

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

In the Matter of a Referral by the East Granby Registrars of Voters

File No. 2021-131

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Referring Officials asserted in their referral that they received information from the Electronic Registration Information Center (“ERIC”) indicating that East Granby elector, Emily J. Abramowitz cast a ballot twice in the November 3, 2020 General Election, once in person in East Granby and again via absentee ballot using a registration in the City of Philadelphia.<sup>1</sup>

**Background**

1. The events here concern the November 3, 2020 General Election.

The “ERIC” System

2. The Electronic Registration Information Center, commonly referred to as “ERIC,” is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 2012 that collects and distributes pertinent data between member states with the mission of “assisting states to improve the accuracy of America’s voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens. . . .”
3. According to ERIC, 31 states plus the District of Columbia are members.<sup>2</sup>
4. ERIC has a permanent staff of 3 individuals and its board is made up of representatives from each of its member states.
5. Members of ERIC are required to provide at minimum voter registration and motor vehicle licensee data for their jurisdiction.

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<sup>1</sup> The following are the Commission’s findings and conclusions based on those portions of the allegations which the Commission could reasonably construe as alleging facts amounting to a specific violation of those laws within the Commission’s jurisdiction. Any statements not addressed herein either did not specifically allege a violation or alleged facts which if proven true would not have amounted to a violation within the Commission’s jurisdiction.

<sup>2</sup> Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

6. ERIC then seeks matches within the data and issues reports to each member jurisdiction identifying:

voters who have moved within their [jurisdiction], voters who have moved out of [jurisdiction], voters who have died, duplicate registrations in the same [jurisdiction] and individuals who are potentially eligible to vote but are not yet registered

7. As a member state, ERIC sends a report to the Connecticut Secretary of the State, who then forwards the report to the registrars of voters each of the 169 municipalities.
8. The registrars then attempt to verify the ERIC data relevant to their jurisdiction and begin the process of making what changes might be necessary per Title 9 of the General Statutes.

### **Allegation**

9. Here, the East Granby Registrars of Voters received a delivery of data from the ERIC System after the November 3, 2020 General Election that included information indicating that East Granby elector Emily J. Abramowitz was also an elector in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
10. The ERIC data also indicated that Ms. Abramowitz cast a ballot in person in East Granby and via absentee ballot in Philadelphia in the November 3, 2020 General Election.
11. As the above records indicated that Ms. Abramowitz may have voted twice in the same election, the East Granby Registrars of Voters referred the ERIC data to the Commission for investigation.

### **Law**

12. General Statutes § 9-360 provides, in pertinent part:

Any person not legally qualified who fraudulently votes in any town meeting, primary, election or referendum in which the person is not qualified to vote, and **any legally qualified person who, at such meeting, primary, election or referendum, fraudulently votes more than once at the same meeting, primary, election or referendum**, shall be fined not less than three hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars and shall be imprisoned not less than

one year or more than two years and shall be disfranchised. Any person who votes or attempts to vote at any election, primary, referendum or town meeting by assuming the name of another legally qualified person shall be guilty of a class D felony and shall be disfranchised. (Emphasis added.)

### **Investigation**

13. While an ERIC report showing two votes occurring by the same individual constitutes sufficient evidence to investigate, it is not prima facie evidence that any violation has occurred.
14. Accordingly, Commission investigators conducted a full review of all relevant records held by both jurisdictions.
15. The records of the East Granby Registrars of Voters confirmed that Ms. Abramowitz submitted a voter registration application during Election Day Registration for an address in the Town of East Granby on or about November 6, 2018.
16. The records of the East Granby Registrars of Voters also confirmed that she voted in East Granby in the General Elections held November 6, 2018, November 3, 2020, and November 2, 2021.
17. The records of the Office of the Philadelphia City Commissioners confirmed that Ms. Abramowitz registered to vote at an address in the City of Philadelphia on or about October 15, 2008 and that such registration remained active during the November 3, 2020 General Election.
18. However, while the records of the Office of the Philadelphia City Commissioners confirmed initially that Ms. Abramowitz was coded in their database as having cast an absentee ballot there, a closer inspection by the Commissioners' office showed that such data was coded in error.
19. No records were found substantiating that an absentee ballot was ever requested or cast by Ms. Abramowitz. Moreover, Philadelphia requires that in-person voters sign a poll book before casting a ballot and no signature was present in the relevant poll book.
20. Since the institution of this SEEC investigation, and pursuant to its own investigation, the Office of the Philadelphia City Commissioners has since removed the record in its database erroneously indicating that Ms. Abramowitz cast a ballot on November 3, 2020 in

Philadelphia and also placed Ms. Abramowitz's Philadelphia voter registration record into "inactive" status based on the 2018 registration in the State of Connecticut.

21. The above was corroborated by Commission investigators in an interview with Ms. Abramowitz, who indicated that she only voted once, in Connecticut.
22. Considering the aforesaid, this matter should be dismissed.

ORDER

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

*Dismissed.*

Adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen T. Penny, Chairperson  
By Order of the Commission