

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Complaint by Maria L. Nunez, et al, Hartford

File No. 2018-060

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Complainants, Misses Maria L. Nunez, Maria C. Nunez, and Maria M. Nunez, brought this Complaint alleging that each were pressured to fill out absentee ballot applications during the August 14, 2018 Democratic Party Primary for the 3<sup>rd</sup> House district in the General Assembly by representatives of the campaign of incumbent State Representative Minnie Gonzalez.

**Background**

1. On or about May 22, 2018 the Hartford Democratic Town Committee held a town committee meeting and by a majority vote endorsed Minnie Gonzalez as their endorsed candidate for the 3rd House District in the General Assembly for the 2018 General Election. The Certificate of Party Endorsement form was submitted to and accepted by the Secretary of the State on or about May 23, 2018.
2. Gannon Long forced a party primary for the Democratic Party nomination in the 3rd House District by submitting a sufficient number of lawfully gathered petition signatures to the Hartford Town Clerk by the June 12, 2018 deadline.
3. At the August 14, 2018 Democratic Party Primary, Representative Gonzalez defeated Ms. Long for the Democratic Party nomination and went on to win re-election to the seat unopposed.

**Complaint**

4. Misses Maria L. Nunez, Maria C. Nunez, and Maria M. Nunez, who at all times relevant to the instant Complaint, lived on Putnam Street, Russ Street, and Ward Street, respectively, filed a Complaint with the Commission five days prior to the August 14 Primary.
5. The Complainants alleged that three individuals, whom they alleged in their Complaint were volunteers for the Minnie Gonzalez campaign, pressured Ms. Maria L Nunez and Ms. Maria M. Nunez into filling out absentee ballot applications for the Democratic Party

Primary, despite being told by the Nunezes that the Complainants were capable of going to the polling place to cast their ballots.

6. The Complainants alleged that the Nunezes filled out applications and the apparent representatives collected the applications for them.
7. The Complainants further alleged that representatives of the Gonzalez campaign revisited on two separate occasions, first to assure that the Complainants had voted for the endorsed candidate line (Row A) and then a second time to ask if they needed help filling out their ballots.
8. The Complainants allege feeling “compelled, pressured, and bullied” into filling out absentee ballot applications and voting by absentee ballot.

#### **FBI Investigation**

9. Shortly after this matter was filed with the Commission and before the Commission began its investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation opened up an inquiry into these allegations.
10. Per Commission policy, the Commission suspended its matter in deference to the FBI’s investigation.
11. The FBI completed its investigation of the instant allegations without bringing any indictments thereon.
12. In the fall of 2019, the FBI formally informed the Commission about the end of its investigation, at which point the Commission’s inquiry recommenced.

#### **Investigation**

13. The Commission recommenced its inquiry by reaching out to the Complainants in this matter to inform them that the Commission was continuing its inquiry.
14. There was no evidence found that the any of the Complainants had changed their addresses in the intervening period and all postal mail sent to the Complainants was not returned. There was evidence that at least one of the Complainants voted in the November 2019 General Election.

15. Despite multiple communications to the Complainants, Commission investigators were unable to reach them.

**Conclusion**


16. Considering that the Complainants are no longer cooperating with their own Complaint, and considering the Complainants are necessary witnesses to the events alleged, the Commission will not allocate any more public resources towards this matter and concludes that it should be dismissed.

ORDER

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

Dismissed

Adopted this 5 day of August of 2020 at Hartford, Connecticut

  
~~Anthony J. Castagno, Chair~~  
By Order of the Commission  
Salvatore Bramante, Vice Chair