



## **Westchester Board of Elections Disqualifies Volpe/DeVaul Independence Party Petitions**

***Only 26 out of 113 signatures deemed valid  
Petition fraud may disqualify Volpe as a candidate for office***

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The Westchester County Board of Elections has officially disqualified the Independence Party petitions filed by Thomas R. DeVaul II of Peekskill for the position of Westchester County Legislator District 1. DeVaul's friend and Democratic candidate for the same office, Domenic Volpe, obtained the signatures on the petitions. Volpe's wife and son also helped to obtain signatures.

Of the 113 total signatures submitted to the Board of Elections 87 were deemed improper or illegal. Among the signatures eliminated were multiple signatures by the same person, including DeVaul himself, those by individuals not enrolled in the Independence Party and signatures by people who previously signed the petitions of the Independence Party's endorsed candidate, John G. Testa.

The Independence Party conducted a comprehensive independent investigation through a professional investigative firm to determine the methods used to obtain signatures for the DeVaul petitions. "We felt it very odd that Volpe, a candidate for the very same office, would enlist another person to essentially run against himself while also challenging our endorsed candidate," said Cortlandt Independence Party Chairman Dan Pagano. "When we saw that Volpe's wife and son were the witnesses for 95% of the signatures we knew there was something underhanded going on."

The investigation revealed that candidate Volpe illegally obtained a number of the signatures himself. Election law requires that signatures may only be witnessed by a member of the same party or by a Notary Public. Through sworn affidavits the investigation revealed how Volpe would individually obtain signatures and then have his son, an Independence Party registrant, sign the petition as the actual witness at a later time. Volpe even used his place of business to obtain signatures from his customers. This disturbing discovery of outright election fraud cannot be ignored.

"Our first goal was to have the illegal petitions thrown out and we have achieved that," said Pagano. "We now believe that due to the petition fraud committed by Volpe he should be disqualified as a candidate for office in Westchester County. The law is clear on this and we will be in court this week to make our case."

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