

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BALLOT LAW COMMISSION

BLC-2012-7

RESIDENCY CHALLENGE OF ANNE C. GRASSIE – DEMOCRATIC
CANDIDAET FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE FROM STRAFFORD DISTRICT
NO. 11

ORDER

On September 20, 2012, 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. Specifically, the complainant, Rochester Representative Clifford A. Newton, challenged whether Rochester Representative Anne Grassie is currently residing in Rochester District No. 11, Ward 4.

The Commission heard testimony from Representative Newton and others that Representative Grassie’s car is often seen parked at her other residence in Ward 6, at 9 Central Avenue, raising a suspicion in their minds as to her real domicile.

The Commission also heard from Representative Grassie who testified that she and her husband own two houses in Rochester, including her current residence in Ward 4, at 146 Brock Street, that they are in the process of renovating 146 Brock Street, that she has registered to vote in Ward 4, changed her driver’s license accordingly, and uses that address in the General Court website. She testified that her intent is to live at 146 Brock Street, but that due to the on-going renovations, she has been spending time at the Central

Avenue house. She further testified that her husband has owned 146 Brock Street for 20 years.

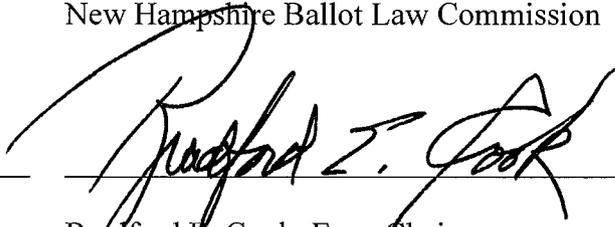
The Commission considered the provisions of RSA 655:8 and voted, unanimously, to deny the petition challenging Representative Grassie's residency, finding that her intent as to her domicile, when considered along with the facts presented, is determinative and establishes her residence as in the ward from which she is seeking office.

So ordered,

New Hampshire Ballot Law Commission

Date:

9/21/12



Bradford E. Cook, Esq., Chairman
Margaret-Ann Moran
Martha Van Oot
Michael Eaton
Elizabeth Hager