

July 11, 2026

From:

Gunnar R. Wieboldt
“Gunnar For NC – District 54” (STA-4CNY4S-C-001)
510 Meadowmont Village Circle, #123
Chapel Hil, NC 27517
919.943.2405
info@gunnar4nc.com/ Gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com

By Registered Mail and Email:

Sam Hayes
Executive Director
NC State Board of Elections
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
Elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov

Subject: Follow Up to Request for Hearing to Challenge the Denial of Ballot Inclusion District 54 Dated June 13, 2026.

Dar Mr. Hayes:

On June 13, 2026, I sent by registered mail, and subsequently by email, my request for a hearing to challenge my denial to be on the ballot for District 54, attached hereto as Exhibit A. Despite that the most relevant portion of N.C.G.S. §163-122 requires a hearing date be set within (5) days of request, it has now been over 25 days without response other than confirmation of receipt on June 26, 2026 (at the latest) see Exhibit B. This delay, coupled with the almost (3) months (and counting) taken to fulfill my record request with Chatham and Randolph County Board of Elections (despite the extraordinary step of hiring outside counsel to assist) see Exhibit C, it appears that election officials are either derelict in their duties or are engaging in a systematic campaign to delay and frustrate my efforts to give the 68,000 registered voters of District 54 a choice this November. Given that your

delay has made it impossible to both pursue the hearing process and seek a judicial injunction, I hereby request, based solely on the content of this letter, that the State Board of Elections make a formal decision to include me on the ballot or not, including the reason therefore, in a timely manner to allow me to seek judicial intervention if needed.

ARGUMENT

The legitimacy of our laws, and that of the officers and courts empowered to enforce them, depend entirely on a form of government where citizens can manifest their will by voting. However, without elections there is no democracy and without democracy there is no legitimacy. Any law, regulation, or use of governmental authority, that frustrates free and fair elections undermines the very foundation of our republic and must be challenged to the utmost of our ability. The only thing that stands between the 68,450 registered voters of Chatham and Randolph counties being disenfranchised entirely, or having a meaningful choice on election day, is this challenge. Given the thousands of valid signatures I collected, manifesting significant support from the electorate, I am asking that my name be added to the ballot for NC Assembly as an unaffiliated candidate against the otherwise unopposed incumbent minority party leader. Failure to grant this relief will reward the blatantly partisan use of government resources to subvert a law intended to increase choice into a vehicle used to deny any choice at all. Allowing bureaucrats to use their authority and taxpayer resources to frustrate the public good by promoting partisan interests by denying the election itself cannot stand. It is difficult to imagine a matter more worthy of fighting to correct.

COMPOSITION OF THE DISTRICT

The political composition of District 54 is approximately 44% unaffiliated, 33% Democrat, and 23% Republican. Given that the single largest block of voters is unaffiliated, it seems perverse that these citizens are being denied their right to vote for an unaffiliated candidate. Who is being served here? Certainly not the electorate of District 54. The only

person that benefits from the Boards' bias against my unaffiliated candidacy is the Democratic incumbent. Government officials actively working for a single party's benefit raises significant issues should trouble all citizens regardless of political affiliation.

CONFORMANCE TO THE STATUTE

N.C.G.S. §163-122 ("Unaffiliated candidates nominated by petition"), while flawed and heavily weighted in favor of incumbents with major-party support, was intended to give North Carolina voters more choice by providing a path to the ballot for candidates without major-party backing who can demonstrate meaningful public support. Under N.C.G.S. §163-122(a), the relevant requirements are: (1) the petitioner must obtain signatures from 4% of the district's registered voters; (2) each verified signer must be a registered voter and must have signed or otherwise marked the petition form; and (3) all signatures must be submitted by noon on primary day. I submitted 3,627 signatures on primary day, exceeding the required 2,738-signature threshold. The county Boards of Elections rejected 1,684 signatures, a 46% rejection rate. Had they limited their review to voter-registration status and whether the signer made a mark (i.e., the only statutory requirements), the adjusted number of rejected signatures would have been 806, a more reasonable 22% rejection rate, leaving me 83 signatures above the threshold. This bias at the Board level is coupled by the problematic aspects of the statute:

Elements of Bias in the Statute

- 1) Punitive Target for District Level Petitions. For Statewide offices only 1.5% of the electorate is required to sign the petition, but at the District level, it is set at an incredibly high bar of 4.0%--a clearly self-serving hurdle designed to protect incumbent legislators who are only concerned about District level challenges.
- 2) Lost Time with Advanced Primary. When the law was passed in 2007, it is my belief that primaries were held in May. Subsequently, primaries were brought forward to March, effectively losing two months out of the six originally contemplated (i.e., over

a 30% reduction) in which a petitioner has in which to secure the needed signatures with no commensurate reduction in the threshold needed (e.g., 2.8% from 4.0%). I imagine that the impact on unaffiliated candidates was not even considered when the decision was made to advance the primaries in this manner.

