

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Phillip C. Parrish and
Michael J. Lindell,
Contestants,

Court File No. 62-CV-26-5975

Case Type: Civil Other/Misc.

Hon. Mark Ireland

v.

Lisa Demuth and
Ryan Wilson,
Contestees.

**CONTESTANTS' LETTER
REGARDING SERVICE OF
THE NOTICE OF CONTEST
AND OPPOSITION TO
MOTION TO DISMISS
FOR LACK OF SERVICE**

TO: The Honorable Mark Ireland, Ramsey County District Court; Court Administrator; and counsel of record for Contestees Lisa Demuth and Ryan Wilson.

Contestants submit this letter, with exhibits, to place the proof of service of the Notice of Contest on the record and to oppose any motion to dismiss for lack of service.

1. What the statute requires

Minnesota Statutes section 209.021, subdivision 3, governs service of a notice of contest. It requires three things: (1) service on the contestee; (2) that **“a copy of the notice must be sent to the contestee’s last known address by certified mail”**; and (3) that a copy be furnished to the official authorized to issue the certificate of election. The same subdivision then states:

*“If personal or substituted service on the contestee cannot be made, an affidavit of the attempt by the person attempting to make service and the affidavit of the person who sent a copy of the notice to the contestee by certified mail **is sufficient to confer jurisdiction upon the court to decide the contest.**”*

Minn. Stat. § 209.021, subd. 3 (emphasis added). The certified-mail copy is not optional. It is an independent statutory requirement, and the affidavit of that mailing is what the Legislature said confers jurisdiction when personal service cannot be completed.

2. What was done

On August 21, 2026, Contestants caused the Notice of Contest to be served and mailed as follows, as set out in the Affidavit of Service executed and notarized the same day (Exhibit A):

- Lisa Demuth — e-mail to the campaign address published by the campaign, info@lisaformn.com, and certified mail, USPS tracking no. 9589 0710 5270 3937 9756 84, to 1041 Grand Ave. #217, Saint Paul, MN 55105.
- Ryan Wilson — e-mail to ryan.wilson@crosscastle.com, and certified mail, USPS tracking no. 9589 0710 5270 3937 9758 37, to the same last-known address, 1041 Grand Ave. #217, Saint Paul, MN 55105.

- Secretary of State Steve Simon — a copy furnished August 21, 2026, by certified mail and/or delivery to the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, Veterans Service Building, Suite 210, 20 West 12th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55155, the official authorized to issue the certificate of nomination.

1041 Grand Avenue #217, Saint Paul, MN 55105 is not a guess. It is Contestee Demuth's published campaign address, used on candidate directories and campaign materials for the 2026 gubernatorial race. The campaign e-mail info@lisaformn.com is the same address listed on Campaign Finance Board candidate materials. Sending the Notice there is sending it to the contestee's last known address.

3. The Postal Service confirms delivery

USPS Tracking now shows both certified-mail pieces were delivered to the front desk, reception area, or mail room at 12:11 p.m. on August 24, 2026, in Saint Paul, MN 55105 — the exact ZIP of the address on the Affidavit. Printouts of those tracking records are Exhibits B and C.

Tracking no. 9589071052703937975684 (Demuth) — Delivered, Front Desk/Reception/Mail Room, Saint Paul, MN 55105, August 24, 2026, 12:11 p.m.

Tracking no. 9589071052703937975837 (Wilson) — Delivered, Front Desk/Reception/Mail Room, Saint Paul, MN 55105, August 24, 2026, 12:11 p.m.

Section 209.021, subdivision 3, requires that the copy “**must be sent**” by certified mail. It does not require that the contestee sign for it, open it, or acknowledge it before jurisdiction attaches. The pieces were sent August 21. They were delivered August 24 to the published campaign address. That is service under the statute.

4. The five-day clock

The State Canvassing Board completed the canvass on August 18, 2026. Under section 209.021, subdivision 1, the Notice had to be served and filed within five days after that date. Computing time under Minn. Stat. § 645.15, the first day is excluded and the last day is included. The fifth day was Sunday, August 23, 2026. Section 645.15 provides that when the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, that day is omitted. The period therefore ran through Monday, August 24, 2026.

The Affidavit of Service was executed and notarized August 21. The certified-mail pieces were sent August 21. They were delivered August 24. Filing of the contest in this Court occurred in that same window. Contestees' appearance by counsel to seek dismissal is itself proof they have the papers.

5. The Court has used the same channel

This Court's own notices in this file — including the September 1, 2026 scheduling communication and the Notices of Hearing — have been transmitted to Contestant Parrish by official e-mail at phillip@parrish4mn.com, with certified or official mail used in the ordinary course of court business. Contestants used the same durable methods the statute and this Court use: certified mail to a last-known address, with a contemporaneous affidavit, plus e-mail to the addresses the campaign itself publishes.

