

THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

CHRISTINE GIORDANO HANLON
MONMOUTH COUNTY CLERK



MARKET YARD
P.O. BOX 1251
FREEHOLD, N. J. 07728-1251
Phone: 732-431-7324
Fax: 732-761-9371

April 12, 2017

Monmouth County Republican Committee
20 Route 537 East, Suite 211
Colts Neck, NJ 07722
Attn: Shaun Golden,
Monmouth County Republican Committee Chairman

Dear Chairman Golden:

Receipt is acknowledged of your correspondence objecting to the nominating petitions filed by Bernard Dowd and Susan Ellen Metz for the office of Monmouth County Freeholder. Receipt is also acknowledged of the Affidavit of Lois Pongo, which is attached to this decision. Kindly accept the following in response to your objections.

Factual background:

On April 3, Bernard Dowd and Susan Ellen Metz filed with this office 1 joint petition with 156 petition signatures. Also submitted was 1 single petition for Susan Ellen Metz with 41 petition signatures, and 1 single petition for Bernard Dowd with 48 signatures. On April 6, 2017, you submitted an objection to the three petitions filed by candidates Dowd and Metz, claiming certain discrepancies relating to the signatures of the voters, as well as an objection to the Metz single petition based upon a circulator issue. See Attached. You requested that this office compare all of the petition signatures to the official voter file. Subsequently, you submitted an affidavit from Lois Pongo, which stated that although Ms. Pongo's name appeared on the petition in support of Susan Ellen Metz, Ms. Pongo had not been advised that she was signing a petition for Susan Ellen Metz, and that the circulator of the petition was a male, rather than a female named Brittany Wheeler. See Attached.

It is unclear why candidate Metz and candidate Dowd each filed single petitions along with the joint petition, nonetheless, because 3 separate petitions were filed, each petition will be addressed individually.

Susan Ellen Metz Petition:

Based upon our review the nominating petition filed by candidate Metz, we have determined that same is invalid and must be rejected for failing to have a sufficient number of valid signatures under N.J.S.A. 19:23-8. The petition contained the names and signatures of 41 endorsers. Upon review of the petition, it was determined that the following petition signatures do not match the signatures of the voters on file in the Statewide Voter Registration System:

Name	Street Resident/Post Office Address	City	Zip
Andrew Poggi	19 Angela Circle	Hazlet	07730
Nancy Ernst	15 Angela Circle	Hazlet	07730
David Ernst	15 Angela Circle	Hazlet	07730
George Klein	121 Wynnewood Court	Freehold	07728
Chris Britton	114 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728
Anthony Lupo	112 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728
Tom Keller	23 Barbara Lane	Oakhurst	07755
Ruth Diorio	4 Calvin Terrace	Oakhurst	07755
Andrea Lee	19 Brown Place	Oakhurst	07755
Gina Russomanno	377 Lake Avenue	Oakhurst	07755
Robert Roman	28 Catherine Avenue	Red Bank	07701

Additionally, the following petition signers were deemed invalid for the reasons listed below:

Name	Street Residence/ Post Office Address	City	Zip	Remarks
Joe Cucchio	60 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728	Not Registered
Joe Cucchio	60 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728	Duplicate & Not Registered
Michael Ammiano	176 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728	Duplicate

Finally, we have reviewed the affidavit of Lois Pongo, concerning the circulator affidavit of an individual named Brittany Wheeler. The affidavit states that Ms. Wheeler was not in fact the circulator of at least one portion of the petition, but also indicates that the circulator apparently misrepresented to voter Pongo that the petition was for the nomination of current County Freeholder Gary Rich, Sr., rather than Susan Ellen Metz.

Based upon the foregoing, the single nominating petition for Ms. Metz is rejected.

Bernard Dowd Petition:

Pursuant to our review the single nominating petition filed by Mr. Dowd, we have determined this petition must also be rejected for failing to have the requisite 100

qualified voter endorsements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:23-8. Candidate Dowd submitted a single petition with 48 endorsers. The following endorsements are deemed invalid because the voter signature did not match the official voter records.

