

NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT OF JOAN NEYLAND

JOAN NEYLAND, being duly sworn, hereby deposes and, under penalties of perjury, states as follows:

1. I am Joan Neyland. I live at 6 Highgate Court in the Village of Montebello, located in the Town of Ramapo, New York, and was a poll inspector for the Town of Ramapo's special election held on September 30, 2014.

2. I am a certified Election Inspector for the Rockland County Board of Elections and have worked as a poll inspector for over seven years. I have worked two presidential elections and many state and local elections, both general and primary.

3. On or about September 22, 2014, I received a call from a representative of the Town of Ramapo ("Ramapo") asking if I would be available to work at a special election being held by Ramapo on Tuesday, September 30, 2014. I agreed to work the special election and was advised that there would be training for poll workers to be held at 2:00 PM at Ramapo Town Hall on September 23rd. I expressed my dissatisfaction at the short notice and was advised that if I could not make the class, someone would provide me with information prior to the election. I changed my plans so I could attend the class.

4. I can state with absolute certainty that during the Ramapo training session we were never advised that unregistered voters could vote on Election Day.

5. Quite the contrary, we were specifically told that the last day to register to vote in Ramapo's special election was September 23rd, the same day as our training session.

6. At no point prior to September 30th (Election Day) was I advised that an unregistered voter would be allowed to vote.

7. It should be noted that my poll inspector training stressed that a person must be registered to vote in New York and I took an oath of office to uphold the law. I worked many elections and only registered voters were allowed to vote. The only time there was any change in procedure was in the immediate aftermath of Superstorm Sandy when we were advised that Governor Cuomo signed an executive order allowing *registered* voters in federally-declared disaster counties (including Rockland) to vote by affidavit ballot at any polling location due to the storm's impact.

8. I arrived at my polling location in the Montebello Community Center at 5:30 AM on the morning of September 30, 2014, ready to carry out my duties and oath of office. At that point, I fully understood that only registered voters could vote in the Town election. There was nothing at the poll location advising us otherwise.

9. The polls opened at 6:00 AM. I did not learn that Ramapo allegedly was allowing unregistered voters to vote until approximately four hours after the polls opened when an irate woman came into the voting place accusing me of improperly turning away a man who was not registered to vote. In fact, a man had come into the polling place earlier in the day and asked if unregistered voters could vote and I responded that they could not. He left the polling place without voting. I told the woman that only registered voters could vote and she told me that I was wrong. The other four poll inspectors at my location agreed that only registered voters could vote. I did, however, tell the woman that I would look into the matter and asked her to leave.

10. I immediately called Ramapo's Town offices and talked to Chris Sampson, Ramapo's Town Clerk. I told him of the disturbing incident and, to my shock, he said that we had to let unregistered voters vote as long as they met voter eligibility requirements. I told Mr. Sampson that I believed it would be a violation of law to allow unregistered voters to vote.

11. Mr. Sampson said that everyone knew by that morning that eligible unregistered voters could vote and that it was reported in the Journal News. I told him that the poll inspectors in my polling place did not know. We left to work the polls before the newspapers were even delivered and Ramapo had never advised us at any time that unregistered voters would be allowed to vote.

12. Mr. Sampson directed me to allow unregistered voters to vote by affidavit ballot as long as they were United States citizens over 18 years of age who resided in Ramapo for at least 30 days. I asked him how I could determine if they met the requirements. He said that I should allow them to vote by affidavit ballot and then it was up to Ramapo to determine if they were in fact eligible to vote.

13. My polling place had only been provided with ten affidavit ballots. These ballots are generally used only in the rare instance when a voter claims that he or she is in fact registered but does not appear on the registration roll. In light of this surprising news that we had to allow *unregistered* voters to vote by affidavit ballot, I was very concerned that ten affidavit ballots would not be enough to get through the day.

14. Due to my concerns that we did not have enough affidavit ballots, I asked Mr. Sampson for more affidavit ballots. He stated that someone was driving around delivering them to polling locations and we would receive additional affidavit ballots. I

had to call several times over the course of the day to request additional affidavit ballots, all to no avail.

15. No additional ballots were ever delivered to my polling place despite my repeated requests. It was very frustrating to me. One time I called Ramapo, I got a recording and another time I was told that everyone was in a meeting so I could not speak with any one. When I ran out of affidavit ballots, I created one using the language of the official ones.

16. I was so worried that I was breaking the law and violating my oath of office that I called the New York State Board of Elections. I spoke with Brian Quail, Deputy Counsel to the New York State Board of Elections. He stated that at that because it was a Town special election I should follow the directions of Ramapo's Town Clerk and that the issues I raised would probably be looked at after the election to determine the propriety of the election.


JOAN NEYLAND

Sworn to before me this
29 day of August 2015


Notary Public

WILLIAM J. WEBER
Notary Public - State of New York
No. 01WE6298373
Qualified in Rockland County
My Commission Expires March 10, 2018

