



**RICHMOND
DEMOCRATIC
TOWN COMMITTEE**
P.O. BOX 497
WYOMING, RI 02898

www.richmondtdtc.com
rdtc@richmondtdtc.com

G6



January 29, 2024

President Mark Trimmer
5 Richmond Townhouse Road
Richmond, RI 02898

President Trimmer,

The RDTC is concerned with the recent appointment process for the Richmond Canvassing Authority taken on January 16, 2024.

State law states that the president shall nominate a candidate from the lists submitted by respective chairpersons. If the council does not approve this nomination, then the president shall choose another candidate from the lists.

Instead, Councilor Colasante nominated a candidate from the list, and the council voted on that nomination. That is a violation of the state law, and undermines your responsibility and authority as president of the Richmond Town Council.

There is also a myth that the candidate appointed must be the same political party as the resigning candidate. This is not true. The state law states that no more than two of the three board members can belong to the same political party. Since the Richmond Canvassing Authority has one Democrat and one Republican presently as full members, either candidate presented on January 16, 2024 was eligible for appointment as full members to the board.

Lastly, the current council has adopted a practice to briefly interview all potential candidates for appointments to boards during the meeting at which they are on the agenda. This practice is prudent, as it allows the board to understand who, of the potential candidates, is best suited for the role. Your decision to waive this practice on January 16 calls into question your objectivity on the appointment. This would represent a process foul on any board appointment, but is particularly concerning when dealing with matters related to elections.

When town councilors are elected, or when board members are appointed, they are expected represent the whole town, not just those that share the same political affiliation. Town councilors, once sworn in, must not just represent the 21% of Richmond voters who are Republican, the 25% of Richmond voters who are Democratic, or the 54% of Richmond voters who are unaffiliated. They must represent all Richmond voters.



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In accordance with 4.a of the Rules and Procedures of the Town Council, which permits members of the public to request agenda items, I request an agenda item for the February 6th Town Council meeting to "Review the nomination and selection procedures of the appointment to the Richmond Canvassing Authority taken on January 16th, and conduct a proper nomination and selection procedure that is compliant with state law and provides due process to all nominees presented by each Town Committee."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Kona".

Chris Kona
Chair, Richmond Democratic Town Committee

Erin Liese

From: Mark Trimmer
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 10:19 AM
To: Chris Kona; Erin Liese; Karen Pinch
Subject: Re: Agenda Request for February 6 -- Proper Nomination for Richmond Canvassing Authority

Hello Aaron, would you please place this attached item on the agenda for the Tuesday meeting?

Kindest regards,

Mark

From: Chris Kona >
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 8:11 PM
To: Mark Trimmer <mtrimmer@richmondri.com>; Erin Liese <townclerk@richmondri.com>; Karen Pinch <townadministrator@richmondri.com>
Subject: Agenda Request for February 6 -- Proper Nomination for Richmond Canvassing Authority

President Trimmer, Erin, Karen,

In accordance with 4.a of the Rules and Procedures of the Town Council, which permits members of the public to request agenda items, I request an agenda item for the February 6th Town Council meeting to "Review the nomination and selection procedures of the appointment to the Richmond Canvassing Authority taken on January 16th, and conduct a proper nomination and selection procedure that is compliant with state law and provides due process to all nominees presented by each Town Committee."

Please review the attached letter and include it in the agenda materials for the February 6th Town Council meeting.

V/r,
Chris Kona

Chair Richmond Democratic Town Committee

WARNING: THIS EMAIL ORIGINATED OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND. USE CAUTION WHEN CLICKING ON LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS.