

6-12-2023
State of Minnesota First Judicial District
Caroline H. Lennon
Chief Judge
Scott County Judicial Center
200 Fourth Ave. West
Shakopee, MN 55379

Your Honor:

I write to provide my information you requested regarding the nomination for the Red Wing Charter Commission, I will further explain the ruling by the State Office of Administrative Hearings in my recent case.

1. Carol Overland brought a complaint forward late in 2022. She stated:
 - a. Draskowski as organizer of the Citizens for Responsible Government mailed a flyer to approximately 6500 Red Wing residents (TRUE)
 - b. Citizens for Responsible Government included the disclaimer, "Written and produced by Citizens for Responsible Government, PO Box 519 Red Wing, MN. 55066 without any candidate involvement or endorsement." (TRUE)
 - c. Further, Overland claimed there was not an active Post Office Box at PO Box 519, Red Wing, MN 55066 (NOT TRUE)

2. In the matter brought forth to the Office of Administrative Hearing, the following was found in their ruling 2/3/2023:
 - a. Citizens for Responsible Government did in fact not have the exact wording on the disclaimer. The exact wording should state: "This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by Citizens for Responsible Government, PO Box 519, Red Wing, MN. 55066. It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it". Rather we stated, "Written and produced by Citizens for Responsible Government, PO Box 519 Red Wing, MN. 55066 without any candidate involvement or endorsement."
 - b. Overland's claim there was not a valid Post Office box was disproved, after a receipt was provided to Overland during the hearing.

3. All of the relevant forms and campaign expenditures by Citizens for Responsible Government were provided to the Office of Administrative hearings, and there was not any contention or actions there were any errors in the campaign finance filings.

4. The Office of Administrative Hearings found Citizens for Responsible Government, did in fact not have the disclaimer properly worded, stated under the ruling on page 6, number 11, "Under such circumstances, the panel further concludes that the resulting penalty for the disclaimer error on the mailer that was circulated to 6,500 potential voters is \$200." We accepted the ruling and paid the fine.
5. Not that it is relevant, the letter from Reverend Eick, stated "Citizens for Responsible Government, Thomas Drazkowski as the principle organizer committed Campaign Finance violations." This is not true, as the error in the disclaimer was not a Campaign Finance Violation, but an administrative error. I take great offense to questioning my integrity, by Reverend Eick. I have served on the Board of a local church in Red Wing, I have and continue to serve on multiple Advisory Boards with companies I do business with for over 25 years, I served 9 years on the Goodhue County Planning Commission, 1 year as Board Chair, and currently serve as the Chair of the Red Wing Ignite Board of Directors. (a non-profit business advisory organization) I am also President of a Minnesota based Corporation, and have been in that capacity for 36 years.
6. I was nominated by a majority of the City Council for the Red Wing Charter Commission in April 2023. My only mission is to serve the City of Red Wing as a long-time resident and continue to serve as an actively involved citizen.

I remain humbly and respectfully yours,

Thomas Drazkowski
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