

IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

In re: Nomination Petition of :
Jonathan Hankins Sr. as Democratic :
Candidate for the 181st Legislative : No. 93 M.D. 2024
District :
 :
 :
Objection of: Frances Folk :

ORDER

AND NOW, this 7th day of March, 2024, upon consideration of Objector Frances Folk’s (Objector) Petition to Set Aside Nomination Petition (Petition), the March 6, 2024 hearing thereon, and the documentary evidence and testimony presented by both Objector and Candidate Jonathan Hankins Sr. (Candidate), the Petition is **GRANTED**.

This Court finds that the evidence and testimony presented by Objector regarding Candidate’s purported residency at 2513 North Jessup Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19133 (Jessup Street), located within the 181st legislative district, was credible and highly persuasive. This Court has no basis to conclude that Candidate resided at Jessup Street for the requisite time period required by law.

The evidence and testimony presented by Candidate regarding his purported residency at Jessup Street was contradictory, confusing, devoid of any physical evidence of residency, and wholly lacking in credibility. In fact, during the hearing it became necessary for Candidate’s counsel to advise Candidate of his 5th Amendment rights against self-incrimination, which Candidate did assert during key questioning.

This Court therefore concludes that Objector has satisfied her burden to show that Candidate has not resided at Jessup Street for the legally required minimum

period of time and, thus, that Candidate's Nomination Petition is invalid. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that the Petition is GRANTED.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth is directed to remove Candidate's name from the April 23, 2024 primary ballot, so that he will not be listed thereon as a Democratic candidate for representative in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' 181st Legislative District, and to transmit this order promptly to the Board of Elections of Philadelphia County. The Chief Clerk is directed to send a copy of this order to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Opinion to follow.



ELLEN CEISLER, Judge