Name	Street Resident/Post Office Address	City	Zip
Michael Doherty	338 Monmouth Avenue	Leonardo	07737
Michael Yannotta	415 Monmouth Avenue	Leonardo	07737
Joseph Danyliw	5 Thompson Avenue	Leonardo	07737
Andrew Poggi	19 Angela Circle	Hazlet	07730
Frank Mladinov	105 Wynnewood Court	Freehold	07728
Anne Mannarino	52 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728
Gerald Mannarino	52 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728
Robert C. Bier	40 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728
Chris Britton	114 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728
Anthony Lupo	112 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728
Roseanne Lupo	112 Kentucky Way	Freehold	07728
Jennifer Dowd Mellor	360 Little Silver Point Road	Little Silver	07737
Lizabeth Mosca	29 Arthur Place	Red Bank	07701
Bill Keegan	25 Linden Drive	Fair Haven	07704

Additionally, the following petition signers were deemed invalid for the reasons listed below:

Name	Street Residence/ Post Office Address	City	Zip	Remarks
Joan Halstead	8 Roop Avenue	Leonardo	07737	Democrat
Michael Dwyer	336 Monmouth Avenue	Leonardo	07737	Democrat
Eugene Bunt	383 Monmouth Avenue	Leonardo	07737	Not Registered
Henry Schreiber	112 Wynnewood Court	Freehold	07728	Democrat
Tori Brangenberg	24 Thompson Avenue	Leonardo	07737	Not Registered
Sylvia Ecke	25 Thompson Avenue	Leonardo	07737	Democrat/Different last name

Based upon the foregoing, the petitions fail to meet the minimum number of signatures required for placement on the primary election ballot and the single nominating petition for Mr. Bernard is rejected.

Dowd-Metz Joint Petition:

Candidates Dowd and Metz submitted a joint petition containing names, addresses and signatures of 156 endorsers. In reviewing this petition, and comparing the endorser information with the official voter records, it has been determined that 34 of these signatures are not valid. 20 of the voter signatures in the Joint Petition filed by candidates Dowd and Metz do not match the signatures on file with the Statewide Voter Registration System:

Name	Street Residence/Post Office Address	City	Zip
John Devaney	4 Greenway Street	Hazlet	07730
Meg Amodeo	6 Annapolis Drive	Hazlet	07730
Dominick Colella	1 Heather Lane	Middletown	07748
Kathleen Connelly	2 Lone Oak Road	Middletown	07748
Susan Fischer	25 Tulip Lane	Red Bank	07701
Matthew Fischer	25 Tulip Lane	Red Bank	07701
Judy Laura	69 Hubbard Avenue	Red Bank	07701
Dana Howell	260 Randolph Road	Freehold	07728
C Howell	260 Randolph Road	Freehold	07728
Donna Herbert	280 Randolph Road	Freehold	07728
Ashley Mowery	50 Applegate Street	Red Bank	07701
Jaclyn Hanning	55 Tulip Lane	Red Bank	07701
Jessica Panariello	320 Iron Bridge Road	Freehold	07708
Adam Stern	130 Kings Mountain Road	Freehold	07728
Matt Manzella	130 Kings Mountain Road (sig & reg at 150 Kings Mtn Rd)	Freehold	07728
Mike Hopkins	11 Marc Drive	Matawan	07747
Maria Norman	24 Colonial Drive	Matawan	07747
Vincent Mallozzi	16 Essie Avenue	Matawan	07747
Bayardo Andara	155 Cloverdale Circle	Tinton Falls	07724
Mirian Andara	155 Cloverdale Circle	Tinton Falls	07724

The following 14 petition signers were also deemed as invalid for the reasons stated below:

Name	Street Residence/Post Office Address	City	Zip	Remarks
Jane Atherton	12 Melrose Terrace	Middletown	07748	Democrat
Jeanne Maxon	4 Kelvin Avenue	Leonardo	07737	Not Registered
Edward Austin	774 Clinton Place	Belford	07718	Not Registered
Susan Petsch	31 Oak Knolls Drive	Matawan	07747	Not Registered
Ruth Imbro	169 ½ Broad Street	Matawan	07747	Not Registered
Heather Grillon	925 Park Place	Red Bank	07701	Not Registered
Vivian Behler	260 Randolph Road	Freehold	07728	Libertarian
Sean Cody	59 Hubbard Avenue	Red Bank	07701	Not Registered
Mark Rubinstein	340 Iron Bridge Road	Freehold	07728	Democrat
Jeremy Pulley	360 Iron Bridge Road	Freehold	07728	Not Registered
Shirley Palladino	F-1 Ravine Manor	Matawan	07747	Not Registered
Steven Mutterperl	31 Harvard Oval	Freehold	07748	Democrat
Betty Valenzuela	578 Hopping Road	Belford	07718	Not Registered
Mary Scala	225 Clubhouse Drive	Middletown	07748	Not Registered

Despite the above-listed invalid signatures, Dowd-Metz Joint Petition contains the requisite number of registered voter endorsements to qualify as a valid nominating petition under N.J.S.A. 19:23-8.

