

**R. I. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 23, 2012**

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections convened at 3:40 PM at the Rhode Island Board of Elections, a quorum included, Chairman Frank Rego, Vice-Chairman Richard Pierce, Commissioners, William West, Florence Gormley and Susan Farmer. Executive Director Robert Kando and Board legal counsel Raymond Marcaccio were also in attendance.

First order of business: Commissioner Farmer moved to approve the minutes for Board of Elections meeting dated 7/11/12 seconded by Commissioner Gormley and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: Objections filed pursuant to Rhode Island General Law 17-14-14.

The objection filed by Victor Tavares, Democratic candidate for Representative in General Assembly District 3 was heard and Mr. Tavares agreed that the number of certified signatures was below the 50 necessary to be certified as a candidate for Representative in the General Assembly, Commissioner Gormley, moved to dismiss the objection due to insufficient signatures, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed unanimously.

The objection filed by Lee Grossguth independent candidate for Representative in General Assembly District 41 was heard. A review of the nomination papers of Mr. Grossguth found that one signature was mistakenly not certified, and if added to the 49 certified signatures gave Mr. Gossuth the necessary 50 signatures to be certified as a candidate for Representative in the General Assembly. Commissioner Farmer moved to order the Secretary of State to certify the nomination of Mr. Grossguth, seconded by Vice-Chairman Pierce and passed unanimously.

The objection filed by Todd Giroux, Independent candidate for U.S. Senate was heard. Mr. Giroux stated that the Office of the Secretary of State had certified 873 signatures and that he had found an additional 100 signatures of voters, some of which had moved to different cities within Rhode Island that had not been counted. Commissioner Gormley moved to deny the petition since the Board could not count the signatures of voters who moved and that even with those signatures; Mr. Giroux lacked the necessary 1,000 signatures for certification, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed unanimously.

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The objection filed by Farahnaz Moghadam Independent candidate for Representative District 30 in the General Assembly, who had 48 certified signatures and a signature of an inactive registered voter that had not been counted was heard. Chairman Rego disqualified himself from hearing and absented himself from the hearing room. Ms. Moghadam stated that she signed the petition as a witness to the signatures and requested that the Board include her signature toward the nomination to reach the necessary 50. Commissioner Farmer motioned to accept the candidate's signature, seconded by Commissioner Gormley. The motion failed with only Commissioner Farmer voting in the affirmative. Commissioner Gormley moved to deny the objection, seconded by Commissioner West and passed 3 to 1 with Commissioner Farmer dissenting.

The objection filed by Ana Quezada Democratic Candidate for Representative in the General Assembly District 10 was heard in her absence. Vice-Chairman Pierce moved to deny the objection due to insufficient signatures, seconded by Commissioner West and passed unanimously.

The next order of business: The appeal of Richard R. Tomlins from the Cranston Board of Canvassers decision to deny his certification for city council at-large. Mr. Tomlins had submitted signatures on nomination papers that were duplicates of the originals, but were not time stamped by the Board of Canvassers in accordance with Rhode Island General Law 17-14-4(b). Legal counsel Raymond Marcaccio advised the Board that the language of the statute was clear, and that duplicate nomination papers must be time stamped prior to the collection of signatures. Commissioner Farmer motioned to deny the appeal based on the statutory requirement, seconded by Vice-Chairman Pierce and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: At 4:50 PM Commissioner Farmer's motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner West and passed unanimously.

Andreza Skipworth