STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BALLOT LAW COMMISSION

Decision BLC 2022-11

Complaint of Joe Haas against Maggie Hassan

BACKGROUND

The Ballot Law Commission received a series of documents from Mr. Joe Haas purporting to be about Margaret Wood Hassan's qualification to run for or election to the United States Senate in the November, 2022 general election. While the documents did not seem to state a specific claim or seek any particular remedy, the Commission docketed the complaint for its post-general election hearing on November 28, 2022. At the hearing, Mr. Hass was asked to specify his complaint, and how the Commission had jurisdiction to hear it under its statutory authority. When he was unable to do so, motion was made and seconded to dismiss the complaint.

DECISION

The Ballot Law Commission, based on the proceedings described above, voted to dismiss the complaint as failing to state a matter which it was authorized to provide a remedy. The case was dismissed unanimously.

So ordered.

Bractord F. Cook Chairman David Campbell Robert LeTourneau Christopher Messier Kathleen Sullivan

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BALLOT LAW COMMISSION

Decision BLC 2022-12

Appeal of John Greer re Recount of Ballots Cast for State Representative for Coos District 7 (Berlin) from the 2022 General Election

BACKGROUND

The Ballot Law Commission received an appeal by candidate John Greer, unsuccessful candidate for state representative from Coos District 7. After a recount of the general election results, Mr. Greer was found to have lost the election by two votes. The Commission heard the appeal at its post-general election hearing held November 28. At the hearing, all contested ballots were reviewed and the Secretary of State explained his office's ruling on each one before the candidates were allowed to state their positions on how each vote should be counted, if at all. After review, the recount results showing Mr. Greer with 2450 votes, and his opponent with 2452 was upheld by the Ballot Law Commission.

DECISION

The Ballot Law Commission, based on the proceedings described above, voted to sustain the results of the recount.

So ordered.

Bradford & Cook, Chairman David Campbell Robert LeTourneau Christopher Messier Kathleen Sullivan

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BALLOT LAW COMMISSION

Decision BLC 2022-15

Appeal of Melissa Litchfield re: Recount of Ballots Cast From State Representative Rockingham District 6 (Brentwood) from the 2022 General Election

BACKGROUND

The Ballot Law Commission received an appeal by candidate Melissa Litchfield, unsuccessful candidate for state representative from Rockingham District 6 (Brentwood). At a recount of the general election results, Secretary of State employees discovered 27 uncounted absentee ballots which apparently had been put in a box with envelopes from other absentee ballots which were counted. As they had not been counted in the original vote count on election night, they were not counted in the recount, and candidate Litchfield requested the Ballot Law Commission to order that they be counted.. The Commission heard the appeal at its post-general election hearing held November 28. At the hearing, the town moderator took responsibility for the mistaken placement of the ballots in the box with the envelopes, and explained what had happened. The Ballot Law Commission unanimously ordered the 27 ballots be counted, which they were at the hearing. Of the 27, 10 were counted for candidate Litchfield, and 17 for candidate Turer, who had prevailed on election night. None of the 27 ballots was protested nor was an appeal from the count requested.

DECISION

The Ballot Law Commission, based on the proceedings described above, voted to order the counting of the newly discovered absentee ballots, and the results of the election did not change, candidate Turer having been declared the winner.

So ordered.

Bradford E. Cook, Chairman David Campbell Robert LeTourneau Christopher Messier Kathleen Sullivan

(Note: Cases 2022-13, 13-a, 14 and 14-a were withdrawn prior to hearing.)