VIA Electronic Mail **April 15, 2024**

Dear Ms. Edwards,

We have received your formal complaint dated March 19, 2024, and want to express our appreciation for your dedication to ensuring the integrity of our electoral process. We take all complaints seriously and carefully assess whether they fall within our jurisdiction to act and respond.

Upon review of your complaint, it's clear that the issues raised regarding the primary election are of significant concern. We understand the importance of addressing these matters promptly and appropriately.

The sample ballot you sent is concerning to the State Party. The sample ballot purports to be the "official" ballot of the Party and uses our logo. Of course, it is in no way affiliated with the State Party, which is committed to remain neutral in primary elections.

Therefore, we have sent a cease and desist letter to the parties we believe are responsible for the sample ballot. They are not authorized to act on behalf of the State Party or use the State Party's trademarks, and the State Party will take further legal action if necessary.

We hope this puts an end to such actions. Unfortunately, at this stage, our ability to do much more is limited. The responsibility for addressing complaints related to county officers, including the County Chairman and Vice Chairman, lies with the County Executive Committee, as outlined in Article III.A.5.b. of the State Plan of Organization.

Moreover, the removal of county officers, including the County Chairman and Vice Chairman, can only be executed by the County Executive Committee.[1] This process mandates a rigorous evaluation of the charges brought forth, followed by a ⅔ vote of the respective Committee. Grounds for removal are limited to instances of gross inefficiency, Party Disloyalty, or failure to adhere to the Party's Plans of Organization.[2]

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[1] State Plan Article IX.A.6.
[2] *See generally Id.*

When it comes to disputes and matters related to elections, including the authority to order a new election, the jurisdiction falls under the purview of the State Board of Elections, as stipulated by N.C.G.S §163-182.13. This statute outlines specific circumstances in which the State Board of Elections possesses the authority to order a new election, such as instances where the integrity of the election has been compromised due to ineligible voting, prevention of eligible voters from casting their ballots, or widespread irregularities that cast doubt on the fairness of the entire electoral process.

Given these organizational and statutory constraints, we encourage you to pursue your complaint through the appropriate channels. The County Executive Committee and the State Board of Elections are best equipped to thoroughly investigate and address the issues you've raised.

Your commitment to upholding the integrity of our electoral and organizational processes is commendable, and we assure you that we share your dedication to ensuring fair and transparent elections in this great state.

Thank you for bringing this important issue to our attention, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

NCGOP Legal