept contributions or allow approved expenditures to be made on the candidate's behalf for the period beginning with January 1 of the election year or with the registration of the candidate's principal campaign committee, whichever occurs later, and ending December 31 of the election year, which aggregate contributions and approved expenditures exceed the difference between the amount in excess of 25 percent of the expenditure limits set forth in section 10A.25, but not exceeding \$15,000, which may legally be expended by or for the candidate, and the amount which the candidate receives from the state elections campaign fund. The agreement, insofar as it relates to the expenditure limits set forth in section 10A.25, remains effective until the dissolution of the principal campaign committee of the candidate or the opening of filings for the next succeeding election to the office held or sought at the time of agreement, whichever occurs first. Money in the account of the principal campaign committee of a candidate on January 1 of the election year for the office held or sought shall be considered contributions accepted by that candidate in that year for the purposes of this subdivision. That amount of all contributions accepted by a candidate in an election year which equals the amount of noncampaign disbursements and contributions and expenditures to promote or defeat a ballot question which are made by that candidate in that year shall not count toward the aggregate contributions and approved expenditure limit imposed by this subdivi-

sion. Any amount by which the aggregate contributions and approved expenditures agreed to under clause (b) exceed the difference shall be returned to the state treasurer in the manner provided in subdivision 2. In no case shall the amount returned exceed the amount received from the state elections campaign fund.

The candidate may submit the signed agreement to the filing officer on the day of filing the affidavit of candidacy or petition to appear on the ballot, or to the board no later than September 1.

The board prior to the first day of filing for office shall forward forms for the agreement to all filing officers. The filing officer shall without delay forward signed agreements to the board. An agreement may not be rescinded after September 1.

For the purposes of this subdivision only, the total amount to be distributed to each candidate is calculated to be the candidate's share of the total estimated funds in the candidate's party account as provided in subdivision 3a, plus the total amount estimated as provided in subdivision 3a to be in the general account of the state elections campaign fund and set aside for that office divided by the number of candidates whose names are to appear on the general election ballot for that office. If for any reason the amount actually received by the candidate is greater than the candidate's share of the estimate, and the contributions thereby exceed the difference, the agreement shall not be considered violated.

*[For text of subds 3a to 4, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 214 s 8