

Friday, 6 October 2006

TO: Kenneth McGhie
General Counsel
Board of Elections and Ethics
of the District of Columbia
441 Judiciary Square, Suite 270
Washington, DC 20001

FROM: Philip J. Blair, jr.
1518 Kearney Street, NE
Brookland, DC 20017

RE: COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Dear Sir:

In the Primary Election of September 12, 2006, I was a candidate for the D.C. Statehood-Green Party nomination for Councilmember for Ward 5.

The certified results awarded the election to my opponent; she received 40 votes, I received 33 (or 7 fewer), and there were 16 write-ins, for a total of 89 votes tallied. The turnout figures reported were: 87 votes at the polling places, 3 absentee ballots, and no provisional ballots, for a total of 90.

In an effort to see if I had grounds for a challenge, I began the process of checking the pollbooks to see who actually signed in as a Statehood-Green voter on election day. I have discovered some discrepancies that I must bring to your attention. In this initial complaint, I will focus exclusively on one issue, the startling discrepancy between the number of Statehood-Green voters who signed in and the number of votes actually reported in the results of the election. Moreover, at this time I will use evidence from only nine of the eighteen precincts in Ward 5. In the very near future I will file with you additional evidence from the other nine precincts, and perhaps some additional analysis as well.

The following table records, for those nine precincts, the counts of signed-in voters and the votes tallied. In every case but one, the first number exceeds the second (by 600% in one case). The difference between two figures is in the column headed "Lost Votes." In the case of Precinct 44, there was a "Found Vote": 5 voters signed in, but turnout was reported as 6. (I will double-check this result to confirm that I did not just miss a State-Green voter who did sign in.)

In short, 39 votes were recorded for 66 voters. The 28 "Lost Votes" clearly might have an effect on the outcome of the elections, not only in my own race but also in other primary races in the Ward. (Even though the Ward 5 Councilmember race was the only

Statehood-Green race in the ward with two challengers, there were large numbers of write-ins in some of the other Statehood-Green races.)

“Lost Votes” in Nine Precincts of Ward 5			
Precinct	Statehood-Green Voters Signed In	Turnout Recorded	“Lost Votes”
19	11	8	3
44	5	6	N/A
66	6	1	5
67	6	5	1
69	6	2	4
70	8	6	2
74	9	5	4
75	10	4	6
78	5	2	3
Total	66	39	28

Both as a candidate and as a voter, I request an immediate investigation of this situation, an investigation that will also assess the extent to which this particular case might disclose more general and far-reaching problems in the integrity of the electoral process in the District of Columbia.

I will be pleased to contribute to that investigation in any way that is appropriate; as I have said, I will be filing with you shortly a more extensive report, including similar data on the other nine precincts in Ward 5 and perhaps some additional observations as well.

I must add that I have been very gratified by the helpfulness of every single staff member and official of the Board of Elections and Ethics with whom I have had dealings in my research; I am very impressed by the professionalism and commitment to public service of these public servants.

Sincerely yours,

Philip J. Blair, jr.

cc: Steering Committee, District of Columbia Statehood-Green Party