

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

In the Matter of a Referral by the West Hartford Registrar of Voters

File No. 2020-076B

**AGREEMENT CONTAINING A CONSENT ORDER**

The parties, Michael Wyman and Leonard Bach (“Respondents”), and the undersigned authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”), enter into this agreement as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes § 4-177 (c) and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 9-7b-54. In accordance with those provisions, the parties agree that:

**Allegations**

1. In the course of investigating an alleged double vote matter, the Commission discovered evidence suggesting that the election day registration ballot for Christopher Bradford, Jr. was not counted but should have been.<sup>1</sup>

**Statement of the Law**

2. General Statutes § 9-19j (e) (2) details the process by which election officials handle election day registrations of individuals that are registered as voters in a different municipality and provides:

If the registrars of voters determine that such applicant is an elector in another municipality and such applicant states that he or she wants to change the municipality in which the applicant is an elector, notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-21, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register shall immediately notify the registrars of voters in such other municipality that such elector is changing the municipality in which the applicant is an elector. The registrars of voters in such other municipality shall notify the election officials in such municipality to remove such elector from the official voter list of such municipality. Such election officials shall cross through the elector's name on such official voter list and mark “off” next to such elector's name on such official voter list.

(A) If it is reported that such applicant already voted in such other municipality, the registrars of voters of such other municipality shall immediately notify the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. In such event, such elector shall not receive an election day registration ballot from the registrars of voters of the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register. For any such elector, the election day registration process shall cease in the municipality in which such elector now seeks to register and such matter shall be reviewed by the registrars of voters in the municipality in which such

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<sup>1</sup> The allegations concerning the alleged double vote and the allegations against the West Hartford Registrars of Voters are addressed in a separate document under SEEC File No. 2020-076A.

elector now seeks to register. After completion of such review, if a resolution of the matter can not be made, such matter shall be reported to the State Elections Enforcement Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the matter.

(B) If there is no such report that such applicant already voted in the other municipality, the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the applicant seeks to register shall admit the applicant as an elector and the privileges of an elector shall attach immediately.

### **Statement of Facts**

3. At all times relevant hereto, Christopher Bradford, Sr., born August 11, 1958, was a resident and an elector in the Town of Tolland.
4. Sometime prior to November 3, 2020, Christopher Bradford, Sr. voted in the general election being held on November 3, 2020 by submitting an absentee ballot to the Tolland Town Clerk.
5. At all times relevant hereto Christopher Bradford, Jr., born June 13, 1993, was the son of Christopher Bradford, Sr.
6. From on or before January of 2020 through August of 2020, Christopher Bradford, Jr. resided in Tolland with his parents.
7. In or about August of 2020, Christopher Bradford, Jr. moved to a new residence in West Hartford.
8. On or about November 3, 2020, Christopher Bradford, Jr. went to the election day registration ("EDR") location for the Town of West Hartford.
9. When Christopher Bradford, Jr. arrived at the EDR location for the Town of West Hartford, he indicated to a poll worker that he had moved from Tolland to West Hartford and that he would like to register as a voter in West Hartford and vote in the election being held that day.
10. In response to Christopher Bradford, Jr.'s request, a poll worker at the West Hartford EDR location provided Mr. Bradford a voter registration application ("VRA"), which Mr. Bradford immediately filled out and returned to a poll worker.
11. The VRA completed by Christopher Bradford, Jr. at the West Hartford EDR location included his correct date of birth, current address in West Hartford, and also included his prior address in Tolland.
12. Based upon the information provided in Christopher Bradford, Jr.'s VRA, a poll worker at the EDR location in West Hartford called the Town of Tolland Registrars of Voters to confirm whether Christopher Bradford, Jr. was a registered voter there and whether he had voted in the election that day.
13. When the poll worker in West Hartford placed the call to the Tolland Registrars of Voters, no one was available to answer the phone and the West Hartford poll worker left a message

indicating the name, date of birth, and prior address of Christopher Bradford, Jr. and indicated that he was attempting to vote via EDR in West Hartford. The information conveyed to the Tolland Registrars of Voters was confirmed by contemporaneous documentation maintained by the West Hartford Registrars of Voters.

