

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

President Judge Administrative Order
No. 2014-01

In re: Objections to Nomination Petitions – Primary Election, May 20, 2014

AMENDED ORDER

AND NOW, this 7th day of March, 2014, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that as required by 25 P.S. § 2937, any petition raising objections to Nomination Petitions (“petition”) of candidates for the May 20, 2014 Primary Election shall be filed, scheduled and disposed as follows:

- (1) the Petition and Exhibits shall be electronically filed with the Court, pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. No. 205.4 and Philadelphia Civil Rule *205.4, no later than 5:00 PM on March 18, 2014. The Petition shall be in the format attached as “Exhibit1;”
- (2) a copy of the Petition and Exhibits shall be served on the Philadelphia County Board of Elections and on the candidate-nominee-respondent. A copy of the Petition may be served on the Philadelphia County Board of Elections, before or after the Petition is filed with the Court, at their office, Room 142 City Hall, Philadelphia, PA; and, on March 18, 2014 may also be served on their representative, who has agreed to be available in the Prothonotary’s Office / Office of Judicial Records, Room 296 City Hall, Philadelphia, PA from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM;
- (3) On March 18, 2014, the Office of the Prothonotary / Office of Judicial Records, Room 296 City Hall, will be open from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Prothonotary staff will assist any party who wishes to electronically file petitions utilizing public access computers located in the Prothonotary’s office. The Prothonotary shall close the office at precisely 5:00 PM. The Petition of any party or counsel who was in line in the Prothonotary’s office / Office of Judicial Records before 5:00 PM. will be time-stamped as having been received at 5:00 PM and the Prothonotary staff shall continue to process their Petitions which, consistent with prior practice, shall be deemed to have been timely filed even if processed after 5:00 PM on March 18, 2014, Moreover, any Petition electronically submitted before 5:00 PM on March 18, 2014 shall be deemed to have been timely filed even if reviewed and officially accepted after 5:00 PM on March 18, 2014;
- (4) Once the petition has been filed with the Prothonotary / Office of Judicial Records, an Order to Show Cause shall be issued scheduling a hearing date for March 21, 2014. The Order must be served by the petitioner before the hearing date as provided in the Order. The Order to Show Cause shall be in the format attached as “Exhibit 2;”

- (5) The petitioner shall file before the hearing or bring at the hearing an Affidavit of Service indicating the date and time of service of the Petition and of the Order to Show Cause. The Affidavit of Service shall be in the format attached as “Exhibit 3;”
- (6) The Court may reschedule the hearing for good cause, including inability to serve the petition or Order to Show Cause. The hearing must be concluded and a final order issued no later than March 26, 2014. The final order shall be in the format attached as “Exhibit 4;”
- (7) The following judges are assigned to preside over Challenges to Nominating Petitions on Friday, March 21, Monday, March 24 and Tuesday, March 25, 2014:

Honorable Nina Wright Padilla
Honorable Albert John Snite, Jr.
Honorable Charles J. Cunningham III

Hearings will be held in the City Commissioners’ Hearing Room, located at Riverview Place, 520 North Delaware Avenue, 6th Floor, at 9:30 A.M., with court reporters assigned to transcribe the proceedings. Sheriffs are to be provided during these sessions; and

- (8) Copies of the forms referenced in this Order shall be available on the Court’s website at www.courts.phila.gov/forms.

This Administrative Order shall become effective immediately. The original Administrative Order shall be filed with the Prothonotary in a docket maintained for Administrative Orders issued by the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and copies shall be submitted to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, and to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Copies of the Administrative Order will be provided to American Lawyer Media, *The Legal Intelligencer*, Jenkins Memorial Library and the Law Library for the First Judicial District, and shall be posted on the website of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania: <http://courts.phila.gov>.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Sheila Woods-Skipper

HONORABLE SHEILA WOODS-SKIPPER
President Judge, Court of Common Pleas

EXHIBIT 1 - A

In Re: Nominating Petition of _____ : COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
: ELECTION MATTER
: _____ TERM, 2014
CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE : NO.

PETITION TO SET ASIDE NOMINATION PETITION

The Petitioner, by and through counsel, respectfully avers that:

1. The Petitioner, _____, is a duly qualified elector, Philadelphia, _____, and is a registered _____.
2. The Respondent is the above referenced Candidate for the stated position.
3. On or _____, _____, above captioned Candidate filed a Nomination for the Office of _____ Party.
A copy of the Nominating Petition is attached as Exhibit "A".
4. For the reasons set forth in greater detail in the attached Exhibit "B", the Candidate's Petition is improperly drawn, fails to contain the required number of properly ascribed signatures, and/or was improperly or untimely filed.
5. The Nomination Petition therefore fails to conform to the requirements of the Election Pa.C.S.A. §2867, et seq., and must be set aside and the Candidate's name not be placed on the
6. Petitioner respectfully reserves the right to add such additional objections as are time of hearing.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays this Honorable Court to issue a Rule upon the Candidate Philadelphia County Board of Elections to show cause why the Nomination Petition should not be set aside and the Candidate's name not be placed on the ballot.

