

1 **FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

2 **FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT**

3 **RR 21L-67**

4 DATE REFERRED: Nov. 18, 2021

5 DATE OF NOTIFICATION: Nov. 19, 2021

6 DATE OF LAST RESPONSE: Jan. 18, 2022

7 DATE ACTIVATED: Feb. 28, 2022

8 EXPIRATION OF SOL: Sept. 4-Dec. 3, 2025

9 ELECTION CYCLE: 2020

10 **SOURCE:** Internally Generated

11 **RESPONDENT:** Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal and  
12 Lee Prinkkila in his official capacity as treasurer

13 **RELEVANT STATUTES  
14 AND REGULATIONS:**

15 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(1), (b)(2), (b)(4)

16 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f)

17 11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a), (b)

18 11 C.F.R. § 110.1(c)(5)

19 11 C.F.R. § 110.9

20 **INTERNAL REPORTS CHECKED:** Disclosure Reports

21 **FEDERAL AGENCIES CHECKED:** None

22 **I. INTRODUCTION**

23 The Reports Analysis Division (“RAD”) referred the Republican Party of Minnesota —  
24 Federal and Lee Prinkkila in his official capacity as treasurer (the “Committee”)<sup>1</sup> to the Office of  
25 General Counsel (“OGC”) for potential violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971,  
26 as amended (the “Act”), and Commission regulations, arising from its failure to timely and

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<sup>1</sup> The Committee’s treasurer at the time of the activity relevant to this matter was Bron Scherer. Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Amended Statement of Organization at 3 (Oct. 27, 2020), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/197/202010279336627197/202010279336627197.pdf>. Lee Prinkkila became the Committee’s current treasurer on October 14, 2021. Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Amended Statement of Organization at 3 (Oct. 14, 2021) [hereinafter Amended Statement of Organization], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/539/202110149467253539/202110149467253539.pdf>. The Committee is currently also the subject of an Audit Referral from the 2017-2018 election cycle. See Referral (Feb. 11, 2022), AR 22-01 (Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal).

1 accurately disclose \$1,141,171.06 in aggregate receipts and disbursements on its 2020 12-Day  
2 Pre-General Report and \$698,253.00 in aggregate receipts and disbursements on its 2020 30-Day  
3 Post-General Report.<sup>2</sup> In addition, RAD referred the Committee for potential violations arising  
4 from its receipt of excessive contributions totaling \$58,911.03 from 11 individuals reported on  
5 its 2020 October Monthly, 2020 12-Day Pre-General, and 2020 30-Day Post-General Reports  
6 that were not refunded within the permissible timeframe.<sup>3</sup>

7 For the reasons set forth below, we recommend that the Commission: (1) open a Matter  
8 Under Review; (2) find reason to believe that the Committee violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2)  
9 and (4) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a) and (b) by failing to timely and accurately report receipts and  
10 disbursements; (3) find reason to believe that the Committee violated 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f) and  
11 11 C.F.R. § 110.9 by accepting excessive contributions; and (4) enter into pre-probable cause  
12 conciliation with the Committee.

## 13 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

14 The Committee is a state party committee of the Republican Party and Lee Prinkkila is  
15 the Committee's current treasurer.<sup>4</sup> The Committee's cash on hand as of May 31, 2022, is  
16 \$194,323.07.<sup>5</sup> Trump Victory is a joint fundraising committee that, at the relevant time, was

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<sup>2</sup> Referral at 1-3 (Nov. 18, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 3-6.

<sup>4</sup> Amended Statement of Organization at 2; Resp. at 1 (Jan. 18, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, 2022 June Monthly Report at 2 (June 20, 2022) [hereinafter 2022 June Monthly Report], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/651/202206209515128651/202206209515128651.pdf>.

