

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BALLOT LAW COMMISSION

BLC-2011-1

COMPLAINT OF CRAIG TAX FREEZE FREIS, CANDIDATE FOR THE 2012
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

ORDER

On November 18, 2011, the Ballot Law Commission (“the Commission”) held a public hearing, pursuant to RSA 665:7 to hear and determine disputes arising over whether nomination papers or declarations of candidacy filed with the Secretary of State conform with the law. The complainant did not appear at the hearing.

The complainant submitted a declaration of candidacy under RSA 655:47 under the name of Craig “Tax Freeze” Freis. The Secretary of State denied the use of the candidate’s middle name on the ballot and argued that the complainant’s new middle name was inconsistent with the spirit and intent of RSA 655:14-b, which prohibited listing on the ballot candidates with “a nickname that implies the candidate is some other person, that constitutes a slogan or otherwise associates the candidate with a cause or issue, that has an offensive or profane meaning, or that creates a perception of a professional or vocational affiliation, such as “Doc” or “Coach.” The Secretary of State’s office did not dispute that the complainant had legally changed his name to include the middle name of “Tax Freeze” and had his birth certificate amended accordingly.

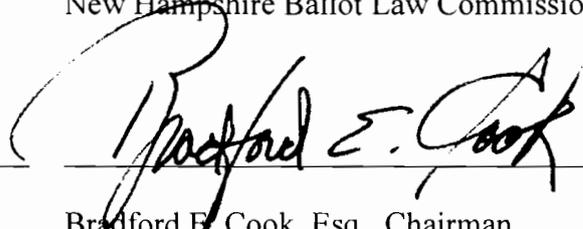
By a vote of 4 to 1, the Commission defeated a motion to accept the Secretary of State's position in this matter to list the candidate as Craig Freis. The Commission then voted, by a vote of 4 to 1, to place the complainant's name on the ballot as listed in his declaration of candidacy.

So ordered,

New Hampshire Ballot Law Commission

Date:

11/30/11

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradford E. Cook", written over a horizontal line.

Bradford E. Cook, Esq., Chairman
Jane Clemmons
Margaret-Ann Moran
Martha Van Oot
Jameson French