

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Judith Sadick,
Shelton

File No. 2016-047

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Complainant alleged that Ruth Parkins misrepresented the contents of nominating petitions pertaining to the August 19, 2016 Republican Primary in the 113th General Assembly District in violation of General Statutes § 9-368c. After an investigation of the matter, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Complainant alleged that Ruth Parkins circulated nominating petitions for the August 19, 2016 Republican primary in the 113th General Assembly District and misrepresented the contents of such petitions in violation of General Statutes § 9-368c.
2. Specifically, Complainant alleged that Ms. Parkins approached her to sign a petition that she “lead [Complainant] to believe ... was in support of State Representative Jason Perillo.” It is alleged that Ms. Parkins first requested that she sign a candidate petition and then allegedly mislead her adult daughter into signing the same petition that they believed was for Mr. Perillo in violation of Connecticut General Statutes § 9-368c.
3. By way of background Ms. Parkins was a petitioning candidate for State Representative from the 113th General Assembly District and was attempting to be included on the August 9, 2016 Republican primary ballot. At all times relevant to this complaint and investigation Jason Perillo was the incumbent Republican State Representative from the 113th District.
4. General Statutes § 9-368c provides as follows:
 - (a) No person shall *intentionally misrepresent the contents of a petition* circulated under title 9.
 - (b) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony. [Emphasis added.]
5. Complainant maintains that Ms. Parkins misrepresented the contents of the Petition she was circulating to both herself and her daughter and that each was under the belief that it was for Jason Perillo who they knew to be the incumbent State Representative from the 113th General Assembly District.

6. The Commission notes that the petition page in question included "Primary Petition" at the top and identified "Ruth M. Perkins" as candidate for "State Representative" from the "113 Assembly District." Further, the data at the top of the petition page identified that it was for the Shelton Republican primary of August 9, 2016.
7. In response to this complaint and investigation Ms. Parkins denies the allegations and asserts that she plainly explained that she was circulating a petition for her own candidacy to oppose incumbent Jason Perillo at the August 9, 2016 Republican primary. Furthermore, after investigation, the Commission finds a lack of evidence that Ms. Parkins contributed to or caused any confusion as to the contents of the petition she was circulating or otherwise "intentionally misrepresent[ed]" the contents of her petition page as prohibited by General Statutes § 9-368c.
8. Additionally, the Commission finds that while Complainant and her daughter were generally able to corroborate the circumstances in which their signatures were solicited by Ms. Parkins, on balance, they were unable to substantiate claims that Ms. Parkins misrepresented the contents of the petition or was even aware of their mistake or confusion as to the contents of the petition at the time they were completing and signing the petition page.
9. The Commission finds a lack of evidence to support the conclusion that General Statutes § 9-368c was violated under the facts and circumstances of this complaint and therefore dismisses Complainant's allegation.

ORDER

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

That the matter be dismissed.

Adopted this 18th day of January 2017 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Anthony J. Castagno, Chairman
By Order of the Commission