

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2024

Mr. Alan Hirsch
Chairman
North Carolina State Board of Elections
430 N. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27603

Ms. Karen Brinson Bell
Executive Director
North Carolina State Board of Elections
430 N. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Chairman Hirsch and Ms. Brinson Bell:

On June 26, 2024, the North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) denied petitions filed by the political parties representing presidential candidates who otherwise have met the qualifications to appear on the November ballot in North Carolina.¹ The Committee on House Administration and the Committee on the Judiciary are concerned that the NCSBE's decision was politically motivated and may have been done to influence the 2024 presidential election by limiting the candidates for which voters may cast their ballots. Accordingly, we write to request documents and information about this decision.

Several political parties timely filed petitions with the NCSBE to allow each party's respective candidate to appear on the November ballot in North Carolina.² However, the NCSBE denied these petitions by a party-line vote; the Board's three Democrat members voted to reject the petitions.³ Because the deadline to appear on the ballot is rapidly approaching, the NCSBE's decision, if not reversed, means that these three candidates will be left off of the November ballot.⁴

The justifications put forth by the NCSBE's Democrat majority to deny these petitions underscore its political motivations to influence the election. For example, in its denial of one petition, the Democrat members voted to block the petition simply because the address of the party's chairman was not up to date on the petition sheets.⁵ More concerning, it appears that the NCSBE succumbed to the demands of Democrat organizations who repeatedly pressured the NCSBE to deny these petitions.⁶

¹ Paul Specht, *RFK Jr., Cornel West blocked from NC presidential ballot as elections officials investigate petitions*, WRAL NEWS (June 26, 2024).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Kyle Ingram, *NC ballot access denied for West, RFK Jr. parties. But the decision may not be final.*, RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER (June 26, 2024).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See, e.g., Kyle Ingram, *Left-wing group or Republican front? Democrats challenge new third party in NC*, RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER (June 14, 2024); Kyle Ingram, *Democratic group targets NC supporters of RFK Jr. and Cornel West in text campaign*, RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER (June 4, 2024).

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The NCSBE's decision ensures that some otherwise qualified candidates will not garner votes in the November election, which will inevitably influence the election and potentially sway the electoral results. Therefore, to assist the Committees' oversight, we ask that you produce the following documents and communications:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the NCSBE's decision to bar certain candidates from the November ballot;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the quality of the petitions filed by third-party organizations to appear on the ballot; and
3. All documents and communications between the NCSBE and third-party organizations concerning the NCSBE's decision to deny the petitions.


Pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on House Administration has jurisdiction to conduct oversight of presidential elections and federal elections generally.⁷ The Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction to conduct oversight of matters concerning "civil liberties" to inform potential legislative reforms.⁸ Please provide your response as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2024. In addition, please treat these discovery obligations as ongoing and applicable to any information generated after receipt of this letter. If you have questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-8281 or (202) 225-6906.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration



Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Joe Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

⁷ Clause 1(k)(12) of Rule X of the United States House of Representatives, <https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>.

⁸ *Id.* at Rule X.1(1)(5).