- 3) Noon on Primary Day Deadline. The deadline for submission of signatures by noon on primary day does not even pass the rational basis test. Primary day is the absolute best day to secure signatures as everyone who shows up at a polling station is both politically interested and a registered voter in the District. There is no reason why, when the Board of Elections has thirty days to make a final determination, the petitioner should be forced to lose this opportunity. Why not noon the day after primaries? In fact, why can't the petition be on the primary ballot as well?
- 4) Segregated By County Forms. In multi-county districts, the statute burdens petitioners with segregating forms by county of residence. This despite that the voter look up tool used is not dependent on county (i.e., Chatham County can look up registered voter status of Randolph County signers and vice versa). This burden shifting to the petitioner who now must juggle multiple forms in the typically chaotic environment in which signatures are sought (e.g., on the street, fairs, supporting events, etc.), solely for the convenience of bureaucrats, is just another example of bias against unaffiliated candidates.

UNOPPOSED AND INFLUENTIAL INCUMBENT

Robert T. Reives II, has served for five terms in the North Carolina Assembly, and, as the minority party leader in that body, he is clearly a major political figure in the Democratic Party. Given that he raised \$748,501 in the last election cycle alone, virtually all of which was spent outside of his district supporting other candidates, the Democratic party, and those affiliated with it, have a strong interest in his continued success.

PARTISAN BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Given the incumbent's status within the Democratic party, a reasonable inference of bias can be used to explain the conduct of the county Board of Elections. District 54 is composed of all of Chatham County and portions of Randolph County and is therefore under the jurisdiction of both Chatham County Board of Elections, led by Pandora Paschal, and Randolph County Board of Elections, led by Melissa Kirstner. Ms. Paschal and Ms. Kirstner, while both listed on the voter roles as "unaffiliated", have voted either exclusively or predominately for Democrats in past primaries, supporting the inference that their personal sympathies are with the Democratic Party, and, by extension, the incumbent, Mr. Rieves.

Every Board of Elections, county or state, has the duty of ensuring free and fair elections. However, to fulfill this obligation, there must first be an election. Consequently, for any Board of Election to use its discretion to frustrate the existence of an election, rather than ensuring that it is free and fair, is perverse. Imagine if a Food Bank, tasked with feeding the poor, enacted regulations to encourage donation from organic and sustainable farms, but the overzealous enforcement of these regulations had the effect of excluding all donations? Effectively, this is what Ms. Paschal and Ms. Kirstner have done by using their discretion to actively look for grounds to deny my petition, thereby frustrating the strong public interest in having competitive elections in favor of their preferred candidate.

This partisan sympathy, or, more charitably, their bureaucratic vigor unmoored from the purpose of their role (i.e., free and fair elections)¹, was on full display when, despite the only statutory requirements to qualify a petition signature that the signer is a registered voter and that they have made a mark, they did the following:

Elements of Bias, Misconduct, or Incompetence at the Board of Elections

- a. Incorrect Date of Birth: There were approximately 400 signatures ruled invalid because of incorrect date of birth. Rather than call the signer, or even the candidate, to ask why this might be, both county Board of Elections summarily rejected them. This even providing a date of birth at all is not a requirement and should not be on the form in the first place. In the age of identity theft, there are valid reasons why someone would not provide a

¹ From www.chathamcoountync.gov: "The mission of the Chatha County Board of Elections is to plan and conduct fair, secure elections..."

correct date of birth to a stranger. However, in this case, an independent C-4 agency that collected many signatures, believed, erroneously, that signatures without date of birth would be deemed invalid and so added their best guess as to date of birth after the fact—something the Board of Elections could have found out if they had even a pretense of effort trying to validate signatures rather than the opposite see Exhibit D.

