

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BALLOT LAW COMMISSION**

**Case No. BLC 2014-2**

**Stacie Laughton for State Representative**

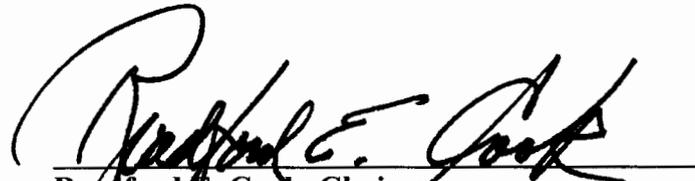
This matter comes before the Commission at the request of Stacie Laughton of Nashua, New Hampshire, who filed her candidacy for the office of State Representative from Nashua Ward 4 in the September 2014 Democratic Primary. Paul R. Bergeron, City Clerk, contacted Secretary of State William M. Gardner about the candidacy, given the representation by Ms. Laughton that she was qualified to run for the office. This was in light of the fact that in 2012, Ms. Laughton was elected to the position, but her eligibility was challenged because she had been convicted of a felony in 2008 with a ten year suspended sentence which in 2012 still had not been discharged. The Attorney General issued an opinion at that time to the Secretary of State indicating that under the provisions of RSA 607-A:2 I, she was not eligible to “(b) Become a candidate for or hold public office.” As the result of this opinion, Ms. Laughton did not fill the position to which she had been elected and the matter never reached the Ballot Law Commission for determination.

In 2014, Ms. Laughton again seeks to run to the New Hampshire House of Representatives, and Clerk Bergeron and Secretary Gardner did not accept her filing. She appealed this decision to the Ballot Law Commission. A hearing was held on her appeal on June 30, 2014.

**DECISION**

At the hearing, despite testimony about her contributions to the community, character and fitness, Ms. Laughton and the state both confirmed that her conviction and sentence remain as they were in 2012, have not been altered or discharged, and the statute cited by the Attorney General at that time remains as it was then. Therefore, the decision to not place her name on the ballot in Ward 4 in Nashua, was upheld and her appeal was denied by unanimous vote. The Commission stated to her that none of this should be viewed as a comment on her character or good works since her conviction.

So ordered.



**Bradford E. Cook, Chairman**  
**Martha Van Oot**  
**Michael Eaton**  
**Roger Wellington**  
**Donald Manning**

June 30, 2014