1 collecting contributions for Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., the Republican National  
2 Committee (the “RNC”), and 46 Republican state party committees, including the Committee.<sup>6</sup>

3 **A. Failure to Timely and Accurately Disclose Financial Activity**

4 RAD referred this matter to OGC for the Committee’s failure to timely and accurately  
5 disclose receipts and disbursements on its 2020 12-Day Pre-General and 2020 30-Day Post-  
6 General Reports.<sup>7</sup> The Committee filed its original 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report on  
7 October 22, 2020, on which it disclosed \$31,039.01 in receipts identified as Transfers from  
8 Affiliated/Other Party Committees on Line 12 and \$242,908.36 in disbursements identified as  
9 Other Federal Operating Expenditures on Line 21(b).<sup>8</sup> On March 1, 2021, the Committee filed  
10 an Amended 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report, on which it disclosed \$601,624.54 in receipts on  
11 Line 12 and \$813,493.89 in disbursements on Line 21(b).<sup>9</sup> This amendment reflects an  
12 aggregate increase of \$1,141,171.06 in activity on the 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report that  
13 corresponds to one additional receipt from Trump Victory, and one additional disbursement to  
14 the RNC, each in the amount of \$570,585.53 on October 7, 2020.<sup>10</sup>

15 The Committee filed its original 2020 30-Day Post-General Report on December 3, 2020,  
16 on which it disclosed \$46,108.84 in receipts identified as Transfers from Affiliated/Other Party

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<sup>6</sup> Trump Victory, Amended Statement of Organization at 2, 9 (Sept. 23, 2020), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/840/202009239284716840/202009239284716840.pdf>; *see also* Resp. at 1-2 (“Trump Victory . . . was a joint fundraising committee comprised of Donald J. Trump for President, the Republican National Committee . . . , and numerous other state political party committees.”).

<sup>7</sup> Referral at 1-3.

<sup>8</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report at 3-4 (Oct. 22, 2020) [hereinafter Original 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/365/202010229333111365/202010229333111365.pdf>; *see* Referral at 2.

<sup>9</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Amended 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report at 3-4 (Mar. 1, 2021) [hereinafter Amended 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/865/202103019431295865/202103019431295865.pdf>; *see* Referral at 2.

<sup>10</sup> *Compare* Original 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report, *with* Amended 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report at 3-4, 39, 100. *See* Referral at 2.

1 Committees on Line 12 and \$544,109.76 in disbursements identified as Other Federal Operating  
2 Expenditures on Line 21(b).<sup>11</sup> On March 2 and 15, 2021, the Committee filed amendments to its  
3 2020 30-Day Post-General Report, on which it ultimately disclosed \$395,235.34 in receipts on  
4 Line 12 and \$893,236.26 in disbursements on Line 21(b).<sup>12</sup> These amendments reflect an  
5 aggregate increase of \$698,253.00 in activity on the 2020 30-Day Post-General Report that  
6 correspond to five additional receipts from Trump Victory totaling \$349,126.50, and five  
7 additional disbursements to the RNC totaling \$349,126.50.<sup>13</sup>

8 On April 18, 2021, RAD sent Requests for Additional Information (“RFAI”) to the  
9 Committee requesting clarification regarding the substantial increase in activity on the Amended  
10 2020 12-Day Pre-General and 2020 30-Day Post-General Reports.<sup>14</sup> On May 24, 2021, the  
11 Committee filed Form 99s in response, stating that the increase in activity reported “was due to  
12 the transfers . . . inadvertently being left off of” the original reports and its receipts and  
13 disbursements were “correctly and properly reported” on the amended reports.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, 2020 30-Day Post-General Report at 3-4 (Dec. 3, 2020) [hereinafter Original 2020 30-Day Post-General Report], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/395/202012039340961395/202012039340961395.pdf>; see Referral at 2-3.

<sup>12</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Amended 2020 30-Day Post-General Report at 3-4 (Mar. 15, 2021) [hereinafter Second Amended 2020 30-Day Post-General Report], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/643/202103159440481643/202103159440481643.pdf>; see Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Amended 2020 30-Day Post-General Report at 3-4 (Mar. 2, 2021), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/100/202103029431311100/202103029431311100.pdf> (disclosing \$298,479.02 in receipts on Line 12 and \$796,479.94 in disbursements on Line 21(b)); Referral at 2-3.

<sup>13</sup> Compare Original 2020 30-Day Post-General Report, with Second Amended 2020 30-Day Post-General Report at 3-4, 102, 108, 110, 115, 120, 183-84. See Referral at 2-3.

<sup>14</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Request for Additional Info. (“RFAI”) at 1 (Apr. 18, 2021) [hereinafter First April 18, 2021 RFAI], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/043/202104180300116043/202104180300116043.pdf>; Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, RFAI at 1 (Apr. 18, 2021) [hereinafter Second April 18, 2021 RFAI], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/047/202104180300116047/202104180300116047.pdf>; see Referral at 2-3.