- b. Wrong County: In what is perhaps the most egregious example of the Boards' bias, approximately 100 signatures were deemed invalid because they were erroneously submitted to the wrong Board of Election. In one case, a form that was titled "RANDOLPH COUNTY" at the top, was mistakenly submitted to Chatham County BOE. Despite Chatham's requirement to check each form prior to acceptance, rather than forward the form to Randolph County, or even return to me, they took more time to invalidate each signature. As part of the check process they would have seen that the names were valid voters in eastern Randolph County—it takes a certain willfulness to so blatantly work against a petitioner.
- c. Signature Verification. Despite the incredibly subjective nature of signature checking, the lack of any objective standard or training, and the wide latitude the Board's own procedures grant in accepting signatures, approximately 400 signatures were rejected. Given the fact that if I fail there will be no election, why even scrutinize signatures? If the incumbent wants to challenge them, let him spend the political capital to do so.
- d. Calling duplicate signatures. In another case of clear bias against me, the Board called up at least one signer who was listed twice see Exhibit E. The normal procedure for duplicate signatures is to allow the first and disqualify any additional one. Why call the signer unless they were attempting to disqualify the first one as well? They went to the effort of calling a voter to discover possible fraud, but they didn't call one of the 400 voters who had an incorrect date of birth. Bias? Absolutely.
- e. Rampant Mistakes. I counted nearly 1,000 mistakes and inconsistent procedures. In some forms the reason for disqualification was noted, but in most, it was just a check mark or an "x". Most importantly, however, I was never given chain of custody documentation. For all I know pages were lost

or destroyed but, despite regulations requiring this, no proof of receipt was given.

- f. Other Unaffiliated Candidates. I note that two other unaffiliated candidates, one for Chatham County Sherrif and one for Chatham County commissioner, despite hard fought and sincere efforts to get on the ballot, were also denied a place. Further evidence of a systemic attempt to deter unaffiliated candidate participation.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

On April 10, 2026, I notified both Randolph and Chatham County Board of Elections that intended to challenge the results but required documents prior to make my case and formally requested public records relating to how each department handled the verification process. Randolph produced a ridiculously small, and likely unlawful, response and Chatham referred the matter, at taxpayer expense, to handle the matter and three months latter, I still have not received a full production. On June 13, 2026, realizing that time was running out prior to the ballots being printed, I formally requested with the State Board of Elections. Other than confirmation of receipt, there has been no response (e.g., scheduling of a hearing date, formal denial of request to appeal, etc.). With this letter I have exhausted all administrative remedies. Consequently, should I not prevail at this challenge, then my only other option will be to seek judicial action.

SUPPORT FOR OTHER MAJOR PARTIES

I have received written support for my challenge from the Green Party see Exhibit F and except the same from the Libertarian Party. These parties realize that the integrity of elections, including having them at all, transcends partisan concerns regarding ideology or policy. Given that if any one of these parties had retroactively endorsed me, I would not have had to secure a single signature and would already be on the ballot. Again, the only beneficiary of the current rejection of my petition is the incumbent Democrat. Everyone

else loses. Why are Boards of Elections carrying water for the Democratic party to the detriment of the voters of District 54?

IN THE PARTICULAR CASE ANY NUMBER OF SIGNATURES SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT

In a republic it should never be the case that an incumbent decides whether he wishes to serve an additional term. Running unopposed is anathema to the democratic principles this country was founded on, and every effort should be made to ensure that a competitive election happens every time. Otherwise, incumbents do not need to defend their record or declare what they intend to do going forward. Furthermore, having only a single name on a ballot on election day is more appropriate for dictatorships than republics. To avoid this, If anyone is willing to step up and force some degree of accountability by running in opposition (even if such attempt is quixotic and unlikely to succeed), every effort should be made to support such efforts. Even one signature on such person's petition, if the alternative is no election at all, should be enough. But here far more than one signature was collected. By my count, I exceeded the 4% of the electorate threshold by over 80 signatures, and even by the biased Boards of Elections' count, I achieved over 2.5% of the electorate, clearly demonstrating material support as contemplated under N.C.G.S. §163-122.

REMEDY SOUGHT

Option 1: Add my name to the November Ballot and have an election.

Option 2: Alternatively, if sympathetic, but feel you do not have the statutory authority to do so, then a letter of support for my attempt to get judicial injunctive relief.

Option 3: Otherwise, acknowledging that you will be denying District 54 any choice, provide a final rejection in writing I can use to demonstrate that I have exhausted all administrative remedies, so I do not have to use your non-responsiveness as a constructive rejection.

CONCLUSION

The 68,000 voters of District 54 deserve a choice this November. Allowing a powerful incumbent to run unopposed is contrary to the public interest. The State Board of Elections should make allowances and allow me, as the only other possible candidate, to be on the ballot. This is especially true given that if the county boards chose to use their discretion to validate signatures rather than invalidate them, I would have met the 4% threshold. But even using their own biased counting method, I have received 2.5% of the electorate's support. I am not a fringe candidate.

