

Alexander Hamilton Will Not Let NJ County Clerk Throw Away His Shot At BOE, Files Lawsuit

Mr. Hamilton believes he was disqualified in error but that judicial system will ultimately reinstate his candidacy upholding the democratic process.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Jersey City, NJ - August 6, 2019 - Alexander Hamilton, a resident of Jersey City born in 1967, has challenged his disqualification from candidacy for the Jersey City Board of Education this year. Hudson County Clerk, Junior Maldonado, tossed Mr. Hamilton's petitions erroneously due to confusion over Mr. Hamilton's name according to the lawsuit filed today in Superior Court.

Mr. Hamilton's given is Vernon Alexander Hamilton but since birth, he has been called only Alexander or Alex Hamilton. As Mr. Hamilton states in his letter to the County Clerk,

Please know, I was named after my father whose name is Vernon, and my mother, whose maiden name is Alexander. Hence, I am Vernon Alexander Hamilton. However, my mother decided before I could even speak, there would NOT be two Vernons in HER house. From that moment decades ago, I've used ONLY "Alexander" and "Alex".

Mr. Hamilton submitted a petition to run for Jersey City school board with 192 signatures although only ten valid signatures are required. He submitted his petition under the name he has used his entire life, Alexander Hamilton. The County Clerk disqualified Mr. Hamilton because he did not use the name "Vernon" on the petition. Prior to filing the lawsuit, Mr. Hamilton attempted to remedy the Clerk's decision by producing voluminous documentation of his name on documents including drivers' license, social security card, passport, utility bills, etc., all with his full name or exclusively Alexander Hamilton, or inclusive of Alexander Hamilton or Alex Hamilton. By settled case law, Alexander Hamilton should not have been disqualified from the ballot.

Through the filing of the lawsuit, Mr. Hamilton is determined to campaign and win one of the three available full term seats on the Jersey City Board of Education. He is a member of **Change For Children** team and running mates of Noemi Velazquez and Asheenia Johnson, who are also running for full terms seats.

Ms. Velazquez states, "We've seen cases where candidates have been permitted to use shortened variations of their names and nicknames. Alexander is using the legal name by which his family, friends and work colleagues have known him for his entire life. Fortunately, both common sense and case law is on our side."

Ms. Johnson added, "Our team is forced to waste the court's valuable time on this nonsense. Government is supposed to welcome those who want to get involved to improve our communities, not push away well meaning people."

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