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Raymond Community for Truth and Transparency Recall Committee
01/02/2024

Raymond Board of Education Clerk
2659 76th Street
Franksville, WI 53126

Subject: Verified Response to Recall Petition Challenge by Janell Wise

Dear Ms. Falaschi,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits in this New Year. I am writing to provide a response to the recall petition challenge submitted by Janell Wise. After careful review and analysis of Ms. Wise's challenge, it is evident that her claim lacks merit and fails to substantiate any deviation from the recall process prescribed in Wis. Stat. § 9.10.

While it is understandable that Ms. Wise may not agree with the reasons stated for the recall, it is important to note that the provided reasons meet the statutory requirement of “presenting a statement that is related to the official responsibilities of the individual in question”. The recall petitioners have thoroughly fulfilled their obligation to outline valid reasons for seeking Ms. Wise’s removal. As a responsible challenger, it is incumbent upon Ms. Wise to present factual and substantiated arguments to discredit the petition. However, thus far, no credible evidence has been provided to validate any of the claims she has made. Without substantial proof, it becomes increasingly difficult to take her objection seriously.

Ms. Wise attempts to eliminate over 160 signatures from the petition, with reasoning that is inconsistent with what is outlined in statute. This shows her clear disregard for the established legal procedures. It is essential to recognize that the burden of proof lies on the challenger, Ms. Wise, to demonstrate the insufficiencies she has identified. It is crucial that all claims she makes meet that burden of proof in order to ensure a fair and transparent evaluation of the petition and

its validity. It is not enough to simply make claims without providing any evidence to support them.

The accusations presented by Ms. Wise in her attempt to disqualify constituents' signatures on the recall petition are absurd. Despite stating concerns over petition signers using false addresses, Ms. Wise fails to provide any evidence to support her outlandish claim. Her assumption that individuals whose names are not on property taxes cannot possibly live there is baseless, as there is no law stating that one must pay property taxes to be a qualified elector. Various circumstances, such as renting the property, having it in the family's name, or placing it in a trust, can explain why a person's name may not appear on the property taxes. She goes as far as identifying the names of spouses to be removed because they are not listed on the property taxes.

Her assertion of the existence of signatures with the same handwriting lacks credibility, as she is not a handwriting expert and having similar penmanship to other constituents is not a disqualifying factor. Furthermore, Ms. Wise's claim of duplicate names among petition signers is a prime example of her lack of due diligence in making these erroneous claims. One should consider the possibility of a father and son, with the same name, both being qualified electors of the district, which is the case here. These perplexing claims demonstrate Ms. Wise's ignorance and indifference towards a free, fair, and democratic process and provide evidence that she is willing to do whatever it takes to silence the voices of her constituents.

Upon further examination of Ms. Wise's accusations, she has made mention of community concerns over the recall information presented to them. The recall committee wholly rebuffs any implied notion constituents were intentionally deceived or lied to. However, it is important to note that the recall committee cannot determine how constituents will interpret the facts that are presented to them or the inferences they may make.

The recall committee and the petitioners involved in this effort have meticulously followed the statutory requirements set forth by the State of Wisconsin in the handling and execution of the petition. This was done not only to demonstrate the utmost respect for the law, but respect for Ms. Wise as well. The overwhelming number of signers and the early submission of the petitions are evidence of the community's motivation and the committee's commitment to truth, transparency and integrity.

It is crucial to clarify that the “purpose” of the petition was to remove Ms. Wise from her school board seat through a recall election. This purpose was never misrepresented to anyone who signed the petition. Ms. Wise's accusations are baseless and unfounded. The purpose is statutorily required to be printed on each petition sheet. The affidavits attached to her challenge do not meet the requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 9.10(2)(m). It is evident that Ms. Wise is conflating the “reasons” for the recall with the “purpose” of the petition. In doing so, she is misleading constituents and misrepresenting the process for the legal removal of petition signatures.

In light of these facts, I urge you as the Raymond Board of Education Clerk to reject Ms. Wise's challenge to the recall petition and certify the petition on its face. Her attempt to manipulate the process and discredit the petitioners is an insult to the democratic principles upon which our society is built. It is essential that the Board upholds the integrity of the recall process and ensures that the voices of all concerned constituents are heard. Her unsubstantiated claims should not further impede the right of the petitioners to seek redress.

Should any minor insufficiencies be identified during the certification process, and their amendment be required for certification, the recall committee looks forward to the opportunity to correct as such according to Wis. Stat. § 9.10(4)(a).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at the provided contact details. I trust that you will make a fair and just decision based on the facts presented.

Respectfully,

Deborah Mikolajczyk

Deborah Mikolajczyk being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that she is the above-named respondent, that she has read the foregoing response and that, based on her knowledge, the contents of the response are true and correct.

Deborah Mikolajczyk
RESPONDENT

1/2/2024
DATE

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 2nd day of January, 2024.

Samantha Schreiber

Notary Public, State of Wisconsin

My Commission Expires: 03/27/2026