<sup>15</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Form 99 (May 24, 2021) [hereinafter First May 24, 2021 Form 99], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/229/202105249447382229/202105249447382229.pdf>; Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Form 99 (May 24, 2021) [hereinafter Second May 24, 2021 Form 99], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/230/202105249447382230/202105249447382230.pdf>; see Referral at 2-3.

1           **B.       Receipt of Excessive Contributions**

2           RAD also referred this matter for the Committee's receipt of excessive contributions and  
3 failure to timely refund those contributions within the permissible timeframe.<sup>16</sup> The Referral  
4 states that the Committee reported \$58,911.03 in contributions from 11 individuals on its 2020  
5 October Monthly, 2020 12-Day Pre-General, and 2020 30-Day Post-General Reports that appear  
6 to exceed the limits set forth in the Act.<sup>17</sup> The Committee subsequently reported a refund of one  
7 of those excessive contributions in the amount of \$10,000.00 on March 22, 2021, outside of the  
8 permissible timeframe.<sup>18</sup>

9           On February 8, April 18, and June 20, 2021, RAD sent RFAs to the Committee  
10 requesting clarification regarding the excessive contributions accepted by the Committee.<sup>19</sup> On  
11 March 15, May 24, and July 26, 2021, the Committee filed Form 99s in response, stating that the

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<sup>16</sup> Referral at 3-6.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* at 3-6, Attach. 2; Resp., Ex. 1. It appears that one of the individual contributors, Geoffrey Palmer, made an additional \$10,000 excessive contribution to the Committee in 2020 beyond the \$20,000 in aggregate contributions identified by RAD in the relevant RFAI and the Referral. Compare Referral, Attach. 2, and First April 18, 2021 RFAI, with *FEC Individual Contributions: Filtered Results*, FEC.gov, [https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?committee\\_id=C00001313&contributor\\_name=geoff+palmer&contributor\\_name=geoffrey+palmer&two\\_year\\_transaction\\_period=2020](https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?committee_id=C00001313&contributor_name=geoff+palmer&contributor_name=geoffrey+palmer&two_year_transaction_period=2020) (last visited June 21, 2022) (reflecting three individual contributions by Geoff(rey) Palmer in 2019-2020). The additional \$10,000, although earliest in time, was not yet disclosed as of the date of the relevant RFAI, and thus, was not referenced in the Referral or the Committee's Response and is not included in our recommendations here.

<sup>18</sup> Referral at 4, Attach. 2; Resp. at 1-2; Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, 2021 April Monthly Report at 64 (Apr. 20, 2021) [hereinafter 2021 April Monthly Report], <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/218/202104209444387218/202104209444387218.pdf#navpanes=0>.

<sup>19</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, RFAI at 2, Attach. (Feb. 8, 2021), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/842/202102080300104842/202102080300104842.pdf>; First April 18, 2021 RFAI at 1-2, Attach.; Second April 18, 2021 RFAI at 1-2, Attach.; Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, RFAI at 1-2, Attach. (June 20, 2021), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/742/202106200300119742/202106200300119742.pdf>; Referral at 3-5.

1 excessive contributions were “inadvertent” and that the excessive amounts would be refunded to  
2 the contributing individuals.<sup>20</sup>

### 3 **C. Response to the Referral**

4 In response to the Referral, the Committee acknowledges the omissions made in the  
5 original 2020 12-Day Pre-General and 2020 30-Day Post-General Reports and acknowledges the  
6 receipt of excessive contributions.<sup>21</sup> The Committee requests that the Commission transfer the  
7 Referral to the Alternate Dispute Resolution Office (“ADRO”) in light of the inadvertent nature  
8 of the violations, the Committee’s self-reporting of the omissions via amendments to its reports,  
9 the steps it has taken to ensure future violations arising from participation in joint fundraising  
10 committees do not occur again, and the lack of informational harm to the public.<sup>22</sup> Furthermore,  
11 the Committee states that it has already refunded and reported the refund of \$10,000 of the  
12 excessive contributions — albeit outside of the permissible timeframe — and contends that three  
13 additional identified contributions totaling \$10,000 were not, “in fact, excessive and are merely  
14 reporting errors.”<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Form 99 (Mar. 15, 2021), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/401/202103159440483401/202103159440483401.pdf>; Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, Form 99 (July 26, 2021), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/483/202107269451992483/202107269451992483.pdf>; First May 24, 2021 Form 99; Second May 24, 2021 Form 99; Referral at 3-5.

