

September 24, 2015

Secretary of the State

PO Box 150470, 30 Trinity Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Attn: LEAD

We, the authorized agents for the "Job Creation Party" hereby endorse the following candidate to appear on the November 3, 2015 ballot under such party name.

Bill Finch

Mayor of Bridgeport

70 Crown Street

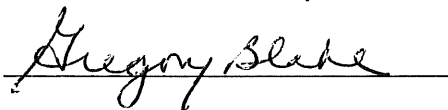
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Sincerely,

Authorized Agents

Job Creation Party

2015 SEP 25 P 2:19
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
LEGISLATION & ELECTIONS
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



Gregory Blake



Michele Tarrant

JOB CREATION PARTY

SECRETARY OF THE STATE
LEGISLATION & ELECTIONS
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

2015 SEP 25 P 2:19

From: Gregory Blake
Michele Tarrant, Authorized Agents, Job Creation Party
To: Denise Merrill, Secretary of the State
Date: September 25, 2015

We are filing our endorsement today of our candidate for Mayor of Bridgeport, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Richard DeParle. We have endorsed the incumbent Mayor, Bill Finch. We have laid out below our layman's understanding of the facts and the law, as we understand it, and the actions we have taken under them:

1. Petitions for the nomination of Richard DeParle as the candidate for Mayor of the City of Bridgeport for the November 3, 2015 election were filed with the Bridgeport Town Clerk on or before August 5, 2015, as required for such petitions.
2. Mr. DeParle represented the Job Creation Party (JCP), a group of 29 voters who reserved that party name and whose party name was on the nominating petitions. We were designated as the authorized agents of the party.
3. On August 7, 2015, Mr. DeParle filed a letter of resignation from his candidacy under **CSG 9-453p**. The certification of that candidacy had not, at that time, been made by the Town Clerk or the Secretary of the State.
4. The Secretary and the Town Clerk agreed that the certification of the petitions should be completed so that the Job Creation Party would be able to replace the candidate.
5. It is our understanding, from subsequent discussions with the staff of the Secretary and the Town Clerk, that such petitions were adequate and the candidacy was certified.
6. Notwithstanding that certification, no notice of the certification was mailed to the candidate, with a copy to the town clerk, as is the normal practice and procedure of the Secretary under **Section 9-453o**. Presumably, the Secretary deviated from normal practice because Mr. DeParle had already resigned his nomination. The result of this inaction, however, is that **no one** was notified when Mr. DeParle's petitions were certified.
7. According to the spokesman for the Secretary of the State, 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 2, 2015, was the final day that the party may have filed a Statement of Endorsement with the Secretary of the State. **CGS 9-453o (b)**. This would have required the JCP to endorse Mr. DeParle at that time, even though he had already resigned. You will note that even the placement of the statutes, i.e., the resignation statute comes **after** the endorsement statute, suggests that this situation is outside the norm.

8. CGS 9-460 provides that if the nominee of the JCP withdraws more than 24 days prior to the election, which is October 9 this year, and which is what occurred in this case, "the party designation committee may make a nomination to fill such vacancy...." by that date, October 9.
9. The JCP, at a duly noticed meeting held Thursday, September 24, 2015, at which a quorum was present, endorsed, by acclamation, Bill Finch for the vacancy in nomination for Mayor of Bridgeport. We are filing the party's endorsement of our candidate with you today, September 25, 2015.
10. There was no logical reason for the JCP, as a petitioning party designate, to be required to endorse a candidate who had already resigned before his petitions were certified. We should only be required to make that endorsement when we have replaced that candidate, which must be done by October 9.

Thank you.

2015 SEP 25 P 2:19
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
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The relevant statutes are attached.

