

JAN 29 2009

ENFORCEMENT  
COMMISSION

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by  
Robert Symmes, West Haven

File No. 2008-096

AGREEMENT CONTAINING CONSENT ORDER  
FOR VIOLATIONS OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 9-50b

This agreement, by and between Jo Ann Callegari of the City of West Haven, County of New Haven, State of Connecticut, hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, and the authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission, is entered into in accordance with General Statutes § 4-177(c) and Section 9-7b-54 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. The Complainant, Robert Symmes, a resident of West Haven, Connecticut, filed a Complaint with the Commission alleging that the Democratic Registrar of Voters for the City of West Haven violated Connecticut General Statutes § 9-50b by failing to promptly update the state-wide voter registration system to indicate whether the eligible voters on the official registry list voted in an election or primary and, if so, the method by which they voted.
2. The Complainant specifically references the September 11, 2007 Democratic Primary, the November 5, 2007 general election, and February 5, 2008 Presidential Preference Primary.
3. General Statutes § 9-50b, as amended by Public Act 07-194, provides as follows:  

(a) As used in this section, "state-wide centralized voter registration system" means a computerized system designed and maintained by the Secretary of the State which includes: (1) Voter registration information prescribed by the Secretary, (2) information contained in applications for admission as electors described in section 9-20, (3) information needed to compile registry lists and enrollment lists under sections 9-35 and 9-54, (4) information required by section 9-50a, and (5) other information for use in complying with the provisions of this title. . . .

**(d) After each election or primary, the registrars of voters shall promptly update the state-wide centralized voter registration system and indicate whether the eligible voters on the official registry list for such election or primary voted and, if so, if they voted in person or by absentee ballot. [Emphasis added.]**
4. General Statutes § 9-1 (p) provides the following definition of "Registrars" as used in Title 9 of the General Statutes:  

(p) "Registrars" means the registrars of voters of the municipality . . . .

5. General Statutes § 9-372 provides in pertinent part that:

(11) "Primary" means a meeting of the enrolled members of a political party and, when applicable under section 9-431, unaffiliated electors, held during consecutive hours at which such members or electors may, without assembling at the same hour, vote by secret ballot for candidates for nomination to office or for town committee members;

(12) "Registrar" means the registrar of voters in a municipality who is enrolled with the political party holding a primary and, in each municipality where there are different registrars for different voting districts, means the registrar so enrolled in the voting district in which, at the last-preceding regular election, the presiding officer for the purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality was moderator . . . .

6. The requirements of General Statutes § 9-50b (d) clearly apply to both of West Haven's Registrars of Voters and because of the specific election and primaries referenced in the Complaint, the Complaint also implicates the Respondent, West Haven's Republican Registrar of Voters, with respect to the November 6, 2007 general election as well as the February 5, 2008 Presidential Preference Primary. The disposition of this matter concerning Respondent Marino will be addressed separately by the Commission.

7. As noted above, General Statutes § 9-50b (d) requires that "[a]fter each election or primary, the registrars of voters shall *promptly* update the state-wide centralized voter registration system and indicate whether the eligible voters on the official registry list for such election or primary voted and, if so, if they voted in person or by absentee ballot." [Emphasis added.]

8. This is a case of first impression for the Commission as it has never interpreted the term "promptly" as used in that provision. Notably, the Secretary of State also has not provided a written interpretation of that term.

9. The Respondent admits that she was aware of the provisions of General Statutes § 9-50b (d). She further admits that with respect to the general election of November 6, 2007, she completed her update of the statewide centralized voter registration system approximately nine months after that election, during the first week of August 2008. With regard to the Presidential Preference Primary of February 5, 2008, she completed her update of said system on September 10, 2008, approximately seven months later.

10. While the Commission understands that the system update was a new responsibility for the Respondent, it concludes that the Respondent's completion of the system update for the November 6, 2007 election and the February 5, 2008 primary was not prompt within the meaning of General Statutes § 9-50b. As such, the Commission concludes that the Respondent violated General Statutes § 9-50b (d).

11. The Respondent admits all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and order entered after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission. The Respondent shall

receive a copy hereof as provided in Section 9-7b-56 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

12. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement will be submitted to the Commission at its next meeting and, if it is not accepted by the Commission, it is withdrawn by the Respondent and may not be used as an admission in any subsequent hearing, if the same becomes necessary.
13. The Respondent waives:
  - a. Any further procedural steps;
  - b. The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated; and
  - c. All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the agreement or Order entered into pursuant to this agreement.
14. Upon the Respondent's compliance with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against her pertaining to this matter.

**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent shall henceforth strictly comply with Connecticut General Statutes § 9-50b.

For the State of Connecticut

Dated: 1/29/09


BY:



Joan M. Andrews, Esq.  
Director of Legal Affairs  
And Enforcement and  
Authorized Representative of  
the State Elections  
Enforcement Commission  
20 Trinity St., Suite 101  
Hartford, Connecticut


Dated: 1-23-09

The Respondent,



Jo Ann Callegari  
29 Platt Avenue  
West Haven, CT 06516-5728

Adopted this 11th day of February, 2009 at Hartford, Connecticut



Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman  
By Order of the Commission