

For Immediate Release

On Monday, January 25th, at a Petition for Judicial Review for three cases of Democratic candidates for office in Winfield Township, DuPage County Judge Craig Belford ruled that they should appear on the ballot for the April 6, 2021 consolidated election. Maury Goodman from Warrenville is the Democratic candidate for Winfield Township Supervisor, Judith M. Lukas from Warrenville is a candidate for Township Trustee, and Shawn Patrick Hacker from West Chicago is also a candidate for Township Trustee. The current township officers are all Republicans. The Democratic challengers were nominated at the caucus on December 1, 2020, but on January 6, 2021, two Winfield Township electoral boards, responding to an objection from Edward Halley of Warrenville, ruled that they shouldn't appear on the ballot because of a technical issue with the paperwork. Judge Belford's ruling today overturned that decision. The ruling stated that although the one page in dispute should have had a notary stamp, the requirement appeared nowhere in state statute, was not mandatory, and the technical issue did not rise to the level of removing candidates from the ballot. "We are just glad that the courts gave a just ruling, and that it was quickly enough to get our names back on the ballots before DuPage County prints them," said Shawn Hacker. "The boards who ruled us off the ballot included our Republican opponents – newly appointed incumbent Nicole Prater for Supervisor; Barbara Alekna for Trustee, and Donald Voelz for Trustee." Newly appointed Township Clerk, Michael Guglielmi, also sat on the electoral boards. Judith Lukas said, "I'm glad this ill-fated Republican scheme to deprive Winfield Township voters of a choice did not stand. It's a shame they wasted so much taxpayer money in the attempt."

The caucus paperwork was filed in the Township office on December 14, 2020 by Lynn Maher, chair of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization and chair of the December 1st caucus, including the single disputed page, along with other required and notarized documents. She recounted, "I trusted that the Winfield Township Officials would be honest with me when I filed the paperwork and in retrospect, they were coy and trying to be tricky and confusing. I am not surprised that the same person who told me I could file the document without a notary stamp later voted that it was invalid without that stamp. But I'm glad that now voters will have a choice in the April election for these often-overlooked offices."

The objector, Edward Halley, father of current Winfield Township Trustee Zachary Halley, once served on the Warrenville City Council with the Democratic candidate for Supervisor, Maury Goodman. "If my former colleague, Mr. Halley, thought the paperwork was improper, or even if he just wanted to create mischief, he had every right to challenge the paperwork. But I am doubly disappointed that on January 6th, the same day there was a major assault on democracy in D.C., there was also a tiny assault on democracy by Winfield Township officials. First, they structured the electoral boards so that they followed the letter of the state law, but blatantly violated the spirit. In a dispute based on a single document and a single issue, they split this into three cases to be heard by two electoral boards, so that they were ruling their own opponents off the ballot. They should have recognized this obvious conflict-of-interest. Second, during the hearing, none of them discussed the actual requirements in Illinois statutes for Township

elections after a Democratic or Republican caucus. And none of them asked the Township attorney what the relevant law was. It seemed they had made up their minds in advance.”

The Winfield Township Democratic Party hopes people vote in the April elections. Voters can put in their vote-by-mail requests online now at <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/VoteByMail/>.

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