14. Having not received an answer from the Town of Tolland, the poll workers in West Hartford allowed Mr. Bradford to complete an EDR ballot.
15. An EDR ballot is substantially similar to an absentee ballot and is kept inside an identifying envelope until such ballots are counted.
16. Sometime after Christopher Bradford, Jr. had left the West Hartford EDR location, an agent of the Tolland Registrars of Voters office called the West Hartford EDR location and erroneously stated that Christopher Bradford, Jr. had already cast a ballot in the Town of Tolland. In fact, it was Christopher Bradford, Sr. that had cast the ballot in the Town of Tolland.
17. Based upon the erroneous representation of the Tolland Registrars of Voters Office, the poll workers at the West Hartford EDR location removed Christopher Bradford, Jr.'s ballot from those to be counted.
18. On or about November 9, 2020, the West Hartford Registrars of Voters referred this matter to the Commission, requesting that the Commission investigate whether Christopher Bradford had attempted to vote twice in the November 3, 2020 general election.

#### **Discussion**

19. After reviewing the evidence, it is clear that Christopher Bradford, Jr. did not attempt to vote twice in the November 3, 2020 election. Rather, when the Tolland Registrars of Voters checked whether Christopher Bradford, Jr. had voted in the November 3, 2020 election, the Tolland elections officials confused Christopher Bradford, Sr., who had voted in Tolland, with Christopher Bradford, Jr., who had not.
20. Based upon the erroneous information provided by the Tolland Registrars of Voters, the West Hartford Registrars of Voters removed Christopher Bradford, Jr.'s ballot from those to be counted. As a result of the error by the Tolland Registrars of Voters, Christopher Bradford, Jr.'s ballot was not counted in the November 3, 2020 election and Mr. Bradford was disenfranchised.
21. It is therefore the determination of the Commission that the Respondent Tolland Registrars of Voters be found in violation of General Statutes § 9-19j (e) (2) (A) for improperly reporting that Christopher Bradford, Jr. had voted in Tolland on November 3, 2020, when he had not, resulting in his disenfranchisement.
22. The Commission notes that Respondent Tolland Registrars of Voters have been cooperative with this investigation and have not history of similar acts or omissions.

### **Terms of General Application**

23. The Respondents admit to all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and order entered into after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission.
24. The Respondents waive:
  - a. Any further procedural steps;
  - b. The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated; and
  - c. All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or to contest the validity of the Order entered into pursuant to this Agreement.
25. Upon the Respondents' agreement to comply with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against the Respondents regarding this matter.
26. It is understood and agreed by the parties to this Agreement that the Commission will consider this Agreement at its next available meeting and, if the Commission rejects it, the Agreement will be withdrawn and may not be used as an admission by the Parties in any subsequent hearing, proceeding or forum.

**ORDER**

It is hereby ordered that the Respondent Tolland Registrars of Voters shall henceforth strictly adhere to the requirements of General Statutes § 9-19j.

It is further ordered that Respondent Tolland Registrars of Voters shall pay a collective civil penalty of \$500.

**Respondent Bach:**

By: Leonard Bach  
Leonard Bach  
Tolland Republican Registrar of Voters  
Hicks Memorial Municipal Center  
21 Tolland Green, 5th Level  
Tolland, CT 06084

Dated: 11/15/2021

**For the State of Connecticut:**

By: Michael J. Brandi  
Michael J. Brandi  
Executive Director and General Counsel and  
Authorized Representative of the  
State Elections Enforcement Commission  
55 Farmington Ave., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06105

Dated: 11/19/2021

**Respondent Wymann:**

By: Michael Wymann  
Michael ~~Wymann~~ WYMAN  
Tolland Democratic Registrar of Voters  
Hicks Memorial Municipal Center  
21 Tolland Green, 5th Level  
Tolland, CT 06084

Dated: 11/15/21

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021 at Hartford, Connecticut by vote of the Commission.

[Signature]

By Order of the Commission