If you agree to make such an allowance, you can limit the precedential value of this decision to the specific context: 1) no other candidate; 2) petitioner achieves material voter support; 3) there is an arguable claim that petitioner met the standard absent allowance; 4) it has least one major party's support, and 5) there exists demonstrated irregularities, delays, and possible bias at the county board of elections level and the delays at the State level.

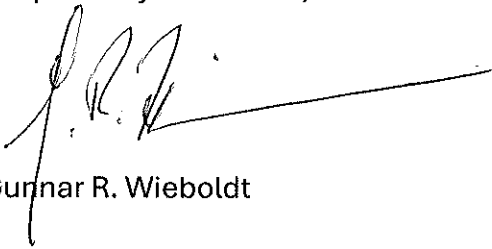
However, if you choose to deny this challenge on some procedural pretext, you will be violating the very purpose of N.C.G.S. §163-122, which was passed to increase voter choice, by denying any choice at all. If the blind following of the text of a statute or procedure, absent judgement and context, undermines the existence of elections themselves and our republican form of government, then we have a duty to make whatever accommodations are necessary to avoid the resulting injury to the public interest.

Furthermore, public officials using their offices, and public resources, to effectively conduct a challenge on behalf of the incumbent, is a gross violation of their duty to serve the public interest and not partisan ones. In this case these officials should have been doing everything within their power to get me on the ballot, instead, they did the very opposite.

One final point: as an amateur citizen-politician, with no experience running a campaign, who has a full-time job and other commitments, I ask some latitude on following the formalities and meeting the procedural hurdles. As a reminder, this is an election for NC Assembly--the very lowest echelon of state politics. It is a part-time position that meets for

a few months every year and pays \$13,951 a year. I am putting in this effort because I thought that Mr. Reives running unopposed was unconscionable in a democracy and it was my duty to step up and force some accountability. What I have discovered is a system run by bureaucrats working to smother challengers before they can even start their campaign on behalf of their preferred party's candidate with no regard to their true mission of having fair elections. I have already spent a disproportionate amount of energy and time fighting this cause, and if fail, the signal sent, either unintentionally or by design, is that citizens should not get involved and fighting the system is not worth it.

Respectfully submitted,



Gunnar R. Wieboldt

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the day of 11th, 2026
Christopher Relvinhas Official Signature of Notary Public (Official Seal)

Christopher Relvinhas

Printed Name of Notary Public

My commission expires: May 21st, 2030

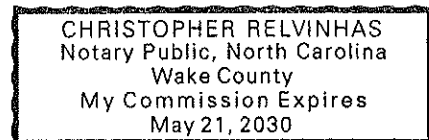


Exhibit A

June 13, 2026, letter to State Board of Elections to challenge rejection of ballot inclusion.

June 13, 2026

From:

Gunnar R. Wieboldt
"Gunnar For NC – District 54" (STA-4CNY4S-C-001)
30138 Village Park Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
919.943.2405
gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com

By Mail and Email:

Sam Hayes
Executive Director, STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
Elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov

Subject: Request for Hearing to Challenge the Denial of Ballot Inclusion District 54

Dear Mr. Hayes:

On April 10, 2026 I sent a letter to both the Randolph and Chatham County Board of Elections requesting documents in support of my intended challenge to their decision to not include me on the November ballot for NC Assembly District 54. In the case of Randolph County, I received a mere handful of documents that are almost certainly insufficiently responsive to my request and for Chatham County, despite several demands for records through their retained counsel, I am still awaiting documents—more than 2 months after my demand letter! As the deadline for printing ballots is approaching fast, I believe I can no longer delay my request for a hearing to challenge the results.

Unfortunately, §163-122(d) that states that a “person whose petition has been cancelled...may request a hearing...in accordance with Article 11B of this Chapter” does not provide sufficient guidance for proceeding. Article 11B deals solely with challenging a candidate's inclusion on the ballot for constitutional or statutory grounds. It emphatically

does NOT address my challenge relating to the determination that I did not meet the threshold necessary to be on the ballot in the first place. Consequently, we appear to be on unresolved procedural footing.

