

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Myrna-Lisette Correa, Bridgeport

File No. 2017-051

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant, Myrna-Lisette Correa, brings this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, alleging that the Respondent, Indiana Susana, provided false information on her voter registration, in violation of General Statutes § 9-12 and 9-20.¹ As the facts do not support the allegations, it is the Commission's determination that this matter should be dismissed.

1. The Complainant alleges that the Respondent misrepresented her name and address on her voter registrations.
2. An elector is eligible to register and vote in a particular town only if such voter is a bona fide resident of such town. General Statutes § 9-12, provides in pertinent part:

(a) Each citizen of the United States who has attained the age of eighteen years, and *who is a bona fide resident of the town to which the citizen applies for admission as an elector* shall, on approval by the registrars of voters or town clerk of the town of residence of such citizen, as prescribed by law, be an elector, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section. . . .

(Emphasis added.)

3. When registering to vote, an elector must declare under penalty of perjury, his bona fide residence on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State. General Statutes § 9-20, provides in pertinent part:

(a) Each person who applies for admission as an elector in person to an admitting official shall, upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State and signed by the applicant, *state under penalties of perjury, his name, bona fide residence by street and number*, date of birth, whether he is a United States citizen, whether his privileges as an elector are forfeited by reason of conviction of crime, and whether he has previously been admitted as an elector in any town in this or any other

¹ Any allegation not specifically addressed herein is hereby dismissed as such allegations, even if true, would not have amounted to violation of Connecticut's election laws.

state. Each such applicant shall present his birth certificate, drivers' license or Social Security card to the admitting official for inspection at the time of application. Notwithstanding the provisions of any special act or charter to the contrary, the application form shall also, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, provide for application for enrollment in any political party, including, on any such form printed on or after January 1, 2006, a list of the names of the major parties, as defined in section 9-372, as options for the applicant. The form shall indicate that such enrollment is not mandatory.

(Emphasis added.)

4. Electors are further obligated to advise Registrars of Voters when they move within a municipality. General Statutes § 9-35 (e), provides in pertinent part:

(e) . . . In each municipality, any elector, upon change of residence within the municipality, may cause the elector's registration to be transferred to the elector's new address by presenting to the registrars a signed request therefor, stating the elector's present address, the date the elector moved to such address and the address at which the elector was last registered. The registrars shall thereupon enter the elector's name on the list at the elector's new residence; provided no transfer of registration shall be made on the registry list on election day without the consent of both registrars.

5. The voter registration cards completed by the Respondent for the relevant time period state as follows:

- a. On July 22, 2015, the Respondent completed a voter registration stating her name as Indiana Susana and her address as 31 Bowe Avenue, Stratford, CT 06615.
- b. On July 18, 2017, the Respondent completed a voter registration stating her name had changed to Indiana Harden and her address had changed to 26 West Avenue, Stratford, CT 06615.
- c. On August 2, 2017, the Respondent completed a voter registration stating her name had changed back to Indiana Susana and her address had changed to 202 Avo Street, Stratford, CT 06615.

6. The evidence in this case, including government issued identification, copies of relevant leases, and other relevant documents, indicates that the Respondent's residential history for the relevant time period was as follows:

- a. In July of 2015, the Respondent moved into an apartment at 31 Bowe Avenue.

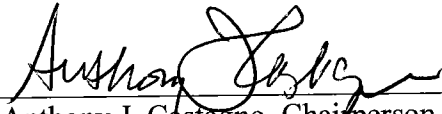
- b. In the fall of 2015, the Respondent moved to a different apartment in that same building bearing the address 29 Bowe Avenue.
 - c. The Respondent left 29 Bowe Avenue in March 31, 2017.
 - d. From March 31, 2017 until August 1, 2017, the Respondent resided in several temporary locations while she sought a new permanent home.
 - e. In early July of 2017, while she was still looking for a new permanent home, the Respondent resided at 26 West Avenue.
 - f. On July 26, 2017, the Respondent signed a lease for an apartment located at 202 Avo Street. The lease began on August 1, 2017.
7. The evidence shows that each registration completed by the Respondent over the relevant period accurately reflected her bona fide residence at the time of the registration.
 8. The Commission does note that when the Respondent moved from 31 to 29 Bowe Avenue, she should have completed a new registration to accurately reflect her new address. However, as this move was within the same building, was within the same voting district, and mail would have been received by her regardless of the address used, the Commission declines to take any further action with regard to this allegation.
 9. The Complainant further alleged that the Respondent used a false name when completing her voter registration. A review of the Respondent's voter registrations show that the only names used by the Respondent were Indiana Susana (the Respondent's maiden name) and Indiana Harden (the Respondent's married name). The evidence further shows that the name changes on her voter registration were around the same time as the Respondent's change in marital status. Accordingly, the Commission declines to take any further action with regard to this allegation.

ORDER

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

That the Commission take no further action with regard to this Complaint.

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2017 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Anthony J. Castagno, Chairperson
By Order of the Commission