

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State

File No. 2024-008

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The referral alleges that the Office of the Town Clerk in Bridgeport received the absentee ballot of a deceased elector and asked that the Commission investigate the matter further. After an investigation of the referral, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Based on the referral, the Commission named Robert Anderson as a Respondent in this matter.

Facts Found After an Investigation

2. On January 4, 2024, Robert Anderson signed out fifty absentee ballot applications, which represented serial numbers 5651 to 5700, from the Office of the Town Clerk. Among those fifty absentee ballot applications, there was an absentee ballot application distributed to Marjorie Ariot. Marjorie Ariot's absentee ballot serial number was 5667.
3. The Office of the Town Clerk received the absentee ballot application for Marjorie Ariot on January 10, 2024, which was signed by the elector Marjorie Ariot, when she was still alive. The Office of the Town Clerk issued the absentee ballot for Marjorie Ariot on January 11, 2024. The Office of the Town Clerk received the absentee ballot for Marjorie Ariot on January 19, 2024.
4. On January 22, 2024, the Office of the Secretary of the State was given a copy of an obituary notice for Marjorie Ariot. The Office of the Secretary of State confirmed with the Bridgeport Registrar of Vital Statistics that Marjorie Ariot's death certificate was on file and that she passed away on January 11, 2024.
5. The Office of the Secretary of the State advised Christina Resto, the Assistant Town Clerk, that the absentee ballot for Marjorie Ariot needed to be pulled and marked void. Assistant Town Clerk Resto located the absentee ballot for Marjorie Ariot and attached the absentee ballot application to the ballot and marked the absentee ballot deceased.

6. The Office of the Secretary of the State reached out to the Office of the Registrars of Voters, so the Office of the Registrars of Voters could remove Marjorie Ariot's name from the voter registration rolls.
7. Commission staff spoke with the husband and son of Marjorie Ariot, and the information gathered did not lead to additional clues as to the sequence of events involving the return of Marjorie Ariot's absentee ballot to the Office of the Town Clerk following her death.

Legal Analysis and Conclusion

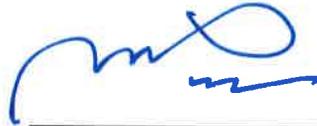
8. The Commission concludes that, because Marjorie Ariot's absentee ballot envelope was never opened due to elections officials becoming aware of Marjorie Ariot's death in a timely matter and the rest of the factual record, it seems unlikely that a determination can be made as to who sealed and mailed Marjorie Ariot's absentee ballot to the Office of the Town Clerk.
9. The Commission concludes that, because Respondent Robert Anderson was responsible for distributing the absentee ballot application to Marjorie Ariot, and the absentee ballot application for Marjorie Ariot was signed by Marjorie Ariot and submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk prior to her death, there is not any indication of any wrongdoing by Respondent Robert Anderson.
10. Under the narrow and specific facts presented, for the forgoing reasons, the Commission dismisses the referral in this matter.

ORDER

The following Order is issued based on the factual determinations, conclusions of law, and the entire record:

That the referral is dismissed.

Adopted this 16th day of July, 2025 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen T. Penny, Chairman
By Order of the Commission

SEEC File No. 2024-008

CERTIFICATION

I certify that a copy of this decision of the Commission and a case closure letter was mailed to the parties of record as follows:

Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas, located at 165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1000 Hartford, CT 06106, and Robert Anderson, located at 259 Trumbull Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06606, via regular mail on July 16, 2025.

By: 

Johnny Ross III, Esq
Staff Attorney
Enforcement Unit
State Elections Enforcement Commission
Dated: July 16, 2025
SEEC File No. 2024-008