Clearly there must be a means to adjudicate the arbitrary, incompetent, and partisan decision-making processes used to deny the voters of District 54 ANY choice this November. Had they limited their taxpayer paid for efforts to what was required by statute only, I would have made the 4% threshold (see Exhibit A attached). However, given the circumstances, as the sole possible opposition candidate, any number of signatures should have been sufficient as the alternative is no election at all. In this case, the Board of Elections could have both followed the letter of the law and the spirit of the law if they did not actively seek to deny me access to the ballot—efforts that worked for the SOLE benefit of the incumbent candidate. In fact, they actively worked against the public interest by denying the essential element of any republic: choice.

I therefore ask that a hearing date be set in a timely manner to allow depositions of the relevant Board of Election employees, including Ms. Paschal and Ms. Kristner, and to allow sufficient time to seek a judicial injunction should I fail to prevail at the hearing prior to the ballot printing deadline in early August.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Wieboldt', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gunnar R. Wieboldt

Exhibit A

Summary of Analysis of Signature Pages

Petition of Gunnar Wieboldt for District 54 (Unaffiliated)

Randolph County

Total Signatures Submitted	692	
Accepted	236	34% Accepted
Rejected: Voters of In District but Different County	72	
Rejected: But Found online	8	
Rejected: Signature or DoB	113 (DOB)	
Adj. Accepted Total If Discretionary Rejections Allowed	429	62% Accepted (Adj)

Chatham County

Total Signatures Submitted	2935	
Accepted	1707	58% Accepted
Rejected: Voters of In District but Different County	26	
Rejected: But Found online (Less Randolph) or DoB	336	
Rejected: Signature	324	
Adj. Accepted Total If Discretionary Rejections Allowed	2392	81% Accepted (Adj)

Total District	3627	
Total Accepted Dist	1943	54%
Total Adj Accept Dist	2821	78%

Unadjusted Percent of Electorate: 2.5%
Adjusted Percent of Electorate: 4%

Target	2,738	0.3
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CANDIDATE CHALLENGE FORM
NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF

District 54

**FRAUDULENTLY OR FALSELY COMPLETING THIS FORM IS A CLASS 1 FELONY
UNDER CHAPTER 163 OF THE NC GENERAL STATUTES.**

TO: [COUNTY] COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Challenger's Name: **Gunnar Wieboldt**

Challenger's Residence Address: **30138 Village Park Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

Challenger's Mailing Address (if different): _____

Challenger's Phone Number: **919.943.2405**

Challenger's Email Address: **Gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com**

Name of candidate being challenged: **Not applicable. Challenging the methods and processes used by Chatham and Randolph County Board of Elections to deny my petition to be on the ballot.**

Name of office sought: **NC Assembly, District 54**

Are you eligible to vote for the office for which the candidate has filed or petitioned? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, you are not eligible to file this candidate challenge.

The above-named candidate does not meet the following constitutional or statutory qualification(s) for the office:
Not applicable. This form does not address my grounds for challenging but not other avenue for challenge is available under NC law.

This challenge is based on reasonable suspicion or belief of the following specific facts. (Attach evidence, if available.)

Had Chatham and Randolph County Board of Elections NOT used their discretion to get me off the ballot, I would have met the 4% threshold and would have been added to the ballot. Given the highly unusual circumstance that if I do not get on the ballot, then the incumbent will run UNOPPOSED, these offices should have affirmatively worked to get me on the ballot, but they did the opposite. The Board of Elections is tasked with ensuring fair and free elections, but first there must be an election. Consequently, the Boards of Elections should have done just the statutory required diligence (e.g., check if registered voter and proof of signature) and no more. Instead, they actively worked to eliminate almost 50% of the signatures received. Had they not used their discretion (e.g., reject signatures, reject names if their DoB incorrect, wrong county but correct district etc.) only 22% would have been rejected, and I would have met the required signature amount by more than 80 signatures. I noted hundreds of errors and what can only be the partisan use of government resources in support of the Democratic incumbent.

Challenger's Signature _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the _____ day of _____, 2022

Official Signature of Notary Public

Printed Name of Notary Public

My commission expires: 12-17-2022



Exhibit B

June 26, 2026, Email Confirmation from SBOE of receipt of June 13, 2026, Challenge request.



Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

scann

Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 25, 2026 at 9:13 PM

To: elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gunnar Wieboldt** <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 25, 2026 at 9:11 PM

Subject: Fwd: scann

To: <elections.sboe@ncbe.gov>, theron.vandusen@chathamcountync.gov <theron.vandusen@chathamcountync.gov>

This was mailed by registered mail on June 15, 2026 and I have heard nothing back.

Please respond as soon as possible as this is very time sensitive.

