



Westchester Independence Party takes Legal Action against Domenic Volpe

***Investigation uncovers scheme to defraud the election process
Election fraud at the center of the complaint
Seeks to disqualify Volpe as a candidate for office***

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The Westchester Independence Party declared its specific objections to the petitions filed by Thomas DeVaul II for County Legislator in District 1. DeVaul of 921 Frost Court, Peekskill has filed petitions with the Westchester County Board of Elections that are riddled with inconsistencies and improper and illegally obtained signatures.

Examples include multiple signatures by the same person, including DeVaul himself, signatures by individuals not registered in the Independence Party and those who previously signed the petitions of the Independence Party's endorsed candidate.

Our investigation revealed that Domenic Volpe, the Democratic candidate for the office of Westchester County Legislator in District 1 solicited his friend Thomas R. DeVaul II to lend his name as a "straw" candidate for the very same office for which he is running. Why would any candidate for office recruit an opponent, what is the scheme that has been hatched here? Moreover, with the exception of approximately 8 out of 113 signatures obtained for DeVaul, all signatures were obtained Volpe himself, his wife Mary Ann or his son Nicholas. "Why would a candidate create an opponent to himself and then use his own family to obtain the very signatures needed to qualify that candidate with the Board of Elections?" said Daniel Pagano, Cortlandt/Peekskill Independence Party Chairman.

In addition to DeVaul, the Independence Party will also initiate legal action against Domenic Volpe and Nicholas Volpe of 18 Red Mill Road, Cortlandt Manor, also implicated for fraudulently obtaining many of the signatures on the petitions that were filed.

The Independence Party has conducted a comprehensive investigation over the last two weeks as a result of reports of numerous accounts of fraudulent activity regarding the petitions filed by DeVaul. The investigation was conducted by an independent professional investigative agency and its conclusions are shocking and disturbing at best. Statements by witnesses also show a pattern of deceit and misrepresentation of the facts to obtain the signatures.

The results of the investigation are clear and without dispute. Domenic Volpe personally obtained a significant number of Independence Party voter signatures on DeVaul's petitions. He collected the

signatures without being in the presence of a legal Independent Party witness. Volpe is a member of the Democratic Party, making his action outright election law fraud. Through sworn statements by those he approached, it has been proven beyond any doubt that Volpe committed fraud. He also used his place of business to obtain several of the illegal signatures, again in violation of election law.

Once the illegal signatures were obtained by Volpe, at a later time, he had his son Nicholas fraudulently sign the petition form as the actual witness of the signature. Nicholas Volpe is an Independence Party registrant; this implicates Nicholas in the illegal scheme as well.

A complaint will be filed later this week with the Westchester County Court to bring action against Domenic and Nicholas Volpe for committing election fraud and Thomas R. DeVaul II for submitting fraudulent documents to a governmental agency.

“Each year The Independence Party conducts candidate interviews to select the best candidates to receive the Party’s endorsement,” said Daniel Pagano. “Mr. Volpe was not selected and should have accepted that outcome”, Pagano added, “to devise such a deceitful and illegal scheme to undermine an election is unethical, and to implicate his own son in the process is unconscionable.”

The Independence Party is seeking the disqualification of Mr. DeVaul’s petitions as well as the disqualification of Domenic Volpe as a candidate for office in Westchester County.

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