<sup>21</sup> Resp. at 1-2, Ex. 1.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 3-4. Regarding the steps taken to prevent future violations, the Committee states that it is “adding a section to its compliance manual that specifically focuses on joint fundraising,” which will include “specific internal compliance measures and practices” and “list steps to . . . vet potential contributions received via joint fundraising committees for compliance with contribution limits.” *Id.* at 3.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.* at 1-2, Ex. 1.

1 **III. LEGAL ANALYSIS**

2 **A. The Commission Should Find Reason to Believe That the Committee Failed**  
3 **to Timely and Accurately Report Receipts and Disbursements**

4 The Act requires committee treasurers to file reports of receipts and disbursements in  
5 accordance with the provisions of 52 U.S.C. § 30104.<sup>24</sup> These reports must include, *inter alia*,  
6 the total amount of receipts and disbursements, including the appropriate itemizations, where  
7 required.<sup>25</sup>

8 Here, the Committee acknowledges that it omitted receipts and disbursements on its  
9 original 2020 12-Day Pre-General and 2020 30-Day Post-General Reports.<sup>26</sup> On its Amended  
10 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report, the Committee disclosed additional receipts and disbursements  
11 totaling \$1,141,171.06.<sup>27</sup> On its Amended 2020 30-Day Post-General Report, the Committee  
12 also disclosed additional receipts and disbursements totaling \$698,253.00.<sup>28</sup> Therefore, the  
13 Committee did not comply with the Act's reporting requirements when it failed to timely and  
14 accurately report \$1,839,424.06 in aggregate receipts and disbursements.

15 In response to the Referral, the Committee states that the omissions made on its original  
16 2020 12-Day Pre-General and 2020 30-Day Post General Reports were "inadvertent," and that it  
17 has "proactively" corrected those mistakes by filing amended reports and has taken steps "to  
18 ensure that inadvertent reporting errors . . . due to participation in multiple joint fundraising

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<sup>24</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(1); 11 C.F.R. § 104.1(a).

<sup>25</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2), (4); 11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a), (b).

<sup>26</sup> Resp. at 1-2.

<sup>27</sup> Referral at 2; *see supra* note 10. Compare Original 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report at 3-4, with Amended 2020 12-Day Pre-General Report at 3-4.

<sup>28</sup> Referral at 2-3; *see supra* note 13. Compare Original 2020 30-Day Post-General Report at 3-4, with Second Amended 2020 30-Day Post-General Report at 3-4.

1 committees do not occur again in the future.”<sup>29</sup> In light of those circumstances and its assertion  
2 that the omissions “did not harm the public’s informational interest” where the transfers were  
3 reported on the joint fundraising and other political committee’s reports, the Committee requests  
4 that the Commission transfer this matter to ADRO.<sup>30</sup>

5 This matter was appropriately referred by RAD to OGC under Standards 5 and 7 of  
6 RAD’s Review and Referral Procedures.<sup>31</sup> In similar circumstances involving state party  
7 committees that made inadvertent reporting errors by omitting receipts and disbursements arising  
8 from participation in joint fundraising arrangements, the Commission has consistently found  
9 reason to believe and engaged in pre-probable cause conciliation with the relevant state party,  
10 incorporating the self-reported nature of the reporting violations into its calculation of the civil  
11 penalty.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, the Commission has noted that, in the joint fundraising context, “other  
12 participating committees disclosing the types of transactions at issue here does not vitiate the  
13 violation,” because, under Commission regulations, both the joint fundraising and participating  
14 committees are required to report all receipts and disbursements.<sup>33</sup>

15 Accordingly, we recommend that the Commission find reason to believe that the  
16 Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal and Lee Prinkkila in his official capacity as treasurer

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<sup>29</sup> Resp. at 1-3.

<sup>30</sup> *Id.* at 3-4.

<sup>31</sup> See Memorandum from Patricia C. Orrock, Chief Compliance Officer, FEC, to Lisa J. Stevenson, Acting Gen. Couns., FEC (Nov. 18, 2021). The Committee’s increased activity on the Amended 2020 30-Day Post-General Report was referable to ADRO, but it was included in the Referral consistent with RAD’s procedures to limit unnecessary duplicate consideration of matters. *Id.* at 1-2.