Regards,

Gunnar Wieboldt

919.943.2405

 20260615123118915.pdf

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Exhibit C

April 13, 2026, Email to Chatham and Randolph Board of Elections notifying of intent to challenge and April 14, 2026, accompanying formal public records request.



Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Wieboldt Petition: Signatures

4 messages

Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 5:04 PM

To: Pandora Paschal <pandora.paschal@chathamcountync.gov>, melissa.kirstner@randolphcountync.gov

Ladies,

As I intend to challenge the results of your signature reviews, I require, as soon as possible, copies of all of the signatures on file used for every decision to reject a signature.

This is essential for the timely filing of my challenge. Every day of delay is one less day the voters of District 54 have any chance of a choice on election day in November. If you folks spent even a fraction of the time you spent trying to disqualify me, I would already be campaigning.

Please confirm that you will be providing copies of the signatures on file used to disqualify my signatures so that I can effectively challenge your use of discretion to my detriment, and the detriment of the voters of District 54.

You do realize that if I am not on the ballot, there is no election? The articles and legal briefs just keep writing themselves....

Respectfully,

Gunnar R. Wieboldt

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>

Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 5:04 PM

To: gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com



Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to **melissa.kirstner@randolphcountync.gov** because the domain [randolphcountync.gov](mailto:melissa.kirstner@randolphcountync.gov) couldn't be found. Check for typos or unnecessary spaces and try again.

[LEARN MORE](#)

April 10, 2026

From:

Gunnar R. Wieboldt
30138 Village Park Drive
Chapel Hil, NC 27517
919.943.2405
gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com

By Mail, Email and Personal Delivery:

Pandora Paschal
Director
Chatham County Board of Elections
964 East Street, Suite 101
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Pandora.paschal@chathamcountync.gov

Subject: Request for Public Records re Unaffiliated Candidate Petitions Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-6

Dear Ms. Paschal:

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-6, I am requesting copies of all Public Records relating to the supervision and administration by your office of the unaffiliated candidate petitions to be on the ballot for the 2026 elections for Chatham County sheriff, Chatham County Board of Commissioners, and NC House of Representatives for District 54 ("Subject Matter"). Public Records include documents, handwritten notes, text messages, electronic files, correspondence, or emails created by your office after November 1, 2025, relating in any way to the Subject Matter. You will conduct a thorough search that will, at a minimum, cover the following search terms:

- *Wieboldt
- *Coble
- *Fogleman
- *Reives
- *District 54
- *Sherriff
- *Commissioner
- *Unaffiliated
- *Independent
- *Signature
- *Verification
- *No-Record
- *Petition
- *Disqualify
- *Candidate

Of particular interest is any correspondence between members of your office and: 1) other members of your office, 2) incumbent office holders, 3) candidates for office, 4) state agencies, or 5) political party representatives, relating in any way to the Subject Matter, including, but not limited to, the manner and criteria in which petition signers will be/have been accepted or rejected.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated as any delay could prejudice my pending challenge to be on the 2026 ballot. Furthermore, delay could materially impact whether the voters of Chatham County have a choice this November. I have no objection to paying reasonable copying or administration fees to fulfill this request per the statute.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gunnar R. Wieboldt/

Gunnar R. Wieboldt



Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Future Correspondence

2 messages

Pandora Paschal <pandora.paschal@chathamcountync.gov> Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 4:38 PM
To: Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>
Cc: Chance Mashburn <chance.mashburn@chathamcountync.gov>, Theron VanDusen <theron.vandusen@chathamcountync.gov>, Jenifer Johnson <jenifer.johnson@chathamcountync.gov>, Ann Hammack <ann.hammack@chathamcountync.gov>, Paul Cox <pcox@poynerspruill.com>

Mr. Wieboldt,

I have forwarded all your emails to the County Attorney Paul Cox with
Poyner Spruill LLP . He will be reaching out to you soon with responses.

Please refer all future requests or correspondence pertaining to this matter to Paul cox at
pcox@poynerspruill.com.

Thank you.

Pandora Paschal, Director, CERA, CNCEA

Chatham County Board of Elections

pandora.paschal@chathamcountync.gov

919-545-8500

Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com> Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 4:47 PM
To: Pandora Paschal <pandora.paschal@chathamcountync.gov>
Cc: Chance Mashburn <chance.mashburn@chathamcountync.gov>, Theron VanDusen <theron.vandusen@chathamcountync.gov>, Jenifer Johnson <jenifer.johnson@chathamcountync.gov>, Ann Hammack <ann.hammack@chathamcountync.gov>, Paul Cox <pcox@poynerspruill.com>



Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Request for Public Records re Unaffiliated Candidate Petition for NC House of Representatives, District 54, Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-6

Paul Cox <PCox@poynerspruill.com>

Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 5:26 PM

To: "gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com" <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Good afternoon, Mr. Wieboldt,

I hope you're doing well.

