

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of Complaint by
James Bancroft, Windsor Locks

File No. 2010-072

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Complainant James Bancroft brought this complaint pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b alleging that the 2010 campaign of Peter Schiff for United States Senator (hereinafter "Schiff Campaign") violated General Statutes § 9-404b, in that petitions for the August 10, 2010 Republican primary were not properly circulated. After the investigation of the Complainant's allegations, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Complainant alleged that the Schiff Campaign violated General Statutes § 9-404b, in that it employed individuals to collect signatures for Schiff petition pages who were not residents of Connecticut as required by the aforementioned statute.
2. Peter Schiff required 8,268 signatures from enrolled party members to appear on the ballot at the August 10, 2010 Republican primary for United States Senator according to the Office of the Secretary of the State.
3. Peter Schiff qualified and appeared on the ballot at the August 10, 2010 Republican primary.
4. The Schiff Campaign denies the allegations, and asserts that the two individuals responsible for circulating petitions under the circumstances as alleged, and that were identified in the complaint, were enrolled party members in the City of Middletown.
5. General Statutes § 9-404b, provides in pertinent part:

(d) Each circulator of a primary petition page **shall be an enrolled party member of a municipality in this state**. Each petition page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of the municipality in which the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in the municipality. Unless such a statement by the registrar of voters appears on each page so submitted, the Secretary shall reject the page.

...

[Emphasis added.]

6. The Commission concludes that General Statutes § 9-404b (d) requires that a circulator obtaining petition signatures in Connecticut, must be “*an enrolled party member of a municipality in this state.*”
7. Upon investigation, the Commission finds that the Schiff campaign employed Carrie Antley, a resident of Helena, Montana, and not a Connecticut elector, to assist the campaign in its petition efforts and to train individuals regarding circulating petitions. The Commission further finds that there is a lack of evidence that the Ms. Antley circulated petitions on behalf of the Schiff Campaign as alleged. The Commission therefore dismisses the allegation pertaining to Ms. Antley.
8. The Commission finds that Mr. Brandon Manning and Mr. Wilfredo Rosa, Jr., certified the petitions that are subject of this complaint and were Connecticut electors. Specifically, records indicate Mr. Manning and Mr. Rosa were registered to vote on May 28, 2010 and June 1, 2010 respectively. The Commission notes that the aforementioned registrations occurred *prior* to the circulation of petition pages that were subject of this complaint.
9. The Commission concludes, for the reasons stated in paragraphs 7 and 8 above, that the evidence does not support Complainant’s allegations that the Schiff Campaign violated General Statutes § 9-404b, by employing individuals to collect signatures for Schiff petition pages who were not qualified to do so. The Commission therefore dismisses this allegation.
10. The Commission dismisses the complaint because the allegations by Complainant were not supported by the facts under the circumstances detailed herein.

ORDER

The following Order is recommended on the basis of the aforementioned findings:

That the complaint is dismissed.

Adopted this 22nd day of August of 2012 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Stephen F. Cashman
By Order of the Commission