<sup>32</sup> See, e.g., Factual & Legal Analysis (“F&LA”) at 2-3, MUR 7877 (Tennessee Democratic Party); Conciliation Agreement, MUR 7877 (Tennessee Democratic Party); F&LA at 4-6, MUR 7603 (Wyoming Republican Party, Inc.); Conciliation Agreement, MUR 7603 (Wyoming Republican Party, Inc.); see also, e.g., F&LA at 3-4, MUR 7999 (Republican Party of Arkansas) Certification (“Cert.”) ¶ 3.d (May 16, 2022), MUR 7999 (Republican Party of Arkansas) (voting to enter pre-probable cause conciliation)

<sup>33</sup> F&LA at 4, MUR 7599 (Nevada State Democratic Party) (citing 11 C.F.R. § 102.17(c)(8)(i), (ii)); F&LA at 4, MUR 7598 (Democratic Party of South Carolina) (same).



1 violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2) and (4) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a) and (b) by failing to timely  
2 and accurately report receipts and disbursements.

3 **B. The Commission Should Find Reason to Believe That the Committee**  
4 **Accepted Excessive Contributions**

5 The Act provides that no person shall make contributions to a political committee  
6 established and maintained by a state committee of a political party in any calendar year that, in  
7 the aggregate, exceed \$10,000.<sup>34</sup> Likewise, the Act prohibits political committees from  
8 knowingly accepting an excessive contribution.<sup>35</sup> When a committee receives a contribution that  
9 on its face exceeds the limits or which exceeds the limits when aggregated with other  
10 contributions from the same contributor, the Commission's regulations give the committee 60  
11 days from the date of contribution receipt to refund, redesignate, or reattribute the excessive  
12 amount.<sup>36</sup>

13 Here, the Committee appears to have accepted excessive contributions from  
14 11 individuals totaling \$58,911.03, as disclosed on its 2020 October Monthly Report, 2020 12-  
15 Day Pre-General Report, 2020 30-Day Post-General Report, and amendments thereto.<sup>37</sup> The  
16 Referral and the Committee's 2021 April Monthly Report reflect that the Committee has  
17 refunded one excessive contribution of \$10,000.00 over five months after it was received.<sup>38</sup> In  
18 sum, the available information indicates that the Committee has accepted excessive contributions

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<sup>34</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a)(1)(D); 11 C.F.R. § 110.1(c)(5).

<sup>35</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f); 11 C.F.R. § 110.9.

<sup>36</sup> See 11 C.F.R. §§ 103.3(b)(3), 110.1(c)(5).

<sup>37</sup> Referral at 3-6; see *supra* notes 16-17.

<sup>38</sup> Referral, Attach. 2; Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal, 2020 October Monthly Report at 31, 34 (Oct. 20, 2020), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/861/202010209298272861/202010209298272861.pdf>; 2021 April Monthly Report at 64; see also Resp. at 1-2.

1 from 11 individuals totaling \$58,911.03, of which it has only refunded \$10,000, and that outside  
2 of the permissible timeframe.

3 In response to the Referral, the Committee acknowledges that it accepted excessive  
4 contributions from eight of the individuals identified in the Referral.<sup>39</sup> The Committee contends  
5 that the contributions from the remaining three identified individuals, “appeared,” but were not,  
6 “excessive due to inadvertent reporting errors,” and that it would amend its disclosure reports to  
7 correct the errors.<sup>40</sup> The Committee further states that it is determining whether any of the eight  
8 acknowledged excessive contributions can be remedied by reversing the allocations from Trump  
9 Victory in a subsequent distribution and, where that is not possible or applicable, it will refund  
10 the excessive contributions.<sup>41</sup> Broadly, the Committee states that it has been “unable to refund  
11 the remaining excessive contributions due to its limited cash-on-hand” and is committed to  
12 refunding the remaining excessive contributions “as funds become available.”<sup>42</sup>

13 However, Commission disclosure reports reflect that, through the end of April 2022, the  
14 Committee has only refunded one excessive contribution and does not appear to have amended  
15 the relevant disclosure reports to reflect the reporting errors as it stated it would in its

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<sup>39</sup> See Resp. at 1-3, Ex. 1.