My law firm serves as county attorney to Chatham County, and I'll be assisting the county board with your public records requests and the information requests that you indicate are being made in advance of anticipated litigation.

I. First Request – Records pertaining to recent petitions

As the director of elections, Ms. Paschal, noted in her emails, we are working to provide materials responsive to your requests as promptly as possible.

Ms. Paschal provided you the governing rules the county board used in processing the petition sheets.

Today we also pulled reports from the petition review module (software and database managed by the State Board of Elections), which show the disposition of each signature provided for the three campaigns you've asked about.

Additionally, we are preparing to conduct email searches for relevant custodians based on your request. As you're likely aware, public records requests must be carefully reviewed to ensure that no confidential information is disclosed. This is particularly true for elections records, because Chapter 163 of the General Statutes makes confidential certain data that pertains to registered voters. See NC State Bd. Of Elections, Numbered Memo [2022-01 Protecting Certain Voter and Elections Security Information](#) (March 15, 2022; updated April 25, 2022).

I'd like to propose modifications to the keywords you requested, because some of your suggested keywords will produce a large number of irrelevant records, which will lead to delay in responding to your requests. For example, including everyday election terms such as "candidate," "commissioner," "signature," and "unaffiliated" will produce thousands of irrelevant hits that would take the county and its counsel weeks to review. These terms are used in tasks conducted by the county board of elections that have nothing to do with petition review. And bear in mind that your date range encompasses the conduct of municipal elections (November 2025) and primary elections (March 2026), which are times when records including these search terms are regularly created, although they have nothing to do with petitions.

In the interest of quickly providing you responsive documents that are relevant to your request, I propose the following protocol, which we are prepared to begin promptly upon your agreement.

This would include searching the email accounts during the date range you requested, for the following eleven custodians:

- All five appointed members of the county board
- The director of elections
- The deputy director of elections
- The four county board employees who were involved in reviewing your petition sheets

We would use the following search terms:

- Wieboldt
- Coble
- Fogleman
- Reives
- District 54
- Petition

Please let me know if we can agree on this search protocol, in the interest of more quickly providing you records in response to your request. If you would like to discuss this, I'm happy to make time for a phone call.

II. Second Request – voter signatures

Your second request for the signatures of registered voters will require some discussion.

State law prevents the boards of elections from transmitting to the public the signature of a voter provided in association with their registration—the signature used for petition comparison purposes. NCGS 163-82.10(a1) states: “The signature of the voter, either on the paper application or an electronically captured image of it, whether held by the State Board or a county board of elections, may be viewed by the public but may not be copied or traced except by election officials for election administration purposes. Any such copy or tracing is not a public record.”

Due to this limitation in law, the only way we can provide this information is by allowing an in-person viewing of voter signatures, which cannot be copied or traced during such viewing.

There are technical limitations to this as well. As far as we are aware, the State Board's database and software do not display all signatures for voters involved in a petition to be displayed together simultaneously. Instead, each voter's signature is displayed on that individual voter's record when called up in the database individually. Additionally, on a voter's record in the module, the software displays other confidential data such as date of birth which the board of elections is forbidden by law from revealing to a member of the public. We are currently reaching out to the State Board to determine if there is any way to display a group of signatures together, without going one-by-one through each voter record. Obviously, to do the latter, even putting aside the legal issue it creates by revealing other confidential information, it would be too resource- and time intensive to be of use in your request. This leaves us with the option of printing each voter registration form for each petition signer from the database. That option will also be time consuming, because it would require the redaction of dates of birth, social security numbers, and driver's license numbers.

While we wait to hear back from the State Board about whether its software/database can help here, I welcome any thoughts you may have on how this request could be narrowed or otherwise modified in a way to avoid extensive delay.

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As noted, I'm happy to discuss these issues with you. I'm available tomorrow (Wednesday) between 10 and 4, and Thursday between 11:30 and 4.

III. Timing Information

You've also asked the director of elections about the timing for when the content of the ballot is finalized and when ballots are printed. Typically, the final information to be resolved for ballot content is whether to include a write-in line for a contest, which is determined for partisan contests by whether a candidate has successfully petitioned under NCGS 163-123. That process should be complete by early to mid-August, and ballot content has to be finalized by the middle of August to provide sufficient time for the county board of elections and State Board to conduct final review and proofing of ballots, along with purchasing and delivery, before the first day when absentee ballots are distributed to voters who have requested them, which is September 4, 2026.

