

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BALLOT LAW COMMISSION**

**Decision BLC 2022-3**

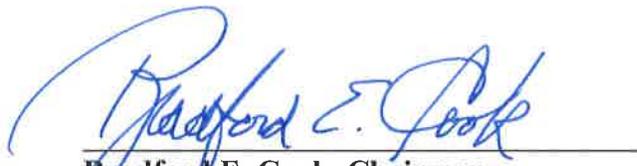
**Appeal of Christine Tappan**

Christine Tappan, of Northwood, New Hampshire, in a desire to file her candidacy for State Senator in District 17, in the Democratic Primary, submitted her Declaration of Candidacy form and form for change of party registration, to the Northwood town clerk on June 10, 2020, using forms provided to her by the town clerk. The change of party registration form provided to her, it turned out, was the form designed to be used during the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2020 elections, and is no longer the valid and appropriate form. Once submitted, the forms were accepted by the town clerk and forwarded to the Secretary of State. Once received there, they were rejected by the staff, since one was submitted on the outdated form. Ms. Tappan appealed this action to the Ballot Law Commission. The Commission heard her appeal on June 16, 2022.

**DECISION**

Christine Tappan did everything she was instructed to do to change he party registration so she would be a registered Democrat and thus qualified to submit her declaration of candidacy to run for state senate in the Democratic Primary. The Secretary of State followed the letter of the law in rejecting the filing. Upon review of the facts, all of the information which would be contained in the proper change of party registration form is contained on the 2020 form, which was for use in that election only. After considering the equity of the situation, and with no serious objection from the Secretary of State, the Commission has unanimously concluded that Christine Tappan is qualified, and her name should appear on the primary ballot. Therefore, her appeal is upheld and the decision of the Secretary of State is reversed.

**So ordered.**



**Bradford E. Cook, Chairman**

**David Campbell**

**Michael Eaton**

**Robert LeTourneau**

**Kathleen Sullivan**

6/23/22