

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BALLOT LAW COMMISSION**

**Decision BLC 2022-4**

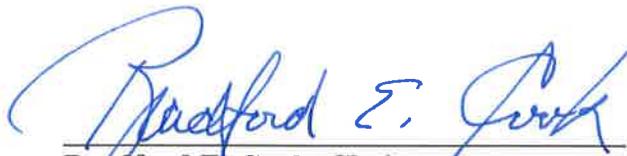
**Appeal of Sarah Hoell**

Sarah Hoell, of Dunbarton, New Hampshire, is seventeen years old. Her birthday is October 22. As a person active and interested in politics, she filed for the office of delegate to the Republican State Convention, which vote is taken only on the ballot in the September primary election. The Republican Party selects delegates through this method. The Democratic Party does not. Ms. Hoell's filing for office was rejected by the Secretary of State under the provisions of NHRSA 654:7 and NHRSA 652:1, since they require that someone be eighteen years of age at the time of "the election" in question. Ms. Hoell will be eighteen years old as of the general election, 2022, but will not have reached that age at the time of the September Primary, the election which will select the persons to go to the Republican Convention, and as to that selection, the primary is "the election." Therefore, her filing was rejected.

**DECISION**

It was clear from testimony at the hearing, that Sarah Hoell is involved and interested in political life far more than most of her fellow citizens, of whatever age. She presents well, is a very appealing person, and is and will be a credit to her family, state and community. Her interest in serving is admirable. Ironically, should ten or more voters write in her name for delegate, that apparently will be reported to the Republican State Committee which has the right to name the delegates to its convention. However, given the statutes of the state, as passed by the legislature, since she will not be eighteen years of age on the date of the election in which she seeks to run, she is not eligible to file for the office. The Secretary of State was justified in rejecting her nomination papers. The Secretary of State's decision is upheld, by unanimous vote of the Commission.

**So ordered.**



**Bradford E. Cook, Chairman**

**David Campbell**

**Michael Eaton**

**Robert LeTourneau**

**Kathleen Sullivan**

6/23/22