

May 15, 2005

Cert. Mail #7004 0550 0000 4892 3588

Leanne Robinson, Asst. A.G.
Office of the Attorney General
Six State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Ms. Robinson,

On October 8, 2004 I read, with shock, an article in the Portland Press Herald of the indictments of campaign workers who volunteered to help with my election campaign for state representative last February in Biddeford. The people being charged with violating the law are well-respected, honest, decent, law abiding citizens and would never violate the law. My volunteers only brought ballots to those people, whom I spoke with on the telephone, and wanted an absentee ballot brought to them.

On February 9, 2004 I wrote to Julie Flynn, Deputy Secretary of State and Attorney General Stephen Rowe requesting a full investigation into the City of Biddeford's special election held on February 3, 2004 and neither responded to my serious request. Attached is my letter. I requested an investigation into ballot tampering and mail tampering. What happened in Biddeford on election day was a serious breach of protocol and direct violation of Maine's election laws.

The City Clerk's election personnel did not wait until 8:00 p.m. on election day to open all the absentee ballots, as posted in the city's legal notice, and as required by Title 21A of the State Election Law. Instead poll workers were opening absentee ballot envelopes, removing the ballots and combining them with walk-in ballots throughout the morning. By 9:30 a.m. over two hundred absentee ballots had been opened and processed without an opportunity for any of the campaigns to inspect and authenticate the ballots as allowed by law. On learning of this improper practice, the Secretary of State's Office was notified. In turn, **the Biddeford City Clerk was contacted and ordered to "cease and desist" the premature processing and mishandling of the absentee ballots**, but by then all of the ballots received up to that point (about 1/3 of all the ballots cast in the race) had already been mishandled.

On Friday, January 30, 2003 a mass mailing, **first class**, of my campaign flyers was brought to the Post Office. On Saturday, between 500-600 of the mailed pieces at

the post office were not delivered and returned. Someone "forgot" to mail them. The pieces were returned to the post office for delivery and about 500 pieces were again returned and stamped "Not deliverable as addressed". A check of the undeliverable campaign flyers revealed that many of the flyers were addressed to residents who regularly receive mail at the same address. Tampering with peoples' votes and peoples' mail is a serious offense and warrants prosecution and accountability.

The honest individuals who volunteered to help with my campaign are the wrong people on trial. I would appreciate your assistance in this matter of election law violations by City of Biddeford officials and the tampering of mail. I am appealing to you for your assistance in bringing my evidence before a grand jury.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Lafortune
P.O. Box 187
Biddeford, Maine 04005