Sec. 9-453o. Rejection of defective pages. Cure for omission by town clerk. Approval of petitions. (a) The Secretary of the State may not count for purposes of determining compliance with the number of signatures required by section 9-453d the signatures certified by the town clerk on any petition page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or 9-216 if: (1) The name of the candidate, his address or the party designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the petition; (2) the page does not contain a statement by the circulator as to the residency in this state and eligibility of the circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j or upon which such statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the certifications required by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, by the town clerk of the town in which the signers reside. The town clerk shall cure any omission on his part by signing any such page at the office of the Secretary of the State and making the necessary amendment or by filing a separate statement in this regard, which amendment shall be dated.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Secretary of the State shall approve every nominating petition which contains sufficient signatures counted and certified on approved pages by the town clerks. In the case of a candidate who petitions under a reserved party designation the Secretary shall approve the petition only if it meets the signature requirement and if a statement endorsing such candidate is filed with the Secretary by the party designation committee not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-second day before the election. In the case of a candidate who petitions under a party designation which is the same as the name of a minor party the Secretary shall approve the petition only if it meets the signature requirement and if a statement endorsing such candidate is filed in the office of the Secretary by the chairman or secretary of such minor party not later than four o'clock p.m. on the sixty-second day before the election. No candidate shall be qualified to appear on any ballot by nominating petition unless the candidate's petition is approved by the Secretary pursuant to this subsection.

(c) The Secretary of the State may approve a nominating petition received under section 9-453k at any time except such approval shall be withdrawn if sufficient signatures are withdrawn under section 9-453h.

Sec. 9-453p. Withdrawal of candidacy. A petitioning candidate may withdraw his candidacy but no such withdrawal shall be valid until the candidate has signed and filed a letter of withdrawal with the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state representative. A copy of each letter of withdrawal filed with the municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. The Secretary of the State shall forthwith notify the appropriate town clerks of such withdrawal in the case of a state or district office.

Sec. 9-460. Vacancy in nomination; withdrawal procedure. Certification of replacement nomination; time limitations. Ballot labels. If any party has nominated a candidate for office, or, on and after November 4, 1981, if a candidate has qualified to appear on any ballot by nominating petition under a reserved party designation, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and such nominee thereafter, but prior to twenty-four days before the opening of the polls on the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, dies, withdraws such nominee's name or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for which such nominee has been nominated (1) such party or, on and after November 4, 1981, the party designation committee may make a nomination to fill such vacancy or provide for the making of such nomination as its rules prescribe, and (2) if another party that is qualified to

nominate a candidate for such office does not have a nominee for such office, such party may also nominate a candidate for such office as its rules prescribe. No withdrawal, and no nomination to replace a candidate who has withdrawn, under this section shall be valid unless the candidate who has withdrawn has filed a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate with the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state representative. A copy of such candidate's letter of withdrawal to the municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. No nomination to fill a vacancy under this section shall be valid unless it is certified to the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or to the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state representative, by the organization or committee making such nomination, at least twenty-one days before the opening of the polls on the day of the election, except as otherwise provided by this section. If a nominee dies within twenty-four days, but prior to twenty-four hours before the opening of the polls on the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, the vacancy may be filled in the manner prescribed in this section by two o'clock p.m. of the day before the election with the municipal clerk or the Secretary of the State, as the case may be. If a nominee dies within twenty-four hours before the opening of the polls and prior to the close of the polls on the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, such nominee shall not be replaced and the votes cast for such nominee shall be canvassed and counted, and if such nominee receives a plurality of the votes cast, a vacancy shall exist in the office for which the nomination was made. The vacancy shall then be filled in a manner prescribed by law. A copy of such certification to the municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. Such nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy. If at the time such nomination is certified to the Secretary of the State or to the municipal clerk, as the case may be, the ballot labels have already been printed, the Secretary of the State shall direct the municipal clerk in each municipality affected to (A) have the ballot labels reprinted with the nomination thus made included thereon, (B) cause printed stickers to be affixed to the ballot labels so that the name of any candidate who has died, withdrawn or been disqualified is deleted and the name of any candidate chosen to fill such vacancy appears in the same position as that in which the vacated candidacy appeared, or (C) cause blank stickers to be so affixed if the vacancy is not filled.

2015 SEP 25 P 2:19

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