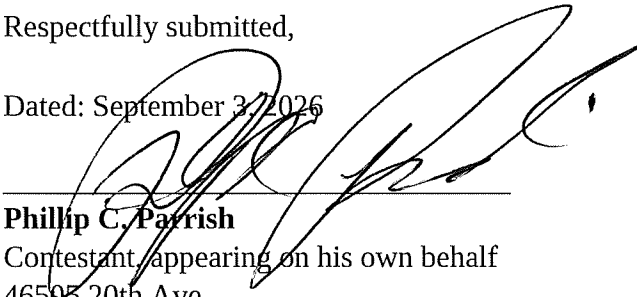
6. Requested relief

Contestants respectfully request that the Court:

- (1) Deny any motion to dismiss for lack of service;
- (2) Find that the Notice of Contest was served in the manner section 209.021 requires, and that the Affidavit of Service together with the certified-mail tracking records is sufficient to confer jurisdiction;
- (3) In the alternative, if the Court finds any technical defect, deem service complete as of August 24, 2026, under the savings clause of section 209.021, subdivision 3, or grant leave to perfect service forthwith, without dismissing a timely filed statewide contest on a service technicality after Contestees have appeared; and
- (4) Direct that this letter and Exhibits A–C be filed in 62-CV-26-5975 and considered at the September 4, 2026 motion hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 3, 2026



Phillip C. Parrish

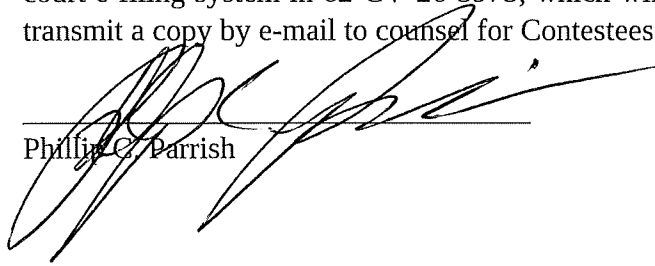
Contestant, appearing on his own behalf
46505 20th Ave
Kenyon, MN 55946
phillip@parrish4mn.com
(612) 460-1717

EXHIBITS

- A Affidavit of Service of Notice of Contest, sworn August 21, 2026 (Carol M. Vikla, Notary).
- B USPS Tracking printout, no. 9589071052703937975684 (Demuth) — delivered August 24, 2026, 12:11 p.m., Saint Paul, MN 55105.
- C USPS Tracking printout, no. 9589071052703937975837 (Wilson) — delivered August 24, 2026, 12:11 p.m., Saint Paul, MN 55105.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on September 3, 2026, I filed this letter and Exhibits A–C through the Minnesota court e-filing system in 62-CV-26-5975, which will serve counsel of record, and that I will also transmit a copy by e-mail to counsel for Contestees if addresses have been provided.



Phillip C. Parrish



Outlook

Courtesy copy — Notice of Contest — Ramsey County Case No. 62-CV-26-5975

From Phillip Parrish <phillip@parrish4mn.com>

Date Fri 8/21/2026 1:27 PM

To Lisa Demuth for Governor <info@lisaformn.com>; ryan.wilson@crosscastle.com
<ryan.wilson@crosscastle.com>; State, Secretary (OSS) <secretary.state@state.mn.us>

Cc Heidi Wanty <heidi@parrish4mn.com>; Mike Lindell <mike@mypillow.com>

Bcc Lorilee Bolhouse-Peterson <lorileebp@gmail.com>; Clinton Johannek <clintonjohannek@hotmail.com>

 2 attachments (282 KB)

VerifiedPetitionForInspectionOfBallots62-CV-26-5975.pdf; Notice Of Contest.pdf;

Lisa Demuth, Ryan Wilson, and Secretary Simon:

A Notice of Contest under Minnesota Statutes sections 209.02 and 209.021 has been filed in Ramsey County District Court. Phillip C. Parrish and Michael J. Lindell contest the declared Republican nomination of Lisa Demuth for Governor and Ryan Wilson for Lieutenant Governor from the August 11, 2026 state primary. Ramsey County District Court has accepted the Notice of Contest and assigned Case No. 62-CV-26-5975.

Service of the Notice is being made in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. A copy has also been sent to each contestee's last-known address by certified mail, and a copy has been furnished to the Secretary of State as the official authorized to issue the certificate of nomination. Minn. Stat. § 209.021, subd. 3.

This email is a courtesy copy of the papers. It is not a substitute for that service.

Attached:

1. Notice of Contest
2. Verified Petition for Inspection of Ballots (Minn. Stat. § 209.06)

Please confirm receipt.

Phillip C. Parrish

Contestant

P.O. Box 132, Faribault, MN 55021

phillip@parrish4mn.com

(507) 838-6514

ALERT: IMPACTS FROM TROPICAL STORM EDOUARD IN THE GULF REGION, AND FLOODING ...



FAQs >

Tracking Number:

Remove X

9589071052703937975837

Copy

Add to Informed Delivery

Latest Update

Your item was delivered to the front desk, reception area, or mail room at 12:11 pm on August 24, 2026 in SAINT PAUL, MN 55105.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivered

Delivered, Front Desk/Reception/Mail Room

SAINT PAUL, MN 55105
August 24, 2026 12:11 PM

See All Tracking History

What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?

Text & Email Updates



USPS Tracking Plus®



Product Information



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Feedback

ALERT: IMPACTS FROM TROPICAL STORM EDOUARD IN THE GULF REGION, AND FLOODING ...



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Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

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Delivered

Delivered, Front Desk/Reception/Mail Room

SAINT PAUL, MN 55105
August 24, 2026 12:11 PM

See All Tracking History

What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?

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Product Information



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