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NEW HAMPSHIRE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Ballot Law Commission
c/o Secretary of State, William Gardner
Room 204, State House
Concord, NH 03301

BLC
2004-9

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Re: Nomination petitions, as rejected for a question of valid certification.

The office of the Secretary of State, attempts to train Supervisors of Checklist & City Clerks, as to the requirements of RSA, when certifying nominating petitions, collected under the auspices of RSA 655:40-45. Sadly, and solely dependent on location, the knowledge imparted fails to meet a common goal, using a standard template.

Exhibits: 38 Nominating petitions "seemingly rejected" yet bearing evidence of being certified as if the original signer is / or/ was a registered voter, when he/ she signed each petition;

Exhibits: 15 Nominating petitions rejected, for cause (the signer is not a registered voter)

Exhibit: At the bottom of each nominating petition is an oblong space, wherein Supervisors of Checklist (in towns) or City Clerks, shall sign to certify, that the signer of such petition is a registered voter, thus making the petition valid for the candidates whose name(s) appear above, in the office(s) section.

Problem: The education provided by the Secretary of State, to Supervisors of Checklist, or City Clerks, seems to break-down, where rejects are the requirement, from several towns & cities. The situation is made worse, by extraneous comment left on petitions by Supervisors of Checklist or City Clerks, that has no part of the certification or rejection process;

1. Ossipee petition: signed as if valid by 2 Supervisors, yet with note included, that signer is not a registered voter;

2. 4 Danville petitions: signed as if valid by 2 Supervisors, yet with note included, that signer is not a registered voter;

3. Farmington petition: signed as if valid by 2 Supervisors, yet with note included, that signer is not a registered voter;

4. Warner petition: unsigned, yet bearing Post-it note that signer is a resident of Warner. Question: Did Supervisors reject petition for an invalid signature, or for placement of a candidate for Congress, that does not cover the town of Warner ? ;

5. Croydon petition: signed as if valid by 2 Supervisors, yet with note that signer is not on checklist (twice);

6. Chichester petition: signed as if valid by 2 Supervisors, yet with note that signer is not a registered voter;

7. 4 Northfield petition: signed as if valid by 3 Supervisors, yet with note that each signer is not on checklist;

8. 3 Hampton, each with separate flaws (noted by myself as A-B-C, in black ink);

A) Verification (Certification) Denied, with 2 comment: bad address (in the accepted by Secretary of State, are several with similar "bad address"). What makes this one different ?; and, no voter history. What standard requires that a signer of petition, if a registered voter, must bear a history of past votes, prior to having his/ her signature considered as valid ?

B) Verification (Certification) denied, with 2 comment: No voter history & Wrong address. Several petition submitted and accepted have "bad address" (either none or just a mail address). Does voter history include, who the signer voted for / against, in prior election(s) ? Is this a prelude to a "reliable" voter checklist ? ;

C) Verification (Certification) denied. No street address. As above, several accepted petitions had no street address, yet were valid;

9. 21 Portsmouth petitions: signed by 2 Ward Supervisors, each of ward 1 & ward 5, with note that signer is not a registered voter;

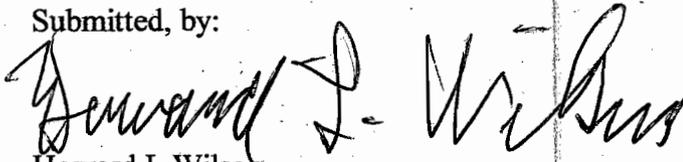
1 Portsmouth petition, signed, by 2 Ward Supervisors, each of ward 1 & ward 5, with note that signer is not registered at "this address". Several accepted petitions had "bad address" or change of address notification. Information, from inference is that signer is a Registered voter, despite a change of address since signing;

10. Dover petition: Unsigned, with notation "NO and "wrong address" circled. Inference, from info on petition, that signer is a registered voter, yet suffers the same problem as # 9 (1 petition), of having moved within the city, and forgot to register change with petitioner and the City.

The 15 petitions presented here, as invalid, are done in a proper manner (as are the 350-400 currently held by Ken Blevens, for a separated suit, either to the Ballot Law Commission or the Civil Court system). Information on each petition is clear: either nothing was noted on petition or note is written on or pasted on petition, stating reason as to rejection.

Resolutions: A) A better education standard should be provided, for each body doing certification, such that a rejection from one town/city matches a rejection from another city/town, despite distance between the 2 polities;
B) That most of the otherwise reject petitions be accepted as valid (certified) despite a lack of signature, or despite language used to indicate reason not to Certify.

Submitted, by:



Howard L. Wilson