Best regards,

Paul Cox

Poyner Spruill LLP

From: Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 9:51 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

This message constitutes a confidential attorney-client communication. If you have received this communication in error, do not read it. It is not intended for transmission to, or receipt by, any unauthorized persons. Please delete it from your system without copying it, and notify the sender by reply email or by calling 919-783-6400, so that our address record can be corrected. Thank you.

3 attachments



Gunnar Wieboldt Signatures.pdf
332K



James Fogleman Petition.pdf
111K



Bruce Coble For Sheriff Petition .pdf
238K

Exhibit D

April 10, 2026, email from In Field Strategies' National Training Director explaining why their
were incorrect date of births.



Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Petition Signatures

2 messages

Les Davies <ldavies@infieldstrategies.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 3:47 PM

To: "gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com" <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Gunnar,

While curing missing or difficult to read information on petition sheets, staff was asked to fill in missing birth dates to the best of their ability.

Les Davies| National Training Director

In Field Strategies

C: (614) 655-7691

ldavies@infieldstrategies.com

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S25+

Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 8:17 PM

To: Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnarwieboldt@gmail.com>

Gunnar Wieboldt
919.943.2405

Begin forwarded message:

From: Les Davies <ldavies@infieldstrategies.com>

Date: April 10, 2026 at 3:47:50 PM EDT

To: gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com

Subject: Petition Signatures

[Quoted text hidden]

Exhibit E

June 2, 2026, email from a signer of the petition who was contacted by the Chatham County regarding his duplicate signature.



Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

BOE Call

1 message

[REDACTED]

Tue, Jun 2, 2026 at 9:07 PM

To: Gunnar Wieboldt <gunnar.wieboldt@gmail.com>

Gunnar,

I received a strange call from the Board of Elections on March 16. They asked whether I had signed twice to help get a candidate on the ballot.

I told her that I signed when you asked me to. She then said that the second signature did not match. I asked her for the date of the second signature. She put me on hold, then came back and said they did not have that date.

I found the call odd because I did not think the Board of Elections calls people to try to "cure" issues related to petition signatures for getting a candidate on the ballot. The call did not seem to have a clear purpose, and I am still not sure what she wanted me to do.

From my perspective, it feels like the BOE did everything it could to keep you off the ballot. I hope you have copies of all the signed petition sheets.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Exhibit F

May 23, 2026, Letter of Support from the Green Party



146 Robert Alston Jr. Dr Pittsboro, NC 27312

To: North Carolina State Board of Elections
Re: Statement of Support for Gunnar Wieboldt

Greetings to the Board,

This letter is in support of Mr. Gunnar Wieboldt's petition to be placed on the ballot as an independent candidate for NC House 54 in the fall 2026 election. Mr. Wieboldt seeks to satisfy the requirements of G.S. 163-22.

It is the position of the NC Green Party that the laws governing the participation of minor parties and independents in North Carolina are an impediment to participation in the political process. These laws are made by the major political parties, without citizen input. They work to the advantage of the major parties, as the laws protect them from having to contest elections with independents and minor party candidates in all but those cases where the candidates or parties can spend the money and time needed to collect the signatures. Recent rule changes have made the process even more onerous. The major parties are conveniently exempt from having to prove their own acceptance by voters.

A consequence of this, true in other states as well as in North Carolina, is that candidates often run unchallenged. In effect, the major parties have divided the state among themselves, with whichever party is in power seeking to gerrymander the other party out of competition for legislative majorities at both the state and national level. The resulting divided territories aren't contested, as the voters are already chosen to support the candidates in those districts.

The resulting gamed, non-competitive elections do no favors to the citizens of North Carolina. But they are especially injurious to non-affiliated voters and voters aligned with other parties. Voters do not register as independent or as members of another party because they are Republican or Democrat. They do so because their political positions are not adequately represented within the two-party system, but they are barred from supporting their own candidates in most cases. This is especially true for unaffiliated voters.

Mr. Wieboldt has done his best to meet your standards, which are difficult even for well-funded candidates who can hire signature collectors. We ask the board or other authoritative body to accept Mr. Wieboldt's candidacy, and place him on the ballot in the coming general election.

Sincerely,

The Coordinating Committee of the North Carolina Green Party
Wayne Turner and Anna Lee Dillon, presiding