Accordingly, Mr. Dowd and Ms. Metz will be listed as Republican Candidates for County Freeholder for the primary election. Should you believe the decision outlined above is incorrect, you may appeal to a Superior Court for the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:13-12 on or before the 12th day after the last day for filing the petitions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Giordano Hanlon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Christine Giordano Hanlon
Monmouth County Clerk



Monmouth County Republican Committee

20 Route 537 East, Suite 211 (P.O. Box 518)

Colts Neck, NJ 07722

732-431-6664

**Shaun Golden
Chairman**

Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon

Dear Madame Clerk:

Upon reviewing the three sets of petitions for Bernard Dowd and Susan Ellen Metz for Monmouth County Freeholder, there appears to be a number of irregularities. Several signatures appear to be in the same hand writing for multiple people. A review of voter records reveals that several signers are not registered to vote and/or are registered Democrats.

One set of petitions filed for Susan Ellen Metz was allegedly circulated by a woman named Brittany Wheeler. We have spoken to a signer on the petition circulated by Brittany Wheeler who has indicated that the petition was circulated by a man, not a woman. And, the name of Susan Ellen Metz was not conveyed to her as the name of the candidate.

This, coupled with the hand-writing discrepancies, leads us to submit this challenge to the petitions in their entirety. We hereby request that you compare the petitions' signatures and voter information with the voter file in the Statewide Voter Registration System.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shaun Golden
Monmouth County Republican Committee Chairman
Campaign Manager for Lillian Burry and Patrick Impreveduto for Monmouth County Freeholder



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Shaun Golden
Chairman

Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon

Dear Madame Clerk:

We sent a challenge letter to your office just a few days ago. As mentioned in our letter, one set of petitions filed for Susan Ellen Metz was allegedly circulated by a woman named Brittany Wheeler. We have since received an affidavit from a signer on the petition, Lois J. Pongo, who declares that Brittany Wheeler was not the circulator of the petition. Mrs. Pongo also states that the circulator, a man, requested that she sign a petition. The man did not indicate the petition was for an individual named Susan Ellen Metz to run for Monmouth County Freeholder. Instead, the circulator requested that she sign the petition for gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciattarelli, Monmouth County Freeholder Gary Rich, and another name she could not recall.

Please include the attached affidavit letter in your records.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shaun Golden
Monmouth County Republican Committee Chairman
Campaign Manager for Lillian Burry and Patrick Impoveduto for Monmouth County Freeholder

In the Matter of:

Challenge to Nominating Petition Signatures of Susan Ellen Metz for Monmouth County Freeholder

Affidavit of Lois J. Pongo

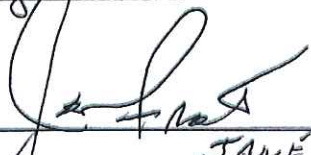
I, Lois Pongo, being duly sworn, hereby declare as follows based on my first-hand personal experience:

1. On April 1, 2017, one male individual came to a residence in Middletown, New Jersey, where I was working, and requested that I sign nomination petitions for New Jersey gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciattarelli, Monmouth County Freeholder Gary Rich and another freeholder candidate whose name I do not recall.
2. I signed the nomination petitions at that time, as requested.
3. I have subsequently learned that Brittany Wheeler, a female individual employed by the Ciattarelli campaign, certified that she collected my signature for the nomination of Susan Ellen Metz for Monmouth County Freeholder.
4. Brittany Wheeler was not the individual who asked for my signatures.
5. I do not believe that Brittany Wheeler accompanied the male individual who asked for my signature. Nor was Brittany Wheeler the male individual referenced in paragraph 1.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.


Lois J. Pongo

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned Notary Public, this 10th day of April 2017 at Highlands, New Jersey


JANE FRITTON
Notary Public Signature
Commission # 56051490
My Commission Expires: 12/19/2021