

February 9, 2004

Julie L. Flynn  
Deputy Secretary of State  
Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions  
101 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Re: Special Election in Biddeford**

Dear Ms. Flynn,

As a candidate in this week's election held in Biddeford, I have some serious issues which need further investigation. The Green Party members who helped out with my campaign worked their hearts out and we conducted a clean campaign. The events surrounding this election are not just mere "irregularities" or "mistakes". I think that a full investigation into the City of Biddeford is fully warranted. My concerns are:

The opening of absentee ballots at the polls the morning of the election when a notice was posted at the polls that absentee ballots would be opened at 8:00 p.m. One of our campaign members telephoned you to inform you of the opening of the ballots. You called the city clerk and told her to "cease and desist" the opening of the 200+ absentee ballots. However, to my understanding, all of the ballots were already opened and put in with the rest of the votes people had cast in the morning. Our campaign chairman had requested an inspection of the ballots prior to the 5:00 p.m. deadline. Neither campaign had the opportunity to inspect the absentee ballots.

Our campaign workers worked hard on mailing out flyers, paid to have them delivered first class and the Post Office "forgot" to mail approx. 500 flyers. This is 500 votes! These flyers came back as "undeliverable". I was sitting in the home of one of the recipients of this flyer who has a mail box, the correct address on the flyer and has still not received the flyer. A phone number was listed on the flyer to contact our campaign. On Wednesday, February 4th, Ben Chipman received a telephone call from a Biddeford citizen who had just received our flyer. He questioned why we would send a flyer to him AFTER the election was over. Ben explained that he should have received it on Saturday and explained the post office's failure to get the flyers out. The man was quite upset with the post office and the tampering of our mail. This is a serious issue that needs further investigation. I would also like the name of the carrier who "forgot" to mail these flyers. The newspapers report that a flyer was mailed to the people in District 18 asking voters to "Support Homosexuals by voting Democrat" in this election. The newspaper article goes on to read that the "postcard used the same paper and print as Lafortune's own campaign literature." This is absolutely false. Our flyers were digitally printed on heavyweight paper, with clear print. The mysterious postcard was photocopied on the same kind of paper used for Steven Beaudette's flyer. I know for a fact that the Democrats were very nervous on Sunday about the total number of absentee ballots that we had coming into

this race. If someone went into the Saco post office to mail 2000 pieces of mail, the clerk at the post office would probably remember the person doing the mailing.

I was at the polls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and there were not many voters that day. Towards the end of the day, more people showed up than during the day, but most were turned away because they were in the wrong district. Candidates were not allowed to be near the polling table, yet Mr. Beaudette did spend time with one of the girls at the table who was checking off the voters names.

Since election day, I have learned of other issues that are of concern. These issues are attached by notarized statement from Mr. Dan Rogers.

I am not whining about not winning this election. I've lost before. But this election is one like I've never seen before. This election should be "nullified" for the fact that the city violated Maine election laws by opening up absentee ballots...and this is a pattern with the City of Biddeford. I have the evidence to that. I hope that you will pursue this and hold the city accountable. Peoples' votes have been tampered with. A new election should take place. If not, then why run for an office, why even vote?

I thank you for your cooperation in this serious matter. I am forwarding this correspondence to Attorney General Steven Rowe and request that he seek a full investigation into the special election held in Biddeford on February 3, 2004.

Sincerely,

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