

Wayne, Jonathan

From: Cynthia POOR PEOPLE VOTE! <cynthiasoma914@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Wayne, Jonathan
Subject: Fwd: Maine Clean Election Act - Staff Determination
Attachments: Soma-Hernandez Determination.pdf

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Mr. Jonathan Wayne,

I present this appeal in consideration of a change in the decision by the Maine Clean Election Commission primarily, though not limited to, the fact that voters were not informed by the **Anson Town Clerk as to their right to submit an Oath of Residency if their Motor Vehicle License had another residency on it other than where they currently reside. Further that, due to Covid19, Motor Vehicles was closed with the result being that voters were unable to change their voter registration. This information spread throuout the neighborhood. Hence, we have voter suppression here in rural Maine where the poorest of Maine's residents reside.** If that is not illegal, it should be. This intimidated people.

The second issue that negatively affected our campaign's ability to obtain verification of our Qualifying Signatures appears to be my fault. It also appears to be easily verifiable and correctable. Indeed, I am quite perplexed that it has not already resolved itself. In a hurried effort to make more copies of the signature verification form, I purchased whiteout tape at Taylor Drug Store in Madison and copied the original. I then whited out the signatures on the original, unable to observe the difference, as I was cold occurred, this is a mere clerical error. Surely there is a way to steam off the white out strip to obtain one more signature. I did not think of that as a solution. As well, I did not want to damage the evidence by taring the paper fabric.

I am a little confused about the issue with Mark Tolman's contribution, as I have in my possession the receipt for it from the bank. If there was no contribution, I wouldn't have a receipt for it. I have enclosed a copy of this receipt in the postal copy which I will forward to you today.

I sincerely hope there is some way to resolve the matter of one Qualifying Signature. I can return to the others later this month. Of the four from the photocopy and Mr. Thornton's receipt we should be able to resolve. The matter of the Town Clerk not informing constituents of their right to write an Oath of Residency is grievable and of grave concern to me.

Thank you and Erin Gordon for the time effort, and due diligence these matters require.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Soma-Hernandez

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 4:41 PM Wayne, Jonathan <Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov> wrote:

Ms. Soma-Hernandez,

I am sorry to be sending along disappointing news. The staff of the Ethics Commission reviewed your request for Maine Clean Election Act funding, but found that you did not collect 60 qualifying contributions that we could count as valid. The largest issue was the number of contributors whose voter registration could not be verified. Usually, submitting verification of the contributors' registration status is the candidate's responsibility. This year (because of all the town office closures), Erin Gordon undertook to verify the contributors' voter registration status by checking the State's Central Voter Registry. There were 25 contributors whose voter registration status Erin could not verify. (20 of them we rejected only because of the lack of verification of voter registration. Another five were rejected because of the lack of voter registration verification plus one other issue.)

You absolutely may appeal the staff's decision to our three Commissioners, who will probably be meeting twice this month. The burden would be on you to show that the staff made a factual error or an error as a matter of law. The appeal hearing would take place by zoom videoconference. **Please note that if you want to file an appeal, we would need to receive a letter from you stating your argument or explanation within seven days of today (i.e., by June 10).**

If you have any questions about the Commission staff's decision, please feel free to call Erin or me.

If you decide not to appeal, our office will be considering you to be a traditionally financed candidate, meaning you can collect traditional campaign contributions to finance your campaign. If you have questions about this, Erin is the better source than me.

Thank you.

Jonathan Wayne

Executive Director

Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

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