

Christopher E. Rietmann
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September 8, 2014

RECEIVED

SEP 09 2014

NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Gardner
Secretary of State
New Hampshire
107 North Main Street, #204
Concord, NH 03833

BLC
2014-6

Dear Mr. Gardner:

I am a resident of Cheshire County, and intend to run in the General Election for the Office of Sheriff of Cheshire County as an Independent Candidate. I decided to run in June. I filed my Statement of Intent at the Secretary of State's office and began the process of collecting the required 150 nomination papers required.

The process required by third party candidates and Independents is arduous and onerous; it violates the spirit and word of the New Hampshire Constitution. I collected 161 signed nomination papers, yet only 129 were accepted by the Office of the Secretary of State. I believe this was due to a number of factors, including violations of ballot law, independent, incorrect and unlawful decisions of election officials and conflicting directions from the Secretary of State's office staff.

Examples

Alstead. The Supervisor of the Checklist refused to accept my own petition to nominate myself (according to the Secretary of State's office staff this was legal for me to do).

Keene. All Keene nomination papers were not certified or rejected by an official authorized to do so; neither the Supervisors of the Checklist or the City Clerk performed this duty. (RSA 644:41)

Keene. At least one ballot was rejected because of signature; I question the qualifications of these officials to determine the authenticity of signatures when most collection of nomination papers occurs with a voter standing upright and holding a clipboard.

Nelson. Nomination papers were not certified or rejected by an official authorized to do so; in case of a town (according to the Secretary of State's staff) these must be certified by a majority of the supervisors of the checklist (RSA 644.41)

Surry. Surry refused to certify any of my nomination papers, despite them being delivered before 5:30 PM, August 6, 2014 (RSA 655:41). Because their town offices were closed, the nomination papers were slid under a door that day. Surry sent me a letter stating they would not certify them after a conversation with the

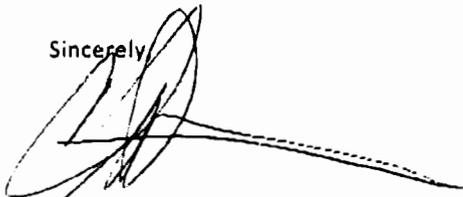
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Attorney General's office (see attached). After I discussed the matter with David Scanlon of the Secretary of State's office (who stated they should certify them) I met two of the three supervisors of the checklist at the town offices in Surry and handed them the nomination papers for them to certify. I then received another letter from Surry stating they refused to certify them based on a conversation with the aforementioned Mr. Scanlon (see attached). Surry's argument that I should have delivered them within the required hours of 3:30 PM and 5:30 PM fails any logical test; delivering nomination papers on the date of the deadline it is physically impossible to visit 19 different towns and cities across an entire county within a two hour period. Other towns in Cheshire County received my nomination papers and certified them despite them being left in drop boxes, slid under doors wedged into door jambs and in one case thumbtacked to a door. I documented the time and date of every delivery.

Based upon these violations I do not believe it can accurately be ascertained that I failed to meet the requisite 150 signed nomination papers. As I did deliver 161 nomination papers to the Secretary of State's office on September 3, 2014 (655:43) I assert that because I cannot be disqualified from the ballot for the General Election based on a process that violated New Hampshire election laws, contradicted the Secretary of State's offices' own directions to town staff and disenfranchised the wishes of legitimate New Hampshire voters who wished to see my name on the ballot in the November General Election.

I ask that you review this case and certify my addition to the Ballot for the General Election in Cheshire County. With the inability to prove a negative this is the only method that would assure my rights under the New Hampshire Constitution, Part First, Article 11 stating in part "Every inhabitant of the state, having the proper qualifications, has equal right to be elected into office." and provide redress to those Cheshire County inhabitants and registered voters who wish to have the freedom to vote for me. Should you not decide to do so I ask that I be allowed to appear before the next meeting of the Ballot Law Commission with counsel to plead my case.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher E. Rietmann". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher E. Rietmann

788 Alstead Center Rd.
Alstead, NH 03602

Dear Mr. Rietmann,

Enclosed are your nomination papers for the office of Sheriff of Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The Supervisors of the Checklist of the Town of Surry did not receive the nomination papers by the stated deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, so we are returning them to you.

RSA 655:41 Certification. I. Each nomination paper shall be submitted to the supervisors of the checklist of the town or ward in which the signer is domiciled or is registered, and a majority of the supervisors shall certify whether or not the signer is a registered voter in said town or ward...

Each nomination paper shall be submitted to the supervisors of the checklist no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday 5 weeks before the primary (August 6, 2014).

The Supervisors of the Checklist listed below were present at the Surry Town Hall from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact the NH Secretary of State's Office at (603) 271-3242.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Fisher

Melissa Callender

M. Kay Lucius

Enclosures

cc: Darlene Clark, Surry Town Clerk

August 28, 2014

Christopher E. Rietmann
788 Alstead Center Rd.
Alstead, NH 03602

Dear Mr. Rietmann,

After consulting with the Secretary of State's Office in Concord, and discussing it at our meeting of the Supervisors of the Checklist on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, we are again returning your two Town of Surry nomination papers for the office of Sheriff of Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The Supervisors of the Checklist of the Town of Surry did not receive the nomination papers by the stated deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2014.

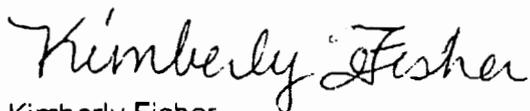
RSA 655:41 Certification. I. Each nomination paper shall be submitted to the supervisors of the checklist of the town or ward in which the signer is domiciled or is registered, and a majority of the supervisors shall certify whether or not the signer is a registered voter in said town or ward...

Each nomination paper shall be submitted to the supervisors of the checklist no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday 5 weeks before the primary (August 6, 2014).

The Supervisors of the Checklist listed below were present at the Surry Town Hall from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2014. The Town Clerk, Darlene Clark, had informed us that you stopped by on Thursday, August 7, 2014 during office hours (5 – 7 p.m.) to inquire whether the papers were received. She had not received them at that time, but upon checking, they were still in the place where they were slid under the door. However, the Supervisors of the Checklist cannot ascertain when the papers were left there, and the onus is upon the individual to make sure they are received by the Supervisors by the deadline, which is by statute in the State of New Hampshire.

If you have any questions, please contact the NH Secretary of State's Office at (603) 271-3242.

Sincerely,


Kimberly Fisher

Melissa Callender

M. Kay Lucius

Enclosures

cc: Darlene Clark, Surry Town Clerk