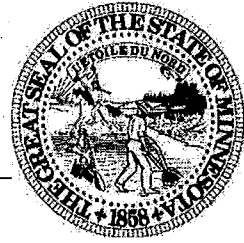


Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

190 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55155

www.cfboard.state.mn.us



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.



Name of complaint filer	Mark Liebow		
Address	1018 Hickory Lane, SW	Email address	mark.liebow@gmail.com
City, state, and zip	Rochester, MN 55902	Telephone (Daytime)	507-261-3025



Name of person/entity being complained about	Nels (Pierson III) for House		
Address	1531 Wickford Place, NE		
City, state, zip	Byron, MN 55920		
Title of respondent (If applicable)	Charlie Martinson		
Board/Department/Agency/District # (If legislator)	House District 26B		

Mark Liebow

Signature of person filing complaint

August 5, 2020

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 651-539-1190, 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, 10A.025 Subd. 2(b) or Minnesota Rules you believe has been violated:

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.

Name 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.

Nels Pierson III filed for office in 2020. He did not file by petition, according to election officials in Olmsted County where he filed, so must have paid a filing fee of \$100. The filing fee should have been reported as a non-campaign disbursement, whether it was paid out of the campaign's account or by the candidate (or anyone else). However, the pre-primary report for Pierson's committee (Registration # 17651) indicated a total of \$7.04 for disbursements of all kinds. Accordingly, its report is not accurate in that it omitted required information and so violates the statute cited above "An individual shall not sign and certify to be true a report or statement knowing it contains false information or knowing it omits required information."

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.