<sup>40</sup> See *id.* Of the \$58,911.03 in aggregate excessive contributions identified in the Referral, the Committee contends that it only accepted \$48,911.03 in aggregate excessive contributions. *Id.* at 2. The Committee asserts that it reversed the identified \$3,500 excessive contribution from David Fischer transferred from Trump Victory within the permissible 60-day timeframe, but “inadvertently omitted a negative entry to disclose its corrective action.” *Id.* at 2, 5-6, Ex. 1. The Committee further asserts that it inaccurately reported the amount of the contributions from Syed Anwar and Michael Hodges that were transferred from Trump Victory. *Id.* Specifically, the Committee states that it received \$7,350 from Anwar instead of the \$10,000 reported (a difference of \$2,650) and \$3,500 from Hodges instead of the \$7,350 reported (a difference of \$3,850). *Id.*

<sup>41</sup> *Id.* at 3, Ex. 1.

<sup>42</sup> *Id.* at 3. However, as noted above, the Committee reported \$194,323.07 cash on hand as of May 31, 2022. See 2022 June Monthly Report at 2; *supra* note 5.

1 Response.<sup>43</sup> Accordingly, we recommend that the Commission find reason to believe that the  
2 Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal and Lee Prinkkila in his official capacity as treasurer  
3 violated 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f) and 11 C.F.R. § 110.9 by accepting excessive contributions.  
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<sup>43</sup> See 2021 April Monthly Report at 64 (reflecting a refund of excessive contribution in the amount of \$10,000); *FEC Disbursements: Filtered Results*, FEC.gov, [https://www.fec.gov/data/disbursements/?%E2%80%8Ccommittee\\_id=C00001313&data\\_type=processed&committee\\_id=C00001313&recipient\\_name=ant+hony+lomangino&recipient\\_name=august+busch&recipient\\_name=david+fischer&recipient\\_name=geoffrey+palmer&recipient\\_name=lewis+topper&recipient\\_name=martin+harmon&recipient\\_name=michael+hodges&recipient\\_name=richard+roberts&recipient\\_name=syed+anwar&recipient\\_name=walter+buckley&two\\_year\\_transaction\\_period=2022&two\\_year\\_transaction\\_period=2020&min\\_date=01%2F01%2F2021&max\\_date=12%2F31%2F2022](https://www.fec.gov/data/disbursements/?%E2%80%8Ccommittee_id=C00001313&data_type=processed&committee_id=C00001313&recipient_name=ant+hony+lomangino&recipient_name=august+busch&recipient_name=david+fischer&recipient_name=geoffrey+palmer&recipient_name=lewis+topper&recipient_name=martin+harmon&recipient_name=michael+hodges&recipient_name=richard+roberts&recipient_name=syed+anwar&recipient_name=walter+buckley&two_year_transaction_period=2022&two_year_transaction_period=2020&min_date=01%2F01%2F2021&max_date=12%2F31%2F2022) (last visited June 21, 2022) (reflecting no disbursements by the Committee to the 10 remaining individuals from whom it received excessive contributions); *see also* Referral, Attach. 2; Resp. at 1-2; *supra* note 38.

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1    **V.    RECOMMENDATIONS**

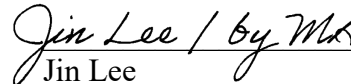
- 2           1.    Open a Matter Under Review;
- 3           2.    Find reason to believe that the Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal and Lee  
4           Prinkkila in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2)  
5           and (4) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a) and (b) by failing to timely and accurately report  
6           receipts and disbursements;
- 7           3.    Find reason to believe that the Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal and Lee  
8           Prinkkila in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f) and  
9           11 C.F.R. § 110.9 by accepting excessive contributions;
- 10          4.    Enter into conciliation with the Republican Party of Minnesota — Federal and  
11          Lee Prinkkila in his official capacity as treasurer prior to a finding of probable  
12          cause to believe;
- 13          5.    Approve the attached Factual and Legal Analysis;
- 14          6.    Approve the attached Conciliation Agreement; and

1           7.     Approve the appropriate letter.

2                                    Lisa J. Stevenson  
3                                    Acting General Counsel

4                                    Charles Kitcher  
5                                    Associate General Counsel for Enforcement

6     June 22, 2022  
7     Date  
8

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jin Lee  
Deputy Associate General Counsel for Enforcement

9                                    Mark Allen  
10                                   Mark Allen  
11                                   Assistant General Counsel

12                                   Thaddeus H. Ewald  
13                                   Thaddeus H. Ewald  
14                                   Attorney

15  
16  
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