

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Ethan Book, Bridgeport

File No. 2018-030A

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant, Ethan Book, brought this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, alleging that Joseph Borges, Noel Rivera, and Zulma Matos (“Respondents”), participated in a party committee caucus when they were not *bona fide* residents of the municipality in which the caucus was being held in violation of Connecticut’s election laws.¹ The following are the Commission’s findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. On January 9, 2018, the Bridgeport Republican Town Committee (“BRTC”) held a caucus for the 131st and 137th Districts.
2. The purpose of the January 9, 2019 BRTC caucus was to endorse candidates running for positions on the BRTC.
3. Complainant alleges that the Respondents named herein participated in the January 9, 2018 caucus, when they were not *bona fide* residents of the district and/or municipality.
4. General Statutes § 9-390 (a) provides:

Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, party-endorsed candidates of any party in any municipality for municipal office shall be selected, in accordance with the rules of such party, by: (1) The enrolled members of such party in such municipality in caucus, (2) delegates to a convention chosen in accordance with such rules by such enrolled members, or (3) the town committee of such party. The town chairman or his designee shall give notice in a newspaper having a general circulation in the town of the date, time, location and purpose of a caucus held pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. Such notice shall be given not

¹ Allegations raised by Complainant in this matter concerning other respondents shall be addressed separately.

less than five days prior to the date set for the caucus; provided, if the rules of the party in any municipality require earlier notice, such party rules shall prevail.²

5. When determining who to endorse for election to the town committee, the BRTC chose to hold a caucus on January 9, 2018.
6. Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-390, only “enrolled members” of the Republican Party “in such municipality,” in this case Bridgeport, were entitled to participate in the January 9, 2018 BRTC caucus.
7. When each of the above named Respondents were contacted by Commission Investigators concerning this matter, they provided a signed statement confirming their address within the proper BRTC district and that they participated in the January 9, 2018 BRTC caucus.
8. Each Respondent further provided Commission with corroborating evidence (i.e., copies of recent utility bills, recent tax bills, etc.) confirming their residence at the claimed address.
9. As the evidence in this case, concerning the above named Respondents, did not substantiate the allegations of the Complainant, it is the determination of the Commission that this matter should be dismissed.

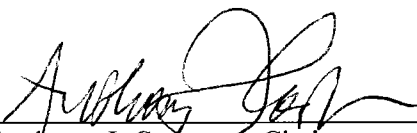
² Subsection (g) of General Statutes § 9-390 provides: “Any party in any municipality may by its rules provide that no selection be made of party-endorsed candidates for municipal office or town committee members and that the nominees of such party for such municipal office or town committee members of such party be chosen at direct primaries in accordance with the provisions of sections 9-405, 9-406, 9-409 to 9-412, inclusive, and 9-414, except as provided in sections 9-418 and 9-419.”

ORDER

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

That this matter be dismissed.

Adopted this 17 day of April, 2019 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Anthony J. Castagno, Chairperson
By Order of the Commission