Petitioner/Attorney for Petitioner

VERIFICATION

I, _____, hereby verify that the facts contained in the are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief.

I understand that the statements made herein are made subject to the provisions of 18 Pa. relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: _____

EXHIBIT 1 – B

IN RE : COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
NOMINATION PETITION OF : PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
 : ELECTION MATTER
 : TERM, 2014
A CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE OF : NO.

LINE NO.	NAME	REASON

SCHEDULE OF OBJECTION

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----|---|
| NR | Not Registered | BA | Bad Address |
| REP | Registered Republican | PS | Printed name on petition. Signed name on registration record |
| N-P | Registered Non-Partisan | S | Signature on petition is not the signature of voter on record |
| OD | Out of District | IL | Name or address illegible |

EXHIBIT 2

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County**

In Re : Election Matter
Nomination Petition of :
 : **MARCH TERM, 2014**
 :

As **Candidate for Office of** :
 : **NO. _____**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 2014, upon consideration of the *Petition to Set Aside Nomination Petition* filed on _____, it is hereby ordered that:

(1) a rule is issued upon the Philadelphia County Board of Elections and the Respondent-Nominee, _____, to show cause why the above-referenced Nomination Petition should not be set aside and/or why the name of the Respondent-Nominee should not be removed from the ballot as a candidate for the

_____ Party Nomination for _____,
(Democratic/Republican/Other) (Office sought by Nominee)

in the City of Philadelphia;

(2) a hearing shall be held the _____ day of March, 2014, at 9:30 AM at the Riverview Place, 520 North Delaware Avenue, 6th Floor, City Commissioner's Hearing Room, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

(3) a copy of this Order and a copy of the Petition (if it has not already been served) shall be served upon the County Board of Elections by personal service on an employee in charge, in Room 142 City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on or before the 18th day of March, 2014, at 5:00 PM. An Affidavit of Service shall be filed on or before the hearing date; and

(4) a copy of this Order and a copy of the Petition (if it has not already been served) shall be served upon the Respondent-Nominee, _____, personally or upon an adult at his/her residence, or upon the person in charge of his/her place of business, on or before the 20th day of March, 2014, at 4:00 PM. An Affidavit of Service shall be filed on or before the hearing date.

BY THE COURT:

HONORABLE SHEILA WOODS-SKIPPER
President Judge, Court of Common Pleas

EXHIBIT 3

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County**

In Re : Election Matter
Nomination Petition of :
 : _____ **TERM, 2014**
 :

As Candidate for Office of :
 : **NO.** _____

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, _____, hereby certify that I have served a copy of the pleadings as follows:

Petition to Set Aside Nomination Petition on _____, an employee of the County Board of Elections on March ____, 2014 at _____ AM/PM at the following location:

Order to Show Cause on _____, an employee of the County Board of Elections on March ____, 2014 at _____ AM/PM at the following location:

and

Petition to Set Aside Nomination Petition on Respondent, _____
Name
on March ____, 2014 at _____ AM/PM at the following location:

Order to Show Cause on Respondent, _____, on
March ____, 2014 at _____ AM/PM at the following location:

I verify that the facts contained herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief.

I understand that the statements made herein are made subject to the provisions of 18 Pa. C.S. §4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: _____

EXHIBIT 4

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County**

In Re : Election Matter
Nomination Petition of :
 :
 : **TERM, 2014**
 :

As Candidate for Office of :
 : **NO. _____**

FINAL ORDER

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 2014, upon consideration of the *Petition to Set Aside Nomination Petition* filed on _____, 2014, after a hearing held thereon, and upon consideration of the evidence and/or legal arguments presented, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED** that:

- The Court finds that:
 - the Nomination Petition is defective; and/or
 - the Nomination Petition does not contain a sufficient number of genuine signatures of electors entitled to sign; and/or
 - the Nomination Petition was not filed by persons entitled to file the samethe objections to the Nominating Petition of Respondent-Nominee _____, are granted, and the Nomination Petition is set aside, and/or the name of the Respondent-Nominee should be removed from the ballot as a candidate for the above-referenced position.
- The Objections to the Nomination Petition of Respondent-Nominee _____, are denied, and the Nomination Petition shall be accepted by the County Board of Elections.
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BY THE COURT:

J.