



**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**  
State of Connecticut  
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1000  
P.O. Box 150470, Hartford, CT 06115-0470

**MARK F. KOHLER**  
Secretary of the State

**SCOTT D. BATES**  
Deputy Secretary of the State

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

Peter J. Martin  
20 Church Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-1221

August 25, 2022

**RE: NOTICE REGARDING INDEPENDENT PARTY VIOLATIONS OF PARTY RULES AND LAW  
AT AUGUST 23, 2022 INDEPENDENT PARTY CAUCUS**

Dear Attorney Martin,

We are in receipt of the above captioned filing dated August 25, 2022 in which you ask that the Independent Party's endorsement of Rob Hotaling for Office of the Governor be rejected. It is well settled that the authority of this Office does not extend to the review, certification, or approval of certificates of endorsement, nomination or the party rules under which such actions may take place.

Concerning party rules, the function of this office is limited to the receipt and filing of the same, and does not extend to examining party rules, determining their validity, resolving disputes as to such rules, or enforcing their provisions. Consequently, any dispute concerning the content, validity, or enforcement of party rules must be resolved by the party itself. "It is well established that, whenever possible, the internal determinations of a national political party are governed by the party and its rules and regulations, *not by the intrusion of the court or the state.*" *Reform Party of Connecticut v. Bysiewicz*, 254 Conn. 789, 796 (Conn. 2000) (emphasis added). *See also Oliveira v. Carnell*, 2002 Ct. Sup. 2381 (Conn. Super. Ct. 2002) stating, "[t]he authority of [the office of the secretary of state] with respect to party rules is limited to the filing of such rules and does not extend to examining or approving them."

With regard to your request that our office reject the certificate of nomination filed by the Independent Party, the Connecticut Supreme Court found our office to have limited authority with regard to such filings. The Court in *John W. Butts v. Susan Bysiewicz, Secretary of the State of Connecticut*, SC 18663 stated, "Certainly the legislature would not want to put the [Secretary] in the position of having to make an independent investigation each time a political party endorses a candidate for office." Accordingly, we cannot grant your request.

You also requested information regarding the Independent Party's notice of their caucus. Enclosed please find the date stamped notice of the Independent Party's caucus of August 23, 2022.

Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Theodore Bromley  
Director of Elections

Secretary of the State\* (860-509-6200) [www.portal.ct.gov/sots](http://www.portal.ct.gov/sots)

Business Services Division (860-509-6002) [bsd@ct.gov](mailto:bsd@ct.gov) Legislation & Election Administration Division (860-509-6100) [lead@ct.gov](mailto:lead@ct.gov)

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